

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

ADDRESSED TO

HON. JAMES HARLAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
INDIAN AFFAIRS,

TRANSMITTING

*Copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and copies of accompanying papers from the committee of Friends, in relation to the disposition of portions of Indian reservations in the Northern Superintendency.*

---

JANUARY 22, 1872.—Ordered to be printed, to accompany bill S. No. 508.

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 19, 1872.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 21st ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying papers from the committee of Friends, in relation to the disposition of portions of Indian reservations in the northern superintendency, together with the draughts of bills which, in the opinion of the Department, will accomplish the objects contemplated.

Concurring with the committee of Friends and with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in their views as contained in the papers submitted, I have the honor to commend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress, and to request that the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be appropriated for the use of the various tribes, said amount to be refunded out of the first proceeds of the sales of the lands to be disposed of as contemplated by the proposed legislation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
C. DELANO, *Secretary.*

The CHAIRMAN of the Committee on Indian Affairs,  
*United States Senate.*

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*December 21, 1871.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration a communication (with inclosures) addressed to the Department under date of the 1st instant, by Samuel M. Janney, late superintendent of Indian affairs, and others, members of "a committee on Indian affairs to represent the six yearly meetings of Friends, to whose care were committed by the Government the Indians" in the northern superintendency, representing:

First. That the necessary improvements for the Omahas, the Pawnees,

and the Ottoes, will require for their successful operation a much larger amount of funds than is now supplied by the annuities of said tribes.

Second. That the reservation of the Omahas contains 205,000 acres, of which amount they petition Congress to make provision for the sale of 50,000 acres for the purpose of establishing and supporting schools, &c.

Third. That the Pawnee reservation contains 288,000 acres, of which amount the chiefs and head men ask that provision be made for the sale of 50,000 acres to enable the tribe to procure agricultural implements, &c.

Fourth. That the reservation of the Ottoes and Missouriias contains 160,000 acres, and for the same reasons they request the sale of 80,000 acres.

Fifth. That the Sac and Fox Indians have expressed a desire to remove to the Indian Territory and dispose of their reservation, said to contain 16,000 acres.

The committee of Friends request the aid of this Department for the purpose of preparing a bill for submission to Congress to carry out the objects in view, and inclose draughts of the same.

The committee add that it will be some months, and probably a year, before the funds from the sale of the lands they propose to be sold can be realized; and they therefore suggest that Congress be asked to appropriate one hundred thousand dollars for the use of the tribes referred to; to be refunded out of the first proceeds of said sales.

The foregoing recommendations of the committee of Friends are approved.

I believe that the general idea of diminishing these reservations for the purpose of securing a higher cultivation of the remaining lands, is consonant with sound policy, and that the amount indicated in each case to be sold is, as nearly as it is possible to determine, the amount which can advantageously be sold at the present time. I believe further that the particular portions of these lands thus to be disposed of have been carefully and judiciously selected, with a view to the interests of the tribes themselves, and I have, therefore, the honor to recommend that Congress be asked to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to proceed to dispose of these lands for the benefit of the tribes to which they respectively belong, in substantial compliance with the plan proposed by the committee of Friends.

A draught of a bill, calculated, in the view of this office, to accomplish the desired results most beneficially, is inclosed herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

SANDY SPRING, Twelfthmonth 1, 1871.

RESPECTED FRIEND: We, the undersigned, having been appointed a committee on Indian affairs, to represent the six yearly meetings of Friends, to whose care were committed by the Government the Indians in the northern superintendency, respectfully represent: That the improvements on the reservations of the Omahas, the Pawnees, and the Ottoes, already commenced with encouraging prospects, will require for their successful prosecution a much larger amount of funds than is now supplied by their annuities. These tribes have always obtained their subsistence in part by hunting the buffalo, and at this time they continue the practice, which we believe has a tendency to retard their civilization; but their most sagacious chiefs and head men are

convinced that their hunting-grounds will soon be occupied by white men, and therefore are turning their attention to the pursuits of agriculture and grazing as an imperative necessity.

The reservation of the Omaha Indians contains 205,000 acres, a part of which has been allotted in severalty to families and to individuals, who are now engaged in improving their farms and building houses.

To forward this work, as well as to supply them with implements of agriculture and live stock, and to establish and support an industrial boarding-school and other preparatory schools, a large amount of funds will be required. They have accordingly petitioned Congress to make provision at as early a day as practicable for the sale of fifty thousand acres of their land.

