

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN RESPONSE

To Senate resolution of December 19, 1889, relative to the legal status of the Indians and lands in Indian Territory.

JANUARY 6, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 21, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following resolution of the Senate, dated 19th instant:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to send to the Senate the compilation recently made in the Indian Bureau concerning the legal status of the Indians and lands located in the Indian Territory, and that he also, if not incompatible with the public interest, send to the Senate instructions issued to the commission recently appointed pursuant to act of Congress to negotiate for the cession to the Government of lands west of the ninety-sixth degree in the Indian Territory.

In response thereto I have the honor to state that no compilation has been made by the Indian Bureau concerning the legal status of the Indians and lands located in the Indian Territory other than that embodied in the instructions to the Cherokee Commission.

In view of the pending negotiations with these Indians, I deem it incompatible with the public interest that these instructions at this time be made public.

With the final report of the Commission a copy of the instructions herewith requested will be furnished.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,
JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

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