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Report : Claim of the Choctaw Indians

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 5, 1871.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to which was referred the communication of the Secretary of the Treasury to Congress, transmitting a copy of the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States upon the claim of the Choctaw Nation of Indians for \$250,000 of United States bonds, have had the same under consideration, and report :

They have examined the opinion of the Attorney General, and concur with him in his reasonings and conclusions. There is a subsisting treaty between the United States and the Choctaw Nation of Indians which entitles said nation to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of bonds of the United States of America, and which requires the President to make and deliver that amount of said bonds to said Indian nation. This treaty is the supreme law of the land, and the President is charged with its execution as a ministerial function. He has full authority to execute that law by the making and delivery of those bonds, in compliance with the treaty, to the proper authorities of the Choctaw Nation: Wherefore they report this resolution:

Resolved, That the President having full authority under existing law to issue and deliver to the Choctaw Nation of Indians two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of United States bonds, no other legislation by Congress is necessary to that end.