The Pawnee Indians, whose reservation contains 288,000 acres, being desirous of opening farms and building houses, procuring implements of agriculture and live stock, and promoting their general welfare, have, through their chiefs and headmen, requested that fifty thousand acres of their lands may be sold at their fair market value.

The Ottoe and Missouriia tribe of Indians, whose reservation contains 160,000 acres, have for the same reasons requested the sale of eighty thousand acres of their lands.

At a council of the Sac and Fox of Missouri tribe of Indians, held on the 31st of the 10th month last, they informed Superintendent Barclay White that they were willing to sell their reservation and remove near the Sac and Fox Indians in the Indian Territory. They number about eighty persons, and their reservation is said to contain sixteen thousand acres. As they are dissatisfied with their present condition, we recommend that their wishes be complied with, and measures taken to obtain full market value for their lands.

As an act of Congress will be required authorizing the sale of the lands aforesaid, and the appointment of commissioners by the President to effect the same, we respectfully request thy aid in preparing a bill for that purpose and submitting it to Congress.

The improvements commenced on the Omaha, Pawnee, and Ottoe reservations are now nearly at a stand for want of funds, and in case the bill providing for the sale of part of their lands should be passed by Congress it will be some months, and probably a year, before funds from that source can be realized.

We therefore suggest that Congress be asked to appropriate one hundred thousand dollars for the use of those three tribes, to be refunded out of the first proceeds of sales of their lands.

Very respectfully, thy friends,

SAM'L M. JANNEY.  
BENJ'N HALLOWELL.  
B. RUSH ROBERTS.  
RICH'D T. BENTLEY.

C. DELANO;

Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

We, the undersigned, chiefs, police, and headmen of the Omaha tribe of Indians, respectfully represent :

That our people are desirous of improving in civilization, and of adopting the pursuits of agriculture as a means of subsistence, and having recently received allotments of our lands in severalty with a view of establishing thereon permanent homes for our people, our present annuity of \$20,000 is found insufficient for the purposes of building houses, opening farms, and providing stock, farming implements, and other appliances necessary for success in agricultural pursuits. We therefore earnestly renew the petition presented to Congress at its last session, to make provision at as early a day as practicable for the sale of as near 50,000 acres of the most western portion of our reservation as can be separated from the remainder by a line running along the section-lines from north to south, and that the proceeds of the said sales may be appropriated for the building of houses, opening of farms, and other beneficial purposes as aforesaid.

We earnestly represent that the advancement of our people in civilization is much retarded by the want of means to settle them in permanent homes, and respectfully petition that funds for that purpose be made available at as early a day as is consistent with the wisdom of Congress.

STANDING HAWK, Chief, his x mark.  
FUI, Chief, his x mark.  
YELLOW SMOKE, Chief, his x mark.  
HARD WALKER, Chief, his x mark.  
MA-HA-NERIJA, Chief, his x mark.  
SHON-GA-SKAH, Chief, his x mark.

EBA-HORNBA, *Chief*, his x mark.  
 LION, *Chief*, his x mark.  
 GI-HE-GA, his x mark.  
 L. SANNSICI, *United States Interpreter*, his x mark.  
 H. FONTENELLE, *ex-Interpreter*, his x mark.  
 JIM DICK, his x mark.  
 WAH-SHA-SHA, his x mark.  
 TA-NOO-GA, his x mark.  
 TA-NOO-GA-NEMBA, his x mark.  
 ECO-HABBE, his x mark.  
 MA-HA-WALKA, his x mark.  
 ISH-OGGA-WA-HERA, his x mark.  
 ZHINGA-GI-HE-GA, his x mark.  
 RES-NA-HUNGA, his x mark.  
 SE-MICCA-SEE, his x mark.  
 O-HUNGA-MO-NI, his x mark.  
 WAH-MAH-ZHE-KE-UBBE, his x mark.  
 MAH-A-GA-HE, his x mark.  
 WAH-TON-AH-ZHE, his x mark.  
 PIL-ZE-NIN-GA, his x mark.  
 PAW-NEE-MUN-PA-ZHE, his x mark.  
 NA-HOGGA, his x mark.  
 MEIHOPPA-ZHINGA, his x mark.  
 WAH-NAH-SANDA, his x mark.

L. SANNSICI, *United States Interpreter*, his x mark.  
 H. FONTENELLE, *ex-Interpreter*, his x mark.  
 L. H. FELT, *Citizen*.  
 E. PAINTER, *United States Indian Agent*.

OMAHA AGENCY, *Tenthmonth 27, 1871.*