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Heirs of John B. Beaugrand

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HEIRS OF JOHN B. BEAUGRAND.

MAY 29, 1858.

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

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of the heirs of John B. Beaugrand, deceased, asking the payment of a claim against individuals of the Wyandott tribe of Indians, under the treaty of 1842, have had the same under consideration, and have instructed me to report adversely.

The claimants rest their claim against the United States upon the 6th article of the treaty made between the United States and the Wyandott Indians, on the 17th day of March, 1842. The article referred to is in the following words: "The United States hereby agrees to pay the debts due by the members of the Wyandott nation to the citizens of the United States, amounting to \$——, in conformity to a schedule hereunto annexed." By a note referring to said article in the treaty, the schedule to be prepared and filed was supposed would contain claims to be covered by said article, not to exceed twenty thousand dollars. On the 17th day of August, 1842, the Senate, by way of amendment to the treaty, filled the blank in the 6th article of the treaty of March 17, 1842, by inserting as the amount the United States would pay upon the claims provided for, with the sum of twenty three thousand eight hundred and sixty dollars, which amendment to the original treaty was duly ratified by the chiefs and headmen of said tribe on the 16th day of September, 1842, which sum has been, as your committee are advised, duly applied according to the schedule filed in terms of the treaty.

Your committee, in order to ascertain whether the claim of the memorialists, or any part of it, had been paid, addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, on the 24th ultimo, and received a response through the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, under date of May 3, 1858, in which it clearly appears that the claimants nor any person for them, up to the date last mentioned, had ever filed or presented their claim for payment. The letter is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, May 3, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, on the 24th, and referred by him to this office on the 26th ultimo, making certain inquiries connected with an alleged claim of the heirs of Beaugrand, against the Wyandott Indians, under the 6th article of the treaty March 17, 1842.

By letter from this office, addressed to the Hon. Edward Ball, of the Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives, dated January 4, 1854, (copy herewith,) you will perceive that no such claim as the one referred to by you had, up to that time, been filed in this office; and, on further examination, no evidence can be found of its having been filed since that date.

The appropriation of \$55,660, made August 31, 1842, (see Statutes at Large, vol. 5, page 576,) includes the sum of \$23,860, for the payment of the debts due by members of the Wyandott nation, as provided for by the 6th article of the treaty of 17th March, 1842, which money has been applied to its legitimate objects.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. A. B. GREENWOOD,
House of Representatives.

Your committee are of opinion that the United States, by terms of the treaty and the amendment thereto, was only bound to pay upon the debts of individuals of the Wyandott nation the sum of \$23,860. That amount having been applied to its legitimate object, and the claimants, having wholly failed to present their claim, and no sufficient excuse appearing to your committee for such gross neglect, can have no claim against the United States. Your committee, therefore, ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the memorial.