

LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

Claims presented on account of Indian depredations.

JUNE 24, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 21, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate dated 11th instant, in the following words:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, directed to report to the Senate, at his earliest convenience, the amount of the claims heretofore presented to the Department on account of Indian depredations, whether such claims have been adjudicated or not.

In response thereto I transmit herewith copy of a communication of 19th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which contains the information called for by the resolution.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., June 19, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your reference of a copy of Senate resolution of June 11, 1890, which is in the following words, viz:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, directed to report to the Senate, at his earliest convenience, the amount of the claims heretofore presented to the Department on account of Indian depredations, whether such claims have been adjudicated or not.

And, in compliance with your directions for report upon the same, I have to state that claims in favor of white men on account of depredations by Indians have been filed up to date aggregating \$19,872,688.75. Claims have been filed by Indians under various treaty stipulations aggregating \$1,414,441.89, as per Schedule B, Executive Document 125, Forty-ninth Congress, first session, pages 271 to 286.

2 CLAIMS PRESENTED ON ACCOUNT OF INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS.

There are also deposited in this office, though not entered on its books, 961 claims, involving a total of \$1,269,812.60, on account of depredations by Creek Indians in Alabama and Georgia during the years 1835-'36-'37, which claims are supposed to be those presented to and examined by the commissioners appointed under an act of Congress approved March 3, 1837 (5 Stat. 162). The report of the commissioners is found in Executive Document 127, Twenty-fifth Congress, second session (vol. 206, Pub. Doc., page 439). They recommend a total allowance of \$356,168.92, reducing some claims 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. and others 50 per cent., while a number they disallow altogether.

In addition to the above, 79 claims amounting to \$24,975.53, on account of depredations in Minnesota by Sioux Indians in 1862, were sent to this office by the Department of the Interior, September 17, 1888, "for file and preservation," (see Commissioner's Report for 1889, pages 44 and 45), but have not been entered upon the books of the office.

The claims in favor of Indians, the Creek claims and the Sioux claims above referred to, are not deemed to be within the scope of the acts of March 3, 1885 (23 Stat., 376), and May 15, 1886 (24 Stat., 44), hence were not included in the number and amount of claims mentioned in table 5, page 43, Commissioner's Report for 1889. The four classes of claims herein mentioned aggregate \$22,581,918.77.

Very respectfully,

R. V. BELT.
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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