
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 15, 1892.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ALLEN presented the following

MEMORIAL FROM THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA, PIERCE COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON, PRAYING THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION BE TAKEN FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL REMOVAL OF THE RESTRICTIONS UNDER WHICH THE LANDS OF THE PUYALLUP INDIAN RESERVATION ARE NOW HELD.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America:

Your petitioners, the mayor and city council of the city of Tacoma, Pierce County, State of Washington, respectfully represent:

That Tacoma is bounded on the east and southeast by the lands of the Puyallup Indians, which extend more than half way around the shores of Commencement Bay, on which this city is situated; that it is bounded on the north and west by the waters of Puget Sound, and that the only direction in which free and unrestricted communication may be had with the surrounding country is toward the south and southwest, which section is, for the most part, a barren prairie not suitable for cultivation; that the great body of the country and territory tributary to Tacoma lies to the east and southeast, up to the Puyallup Valley, where is the most valuable agricultural lands, the large bodies of timber, and the coal and other minerals along the foot of the Cascade Mountains.

That all this territory is cut off from Tacoma by the Puyallup Indian Reservation, which is now a comparative wilderness of 18,062 acres, not one-twentieth of which is cultivated or improved, for the reason that the owners thereof are restricted by Congress from selling or mortgaging or otherwise encumbering or disposing of any part of their lands for the purpose of procuring the necessary means to clear, improve, and cultivate the remainder thereof, or to purchase stock, tools, etc., or to build comfortable homes for their families, as they would do if these unjust restrictions were removed.

That by reason of such conditions there are no roads running through said reservation, or no means of communication between Tacoma and the farmers and gardeners who supply Tacoma with their products, except by way of the poor and at times impassible trails or wagon roads through the woods, to the great inconvenience and damage of the country as well as the city.

That these lands are rich agricultural lands and would be very productive if properly cultivated, and would yield the Indians and such other farmers as should buy their lands handsome returns for their labor; and instead of this entire tract, which stretches from the shores of the sound on the north for nearly 10 miles across the Puyallup Valley, lying as it now does a desert waste, from which no revenue is derived, either to the Indians or to the county or State (the lands not being subject to taxation), it will soon become a region of gardens, in which will be the homes of a prosperous people, who are now, many of them, suffering for the necessaries of life.

Some two years ago the Indians who own these lands presented to our State legislature a petition signed by every Indian on the reservation, asking that these restrictions be removed, and in accordance therewith our State legislature promptly passed an act removing the restrictions, absolutely and unconditionally, subject only to ratification by Congress. A memorial was thereupon presented to Congress by our legislature, asking consent and ratification therein, and after some delay Congress appointed the Drake commission to visit the Indians and report, which report is now in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior; and we most respectfully beg to call the attention of your honorable bodies to the urgent necessity of taking prompt action, at the present session, in removing these restrictions and giving to the Indians, who are citizens of the United States, with full enjoyment of the elective franchise and all the political rights of other American citizens, and who are intelligent and civilized, and who are as capable of managing their own business and affairs as any other class of our people, the full enjoyment of their lands, unhampered by any conditions or restrictions whatever. And we will ever pray.

GEO. B. KAUDLE,
Mayor.

M. S. HILL,
President Council.

R. G. MEATH,

H. C. CLEMENT,

C. M. JOHNSON,

E. S. ORR,

H. H. WARNER,

H. S. BERRYHILL,

FRANK LAIDLAW,

City Council.

Attest:

GEO. HASKIN,
City Clerk.

TACOMA, WASH., *February, 8, 1892.*