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United States Court in Arkansas. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to holding a term of court for the western district of Arkansas at Okmulgee once in each year.

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UNITED STATES COURT IN ARKANSAS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

Holding a term of court for the western district of Arkansas at Okmulgee once in each year.

FEBRUARY 21, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 20, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 17th instant, presenting the necessity of holding one term of the United States district court for the western district of Arkansas at Okmulgee instead of being held as now, by law, only at Van Buren, in the said State.

As by the 24th section of the intercourse act of 1834, the Indian Territory was annexed to what is now the western district of Arkansas, and for the reasons stated by the Commissioner, I respectfully recommend that the subject receive the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., February 17, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to recommend that Congress be requested to authorize the holding of a term of the United States district court for the western district of Arkansas at Okmulgee once in each year.

By the 24th section of the intercourse act of 1834, and "for the sole purpose of carrying that [this] act into effect," the Indian Territory was annexed to what is now the western district of Arkansas.

The court is now held by law only at Van Buren, in that State. The inconvenience and expense attending the deportation of persons charged with crime, and the attendance of witnesses from so great a distance, is not less, but greater, on account of whatever is peculiar in the character and situation of the Indians. Except in the most serious cases of crime, the present plan operates practically as a denial of justice.

Moreover, I am disposed, from such examination as I have been able to give the subject, to believe that the aggregate expense of the judicial district of Arkansas would not be greater, but less, by reason of a term once a year at Okmulgee.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.