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Osage Indian lands. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to The Osage Indian lands in Kansas.

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OSAGE INDIAN LANDS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

The Osage Indian lands in Kansas.

FEBRUARY 16, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 11, 1871.

SIR: In connection with the letter from this Department of the 4th instant, addressed to Congress, inclosing copies of letters from Hon. J. D. Lang and Superintendent Hoag, protesting against the extension of the time in which settlers upon the Osage lands in Kansas are required to pay for the same, I have the honor to transmit, for the further information of the House, a copy of a communication from Superintendent Hoag, dated the 31st ultimo, relative to the same subject.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

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

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, 1st month 31, 1871.

The Department should take immediate steps to prevent congressional action favoring the further postponement of time for payment by settlers for the Osage lands on which they reside.

The President's commissioners, Farwell, Lang, and Collyer, sent down last autumn to procure the consent of said Indians to accept the recent law for their removal from said land to the Indian Territory, found one great objection to selling their lands to the Government was, that years ago they ceded a large portion of their domain and not one dollar had been paid. It was explained to them that Congress had extended the time to favor the settlers two years, which would expire on April 1, 1871, when the money would be placed to their credit.

Now, as the time approaches, the legislature of Kansas asks Congress to extend payment further, and the United States Senate has responded. The scheme is utterly unjust—of no benefit to the settlers, and will greatly enrage the Osages; and, if carried out, will work immense injury. Is legislation for the strong at the expense of the weak?

Respectfully,

ENOCH HOAG,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner Indian Affairs.

Senator Whitney's resolutions.

Among the first resolutions introduced in the senate, after it was organized, was the following, by Senator Whitney of this district:

Be it resolved by the senate, (the house concurring,) That the entire congressional delegation from the State of Kansas be severally requested and urged to procure the prompt and speedy enactment of a law of Congress extending the time for the operation of, and settlement and payment under, the joint resolution of Congress of April 10, 1869, entitled, "A resolution enabling *bona fide* settlers to purchase certain lands acquired from the Great and Little Osage tribes of Indians."

Section 2. That the governor be requested to transmit a copy of this joint resolution to each of our Senators and Representative in Congress.

This resolution covers what is known as the Osage ceded and trust lands, lying principally in this and Wilson Counties, and Senator Whitney is deserving of the thanks of this community and the settlers on this land for his promptness in introducing and putting it through. The time for settlers to make their entries and pay the Government for these lands under the present limitation will expire on the 10th of April next. A resolution introduced by Pomeroy extending the time one year longer passed the United States Senate last week, and will without doubt pass the House.

The prospect that every soldier on a claim on these lands had to enter his land within the next three months or forfeit his right to it, if he could not rake and scrape two hundred dollars within the limited period, had created a great stringency in money matters here of late.

This proposed extension of one year will give the settler the benefit of another year's crop; and the entire community will be benefited by the money that had been hoarded up for this purpose being put into active circulation again.—*New Chicago Transcript.*