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Citizens of Louisiana -- To remove Indians

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CITIZENS OF LOUISIANA—TO REMOVE INDIANS.

APRIL 24, 1850.

Laid on the table.

Mr. R. W. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom were referred the petitions of citizens of Louisiana, respectfully report:

That all which can be done at present in the premises has already been done by the proper action of the Executive department, as will appear by the annexed letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; which, together with this report, they recommend shall be printed, laid on the table, and the committee discharged from its further consideration.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, February 15, 1850.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 13th instant, re-enclosing certain petitions of citizens of Rapides parish, Louisiana, in relation to Biloxi and Choctaw Indians in their vicinity, by whom they complain that they are annoyed, I have the honor to inform you that the Biloxies are a clan of the Choctaws, whose proper residence, it is believed, is in Mississippi or Alabama, but who, with other Choctaws, are in the habit of roaming about, sometimes going to the gulf shore to fish, and at others to different sections of the country, and being employed by the planters in picking cotton and in other light labor. Their being so employed is one of the obstacles in the way of effecting their emigration to the country of their brethren west of the Mississippi. The department has no idea that those complained of belong to that portion of the Choctaws that have been removed, though they are in a portion of Louisiana that is west of the Mississippi. If they do, the report of the emigrating agent, who has been written to, will disclose the fact, and measures will be taken to compel their return to their own country. If they do not, they are citizens of the States, and the general government has no right to interfere with them, though the agent has been instructed to effect their removal if they can be persuaded to go.

The petitions are again respectfully returned.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

ORLANDO BROWN.

HON. R. W. JOHNSON,
Chairman Committee Indian Affairs, House of Representatives.