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Claim of Delaware Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior relative to the claim of the Delaware Indians for stock stolen from them by the whites since the treaty of 1854.

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CLAIM OF DELAWARE INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

The claim of the Delaware Indians for stock stolen from them by the whites since the treaty of 1854.

MARCH 5, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., March 2, 1872.

SIR: By the fourteenth article of the treaty with the Delaware Indians, dated July 4, 1866, it is provided that—

Inasmuch as the Delawares claim that a large amount of stock has been stolen from them by whites since the treaty of 1854, the United States agree to have a careful examination of such claims made under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, and when the value of such stolen stock shall have been ascertained the same shall be reported to Congress, with a recommendation for an appropriation to pay for the same; and all moneys appropriated for such purpose shall be paid to the owners of said stock.

Pursuant to the aforesaid provision of the treaty, Agent Pratt was instructed by the Indian Office, September 9, 1862, to make examination and report in detail upon the claims of the Delawares for such loss of stock. His report, dated 19th of January, 1869, was submitted to the Indian Office February 2, 1869, in which the value of the stock stolen from the Delawares by the whites since the treaty of 1854 was said to be \$26,284.

Agent Pratt's report was submitted to this Department on the 27th of January, 1870, with a recommendation by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the payment of the sum before mentioned. This Department on the 31st of January, 1870, transmitted to Congress the report of Agent Pratt, and the communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs before mentioned, with a recommendation that the appropriation asked for be made. This Department is not advised that any action has been taken by Congress upon the subject; and were it a case involving the rights of ordinary citizens, this Department would not again call the attention of Congress to the subject; but, inasmuch as it affects the claims of persons who are regarded as the wards of the Government, and whose interests are especially confided to the care of this Department, it is not deemed consistent with duty to omit inviting the attention of Congress to the facts here communicated, in the belief that

the subject has been accidentally overlooked by those who have been especially charged with it.

I beg, therefore, most respectfully to invite the attention of Congress to the letter (inclosed herewith) addressed to this Department by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 28th ultimo, in which all the facts are referred to with more particularity and exactness than I have stated them.

I earnestly solicit the attention of Congress to the consideration of the subject, hoping that the investigation may lead to an appropriation such as the merits of the claim of the Delaware Indians, in my judgment, seems to demand.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., February 28, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the consideration of the following statement of facts, viz:

The fourteenth article of the Delaware treaty, concluded July 4, 1866, provides that—

Inasmuch as the Delawares claim that a large amount of stock has been stolen from them by whites since the treaty of 1854, the United States agree to have a careful examination of such claims made under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, and when the value of such stolen stock shall have been ascertained, the same shall be reported to Congress, with a recommendation for an appropriation to pay for the same; and all moneys appropriated for such purpose shall be paid to the owners of said stock.

Pursuant to the foregoing treaty provision, instructions were sent to Agent Pratt, under date of September 9, 1867, requiring him to make a careful examination of the claims of the Delawares thereunder, and submit a detailed report of the same to this office.

Agent Pratt transmitted his report, bearing date January 19, 1869, through Superintendent Murphy, who submitted the same to this office, with letter of February 2, 1869, in which the value of stock stolen from the Delawares by the whites, since the treaty of 1854, was stated to be \$28,284.

The report of Agent Pratt was submitted to the Department on the 27th of January, 1870, with the recommendation that an appropriation be asked of Congress for the payment of the appraised value of said stolen stock.

Office report was concurred in by the Department, and transmitted to Congress on the 31st of January, 1870, with the recommendation that the appropriation asked for be made; but no favorable action has been taken by Congress upon such recommendation.

I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that the attention of Congress be again invited to the subject, and the claims of the Delawares for an appropriation of a sum sufficient to cover the amount of their losses, occasioned by the stealing of their stock, strongly urged.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

The Honorable SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.