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Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, relative to the disposition of the Ottawa Indian trust-fund bonds.

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OTTAWA INDIAN TRUST-FUND BONDS.

L E T T E R

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

The disposition of the Ottawa Indian trust-fund bonds.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., December 12, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the inclosed draught of "An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to sell certain bonds belonging to the Ottawa tribe of Indians, and held in trust by the United States."

By the provisions of the treaties concluded with the Ottawas of Blanchard's Fork and Roche de Bœuf, referred to in the accompanying copy of a report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 11th instant, it is found that a necessity exists for the disposal of the bonds held in trust for the benefit of said Indians; and I therefore respectfully request the favorable action of Congress upon the subject.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 11, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt of a letter from the Department of the 24th October last, regarding the disposition to be made of certain funds held in trust by the United States for the Ottawa Indians of Blanchard's Fork and Roche de Bœuf, and to report as follows:

By the 16th articles of the treaty with Senecas and other tribes, of February 23, 1867, (Stat., 15, p 517,) "the west part of the Shawnee reservation, ceded to the United States by the 3d article, is sold to the

Ottawas at one dollar per acre; and for the purpose of paying for said reservation the United States shall take the necessary amount, whenever the area of such land shall be found by actual survey, from the funds in the hands of the Government arising from the sale of the Ottawa trust-lands, as provided in the 9th article of the treaty of 1862, (Stat., 12, p. 1240,) and the balance of said fund, after the payment of accounts provided for in article five of the treaty of 1862, shall be paid to the tribe per capita."

The area of the tract of land sold to the Ottawas in accordance with the provisions of the above article of the treaty has been ascertained by actual survey, made by E. W. Robinson in 1871, under instructions from the Department, to be 14,860.27 acres; and the proceeds of the sale of the Ottawa trust-lands applicable in payment for said tract have been invested in United States securities, as follows:

6 per cent. registered bonds, loan of 1867	\$21,150 00
5 per cent. bonds, funded, loan of 1881	524 48
Making a total of.....	<u>21,674 48</u>

The Ottawas having become citizens of the United States, it is desirable that their accounts with the Government growing out of their former tribal relations should be closed. With this object in view, and in accordance with your instructions, I have caused to be prepared, and herewith inclose for the action of Congress, a draught of a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to sell the bonds belonging to and held in trust for the Ottawas, and to apply the proceeds of the sale to the purposes named in the 16th article of the treaty of 1867, above cited.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

AN ACT authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to sell certain bonds belonging to the Ottawa tribe of Indians, and held in trust by the United States.

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 is hereby, authorized to sell the bonds now held in trust by him for the Ottawa Indians of Blanchard's Fork and Roche de Bœuf, amounting to twenty-one thousand six hundred and seventy-four dollars and forty-eight cents, and apply the proceeds of the sale in the manner prescribed by the terms of the sixteenth article of the treaty with the Senecas and other tribes of February twenty-third, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven.