

1884-9

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A communication of the 11th instant from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting an item of appropriation in the sum of \$3,000 for the location and survey of boundary lines of certain lands purchased by the United States from Creek Indians for use of Seminole Indians, Indian Territory.

JANUARY 14, 1884.—Read and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith a communication of the 11th instant, from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting, with accompanying papers, an item of appropriation in the sum of \$3,000, for the location and survey of boundary lines of certain lands purchased by the United States from the Creek Indians for the use of the Seminole Indians in the Indian Territory.

The matter is presented for the consideration of the Congress.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *January 14, 1884.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 11, 1884.

SIR: By the deficiency appropriation act of August 5, 1882 (22 Stat., 265), the sum of \$175,000 was appropriated to pay the Creek Nation of Indians for 175,000 acres of land occupied by the Seminole Indians in Indian Territory, but no provision was made for the exact location and survey of the boundaries of said tract.

The absence of a definitely marked boundary line between the two nations is reported by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to be the source of conflicts and differences between the said tribes of Indians, and I have the honor to submit, herewith, an item of appropriation which it is desired may be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill, setting aside the sum of \$3,000 to be expended for that purpose.

I respectfully recommend that the matter may be presented for the favorable consideration and action of the Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. TELLER,

Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.

Estimate of appropriation required to locate and survey the lands purchased by the United States from the Creek Indians for the use of the Seminole Indians, in Indian Territory.

For the location and survey of the one hundred and seventy five thousand acres of land now occupied by the Seminole Nation, and purchased from the Creek Nation, as provided in the deficiency appropriation act, approved August 5, 1882 (22 Stats., p. 265), and according to the terms of the Creek agreement of February fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty one, the sum of three thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 9, 1884.

SIR: In a draft of a bill, submitted with my report of January 9, 1882, for the acceptance and ratification of the agreement made February 14, 1881, by the Creek Nation of Indians for the relinquishment of 175,000 acres of their land in the Indian Territory to the United States for the use of the Seminole Nation of Indians, provision was made for the survey of the said cession. On the 11th of February following, this office, in a letter to Hon. D. C. Haskell, urged immediate action on the aforesaid bill, because of the magnitude of the interests involved, and suggested that it be attached as an item to the immediate deficiency, the Indian, or the sundry civil appropriation bill, then pending before the House, and its adoption pressed to a successful termination.

By the deficiency appropriation act, approved August 5, 1882 (22 Stats., p. 265), there was appropriated "to pay the Creek Nation of Indians for one hundred and seventy-five thousand acres of land now occupied by the Seminole Nation, the sum of one hundred and seventy five thousand dollars, as per agreement made in pursuance of the act of March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, which agreement bears date February fourteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-one, and is now on file in the Department of the Interior; said sum to be immediately available. * * *"

No provision was made for the location and survey of said 175,000 acres, and until this tract of land is definitely located and its out boundaries fully and distinctly determined and established the conflicts and differences arising between these two nations of Indians because of the absence of such established boundaries must continue.

I have the honor to submit herewith the draft of an item with the recommendation that the same be forwarded to Congress with request that it be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill, appropriating three thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to ascertain and determine the area and establish and mark the out-boundaries of said tract of land.

After an informal inquiry at the General Land Office, this amount, it is believed, will be required to make all the surveys necessary to satisfactorily and permanently establish said reservation and mark its out-boundaries.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.