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Resolution of the National Commercial Convention, memorializing Congress on the subject of re-organizing the Indian Territory

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RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

RESOLUTION

OF THE

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL CONVENTION,

MEMORIALIZING

Congress on the subject of re-organizing the Indian Territory.

JANUARY 14, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on the Territories and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

I am directed by the national commercial convention, convened in the city of Saint Louis, December 12, 1872, to transmit to Congress, for its consideration, the following preambles and resolution, in relation to the re-organization of the Indian Territory, which were, after mature deliberation, unanimously adopted:

Whereas it is the duty of the Government and people of the United States to inaugurate and execute such a policy toward the Indian tribes occupying the national territories as will most rapidly bring them under the dominion and usages of our laws and civilization; and

Whereas experience has shown that the Indian tribes may be assimilated to the prevailing civilization of the country, and gradually brought to a recognition of the highest social and civil relations of life; and

Whereas, by the exclusive occupancy of the Indian Territory under tribal laws, the hand of industry and the arts of civilized life have been excluded from a large area in the midst of the continent—an area rich in agricultural and mineral resources, with highly favorable climatic advantages, and whose exhaustless treasures need to be developed to supply the surrounding and the incoming white population now pressing into the Southwest, and thus contribute to the prosperity of the whole country; and

Whereas the most enlightened and cultured among the "tribes" have indicated their unequivocal desire for the presence of our civilization in their midst, as a powerful ally in their struggle for a higher social and civil life; and

Whereas the President, in his late annual message, did invoke such legislation by Congress as will contribute to these high purposes: Therefore,

Resolved by the national commercial convention assembled in Saint Louis, That Congress be, and is hereby, respectfully memorialized to establish, without delay, a territorial government over the country known as the Indian Territory, bringing the people thereof under the laws and jurisdiction of the United States, on such equitable basis as will secure, 1st, a homestead to the head of each Indian family, the title to which cannot be alienated for a designated term of years; 2d, the sale of the remaining lands on such terms as will induce the rapid settlement and development of the Territory, the proceeds of said sales to be held or invested by the Government as a fund, the interest on which shall be distributed annually and equitably among the several tribes; 3d, the establishment of free schools, to the end that the Indian may learn the arts and occupations of civilized life.

BENJAMIN E. CRANE,

President National Commercial Convention.

SAINT LOUIS, *December 12, 1872.*