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Expenses of removal of certain Cherokee Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting an estimate for expenses of removal of certain Cherokee Indians from North Carolina

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EXPENSES OF REMOVAL OF CERTAIN CHEROKEE INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate for expenses of removal of certain Cherokee Indians from North Carolina.

FEBRUARY 27, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 26, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of this date, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with the accompanying estimate of appropriation for \$5,000, required to defray the expenses of the removal of certain Cherokee Indians from North Carolina and the adjoining States to the Indian Territory.

The Commissioner fully states the facts in relation to these Indians, in view of which, and agreeably to his request, I respectfully recommend that the subject receive the early and favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

HON. JAS. G. BLAINE,
Speaker House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., February 26, 1872.

SIR: By the 3d and 4th sections of the act of July 29, 1848, (St., vol. 9, pp. 264-266,) the Secretary of War was required to ascertain the number and names of such individuals of the Cherokee Nation of Indians who remained in the State of North Carolina at the time of the ratification of the treaty at New Echota, May 23, 1836, (St., vol. 7, pp. 478-489,) and the Secretary of the Treasury was directed to set apart the sum of \$53 33 as a removal and subsistence fund for each of said Indians, and to pay annually interest thereon at 6 per cent., and whenever any of these Indians should desire to remove west of the Mississippi the Secretary of War was authorized to apply said fund, or so much

thereof as should be found necessary, to defray the expenses of their removal and subsistence.

A census or roll of the Cherokees entitled to the benefits of said act was taken by J. C. Mullay in 1849, and the number thus entitled was ascertained to be fifteen hundred and seventeen, including many who had then deceased but were living at the time of the ratification of the treaty, in 1836.

By the act of July 27, 1868, (St., vol. 15, p. 228,) transferring to the Department of the Interior certain powers and duties in connection with Indian affairs previously exercised by the Secretary of the Treasury, it was directed—

That the Secretary of the Interior shall cause a new roll or census to be made of the North Carolina or Eastern Cherokees, which shall be the roll on which payments due said Indians shall be made.

This census was taken by S. H. Swetland in 1868, and on the 9th of June following he was instructed to make payment of interest from July 29, 1859, the date of the last payment, up to July 29, 1869, to those Cherokees whose names appear on the census of J. C. Mullay as entitled to the benefits of the act of July 29, 1848, guided in his determinations as to the legal heirs and representatives of those deceased by the roll previously made by himself.

From the payment made by Mr. Swetland under the above instructions, and from the census taken by him of the Eastern Cherokees, it appears that of the original claimants under the act of July 29, 1848, very few are now living, and that the per capita fund of \$53 33, provided by said act, is subject to division among numerous heirs and representatives of the deceased claimants.

Many of these have expressed a desire to be removed to the Indian Territory, while the small amount to which they are entitled by such division is inadequate to defray the expenses of the removal, much less to provide for their temporary subsistence after arrival at their new homes. It is estimated that an additional appropriation of \$40 in each of these cases will be absolutely necessary to make up the deficiency. To determine the precise aggregate that may be required is not practicable at the present time, but I respectfully request that Congress be asked to appropriate the sum of \$5,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purpose indicated.

An estimate for that amount is herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

Estimate of appropriation required to defray the expenses of the removal, &c., of certain Cherokee Indians, from North Carolina and adjoining States, to the Cherokee Nation west of the Mississippi.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, in addition to what has heretofore been appropriated, for the removal of Cherokee Indians from North Carolina and adjoining States, where they now reside, to the Cherokee Nation in the Indian Territory, and for their temporary subsistence thereat..... \$5,000 00
