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Pottawatomie Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to an appropriation for the benefit of the Pottawatomie Indians.

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POTTAWATOMIE INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

An appropriation for the benefit of the Pottawatomie Indians.

FEBRUARY 15, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 10, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 10th instant, relative to the division of the tribal funds of the Pottawatomie Indians, as provided in the third article of the treaty of November 15, 1861, with said tribe, and respectfully request the favorable action of Congress upon the statements and suggestions of the Commissioner.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. DELANO,
Secretary.

Hon. J. G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., February 10, 1871.

SIR: Referring to the matter of the division of the tribal funds of the Pottawatomie Indians, as provided in the 3d article treaty of November 15, 1861, with the Pottawatomies, (12 Stat. L., p. 1192,) modified by treaty of March 29, 1866, (14 Stat. L., p. 763,) and by treaty of February 27, 1867, I desire to state that by the 6th article of the treaty last referred to it is provided as follows: "And when any member of the tribe shall become a citizen under the provisions of said treaty of 1862, the families of said parties shall also be considered as citizens; and the heads of families shall be entitled to patents and the proportional share of funds belonging to his family; and women who are also heads of families, and single women of adult age, may become citizens in the same manner as males."

Certificates of naturalization and applications for patents, as provided in said 6th article treaty of February 27, 1867, have been presented to this office, to the number of fifteen hundred and eighteen, and twelve hundred and sixty-eight patents have been issued to the persons named therein, and they have been paid their proportion of the tribal funds. Steps are now being taken to have patents issued to two hundred and fifty additional persons; and in order that they may be paid their proportion of the annuities, &c., of the tribe, a further division of the tribal fund will have to be made, in compliance with the requirements and stipulations of said treaties.

The whole number of the tribe was, at the time the first payment was made, 2,180 souls, and upon this number the calculations have heretofore been made. Taking this as a basis of calculation, the amounts found due the two hundred, to whom certificates, as hereinbefore stated, have been issued, and who have applied for patents, are as follows:

The sum of \$20,000, silver and specie annuities, is the interest at five per cent. on \$400,000, of which principal sum 250 persons, of the number of 2,180, will be entitled to receive \$45,871 56.

Of the sum of \$111,150, which is the principal that at five per cent. will produce \$5,557 50, the amount of money annuities, &c., the same number of persons will be entitled to receive \$12,746 56.

Total cash value of permanent annuities due 250 persons, \$58,618 12.

The share of 250 persons in the sum of \$643,000, held in trust for them under the treaty of June 5 and 17, 1846, will amount to \$73,738 53.

Of this amount \$45,871 56 will have to be appropriated in coin, and \$86,485 09 in currency.

Authority should be granted by Congress to dispose of bonds held in trust for said Indians, to the amount of \$24,908 25, in order that a final settlement may be made with said two hundred and fifty members of the tribe, and I would respectfully request that the matter be submitted to Congress for appropriate action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. COLUMBUS DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.