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Joseph and Lindsay Ward. (To accompany bill H.R. no. 256).

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. 324, 29th Cong., 1st Sess. (1846)

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WINNEBAGO INDIANS.

FEBRUARY 21, 1846.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. CATHCART, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of the legislature of Iowa, upon the subject of the removal of the Winnebagoes, have instructed me to report:

That no legislation is necessary thereon at present, and to herewith report the said memorial back to the House, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration thereof. The accompanying letter, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is to be considered a part of this report.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, January 30, 1846.

SIR: In answer to your inquiry, by letter of the 22d inst., in behalf of the Committee on Indian Affairs, whether any, and if any, what legislative action is necessary on the enclosed memorial of the legislative assembly of Iowa, in relation to the removal of the Winnebago Indians, I have the honor to reply, that it is contemplated by the department, as a last attempt, to invite a delegation from said tribe to this city, in order to renew the effort to successfully negotiate for the purchase of the right of the Winnebagoes to the land they now hold, and for their removal therefrom; that should the effort result in a failure, it may then be expedient that government should adopt some other measure than that heretofore resorted to, for the purpose of effecting the removal of these Indians from the tract of country which it was never intended they should permanently occupy. But what ought to be the nature of the steps to be taken, (in the event of a failure in the contemplated negotiation,) or what the legislative action, if any, that would be required to effect their removal, I am not prepared to say. For the present, should a delegation be invited, and the Indians accept it, the only action by Congress necessary would be the appropriation of a sum of money to defray the expenses of the delegation, an estimate for which (\$5,000) has been reported by this office.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. MEDILL.

HON. CHAS. W. CATHCART,
House of Representatives.