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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, in answer to a resolution of the House of 22d ultimo, relative to the sale of the Sioux Indian reservation in Minnesota

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SIoux INDIAN RESERVATION.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the House of 22d ultimo, relative to the sale of the Sioux Indian reservation in Minnesota.

FEBRUARY 1, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 31, 1868.

SIR: Pursuant to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 22d instant, calling upon the Secretary of the Interior for information concerning the sale of the Sioux Indian reservation, Minnesota, on the 2d ultimo, I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the report on the subject by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under date of the 29th instant.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
January 29, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge, by reference, the resolution from the House of Representatives calling for information relative to the public sale of land within the Sioux Indian reservation of Minnesota, and in reply to your request for a report, I state that there was sold 20,837.39 acres, at an average price of \$1 42 per acre; of this 670.53 acres was timber land, and sold at an average of \$2 78½ per acre, and 7,530.13 acres were filed for under the pre-emption laws prior to the sale, but the entries not perfected. The average price of this land was \$1 43 per acre.

The total number of *bona fide* settlers on the reservation prior to the sale was three hundred and twelve, of which number one hundred and thirty-nine filed affidavits of their inability to pay for their claims at the present time; the re

mainder had proved up prior to sale. Other declarations of settlements exist on the lands offered, but, as the claims were not perfected, and no affidavits of inability to pay were filed by the settlers, it is presumed they have been abandoned; hence are not included in this statement.

The value of improvements on the lands held by settlers cannot be stated, this office having no information on that point.

Returning the resolution, I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. S. WILSON,
Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.