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Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, relative to a recent survey of the line dividing the Creek ceded lands, upon which the Sac and Fox and Seminole Indians have reservations

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SAC AND FOX AND SEMINOLE INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

A recent survey of the line dividing the Creek ceded lands, upon which the Sac and Fox and Seminole Indians have reservations.

DECEMBER 19, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., December 17, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 7th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inviting the attention of this Department to a recent survey of the line dividing the Creek ceded lands, upon which the Sac and Fox and Seminole Indians have reservations, from the Creek reservation, as provided for by the eighth article of the treaty with the Creeks, of June 14, 1866. (U. S. Stats., vol. 14, p. 785.)

An examination of the field-notes and plats of said survey, which has been approved, discloses the fact that the line above referred to divides the reservations of the Seminoles and Sacs and Foxes, leaving extensive improvements east of said line, and, consequently, within the Creek country.

In view of the facts stated it is recommended that legislation be had authorizing negotiations with the Creek Indians for the purchase of that portion of the reservation of the Seminoles and Sacs and Foxes thrown, by the survey, into the Creek reserve.

I have, therefore, prepared, and herewith transmit a draught of an act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the Creek Indians for the cession of a portion of their reservation occupied by friendly Indians, and respectfully commend it to the favorable consideration of Congress, to the end that the Government may be enabled to execute the existing treaty stipulations with the Indians interested.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., December 7, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the Department to the following, viz:

By the 3d article of the treaty concluded with the Creek Indians June 14, 1866, (U. S. Stats. at Large, vol. 14, p. 785,) said Indians cede to the United States, for the settlement of friendly Indians and freedmen, the west half of their entire domain, to be divided by a line running north and south.

In consideration of the cession made by the 3d article of the treaty concluded with the Seminole Indians March 21, 1866, (U. S. Stats. at Large, vol. 14, p. 755,) the United States, by said article, granted to said Indians, out of the Creek ceded lands, a reservation containing 200,000 acres.

In consideration of the improvements upon the reservation of the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi tribe of Indians, ceded by the 1st article of the treaty concluded with said Indians February 18, 1867, (U. S. Stats. at Large, vol. 15, p. 495,) the United States, by the 6th article of said treaty, granted to these Indians a reservation out of the Creek ceded lands, containing about 750 square miles.

The Seminoles and the Sacs and Foxes have settled upon their respective reservations, and have made improvement thereon, not expecting to be disturbed by the survey of the line dividing the Creek ceded lands from the Creek reservation, as provided for by the 8th article of the Creek treaty of 1866, hereinbefore referred to. However, the survey has subsequently been completed, and approved by the honorable Secretary of the Interior, under date of the 5th February last. Upon an examination of the plats and field-notes of said survey, it is found that the dividing-line cuts through a portion of the reservations above referred to, for the use of the Seminole and Sac and Fox Indians, leaving extensive improvements east of said line, and, consequently, within the Creek country.

In view of the foregoing, I respectfully recommend that the matter be aid before Congress, with the request for legislation authorizing the Department to negotiate with the Creek Indians for the purchase of the lands thus thrown into the Creek reserve, to the end that the tribes who have settled down in good faith, and entered into agricultural pursuits, may not be deprived of the fruits of their industry, through no fault of theirs, and, further, that the Government may be enabled thereby to carry out existing treaty stipulations with the Indians interested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

AN ACT to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the Creek Indians for the cession of a portion of their reservation occupied by friendly Indians.

Whereas, by the third article of the treaty concluded with the Creek Indians, June fourteenth, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, said Indians ceded to the United States, for the settlement of friendly Indians and freedmen, the west half of their entire domain, to be divided by a line running north and south; and whereas the recent survey of said line, made in conformity with the provisions of said treaty, includes

within the limits of the Creek reservation, east of said line, some of the improvements made on a reservation selected on what was supposed to be the Creek ceded lands, for the Seminole tribe of Indians, which reservation is provided for in their treaty of March first, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, and also some of the improvements of the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi tribe of Indians, made on a reservation intended to be established in accordance with the provisions of their treaty of February eighteenth, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven; and whereas said improvements have been made upon said lands by and for the aforesaid Indians, who have settled thereupon in good faith, in accordance with treaty stipulations; and whereas it is necessary, in order to secure these improvements to said Indians, and to insure them suitable reservations, that the lands occupied thereby should be granted to them: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby is, authorized to negotiate with the aforesaid Creek Indians for the relinquishment to the United States of such portions of their country as may have been set apart, in accordance with treaty stipulations, for the use of the Seminole, and the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi tribes of Indians, respectively, found to be east of the line separating the Creek ceded lands from the Creek reservation, and also to negotiate and arrange with said tribes for a final and permanent adjustment of their reservations; and the Secretary shall report the result to Congress.

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