

L E T T E R

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to certain Pottawatomie Indians.

APRIL 15, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 8, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate of date February 4, 1885, as follows:

Whereas those members of the Pottawatomie Nation of Indians residing in the States of Indiana and Michigan claim that there are due them, by virtue of treaties made with said nation, considerable sums of money:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby, directed to examine into said claims, and ascertain what, if any, amounts are due said Indians, said claims being those set forth in the memorial contained in House Mis. Doc. No. 8, of the Forty-fifth Congress, second session.

The Secretary is further directed to ascertain whether the bands of Pottawatomies of Huron located in Calhoun County, Michigan, and not mentioned in said memorial, should, by virtue of treaties dated November 17, 1807, September 19, 1827, and September 26, 1833, be included in any settlement that may hereafter be made of the claims set forth in said memorial.

The resolution having been referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I transmit in reply thereto copy of his reply of the 6th instant, in the views of which this Department concurs.

The Commissioner states that he has caused an examination to be made of those Pottawatomie claims as set forth in the memorial contained in House Mis. Doc. No. 8, Forty-fifth Congress, second session, and finds that the claims are well founded; he refers to a report of his predecessor of January 26, 1884, recommending an appropriation in the sum of \$188,163.33 for the settlement of the claims of these Indians up to and including June 30, 1885; and he expresses the opinion that this sum should be increased to the amount of \$192,431.14, to cover the amount which will become due December 31, 1886.

The Commissioner further states that the Pottawatomie Indians located in Calhoun County, Michigan, were parties to the treaties of November 17, 1807, September 19, 1827, and September 27, 1833, and should be included in any settlement that may hereafter be made of the claims set forth in said memorial.

These claims have several times heretofore received the examination and consideration of this Department, and have been favorably recommended to the consideration of both branches of Congress, but no law has yet been enacted or appropriation made providing for their adjustment.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

H. L. MULDROW,
Acting Secretary.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 6, 1886.

SIR: On the 7th day of February, 1885, there was received at this office, by reference from the Department for report, the following Senate resolution, namely:

Whereas those members of the Pottawatomie Nation of Indians residing in the States of Indiana and Michigan claim that there are due them, by virtue of treaties made with the said nation, considerable sums of money:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby, directed to examine into said claims, and ascertain what, if any, amounts are due said Indians. Said claims being those set forth in the memorial contained in House Mis. Doc. No. 8 of the Forty-fifth Congress, second session.

The Secretary is further directed to ascertain whether the bands of Pottawatomies of Huron located in Calhoun County, Michigan, and not mentioned in said memorial, should, by virtue of treaties dated November 17, 1807, September 19, 1827, and September 26, 1833, be included in any settlement that may hereafter be made of the claims set forth in said memorial.

In reply I have the honor to state that I have caused an examination to be made of said claims as set forth in the memorial contained in House Mis. Doc. No. 8, of the Forty-fifth Congress, second session, and find that the said claims are well founded; also that said claims have been reported favorably to the honorable Secretary of the Interior, for reference to Congress, at sundry dates, viz, June 3, 1872, February 3, 1877, April 24, 1878, January 14, 1881, March 29, 1882, and January 26, 1884.

In the report last named, my predecessor recommended that the sum named in House bill No. 1742, Forty-eighth Congress, first session, for the relief of said Indians, be increased to \$188,165.83, which would be the sum due up to and including June 30, 1885. This sum should be increased to the amount of \$192,431.14 by the addition of the sum of \$4,267.31, being their pro rata share of permanent annuities due to the Pottawatomie Nation for the fiscal year 1886, and from July 1 to December 31, 1886, at the rate of \$2,844.87 per annum, or by the increase of the sum of \$152,602.96, award made by Senator Buckingham April 19, 1872 (Report No. 121, Forty-second Congress, second session), to \$192,431.14, being the additional amount due these Indians as their pro rata share of annuities from 1873 to 1886, both inclusive—fourteen years at \$2,844.87 per annum—\$39,828.18.

In reply to that portion of the resolution directing that it be ascertained "whether the bands of Pottawatomies of Huron located in Calhoun County, Michigan, and not mentioned in said memorial, should, by virtue of treaties dated November 17, 1807, September 19, 1827, and

September 26, 1833, be included in any settlement that may hereafter be made of the claims set forth in said memorial," I have to say that the bands of Pottawatomie Indians located in Calhoun County, Michigan, were parties to the treaties of November 17, 1807, September 19, 1827, and September 26, 1833, and should be included in any settlement that may hereafter be made of the claims set forth in said memorial.

The resolution of the Senate is returned herewith.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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