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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, communicating, in compliance with a Senate resolution of March 8, information in regard to the occupancy of the Indian Territory by unauthorized persons.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a Senate resolution of March 8, information in regard to the occupancy of the Indian Territory by unauthorized persons.

MARCH 15, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., March 14, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Senate, a copy of a report, dated the 13th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in answer to a resolution of that body, adopted on the 8th instant, in the following words, viz:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to communicate to the Senate any information in his possession in regard to the occupation of the Indian Territory by unauthorized persons, in violation of treaty stipulations, the number of such persons, and the circumstances of such occupation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
President of the Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., March 13, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from the Department, of a resolution of the Senate, dated the 8th instant, calling for "information in regard to the occupancy of the Indian Territory by unauthorized persons, in violation of treaty stipulations, the number of such persons, and the circumstances of such occupancy."

In reply, I have respectfully to report that the latest information upon the subject is contained in a communication addressed to this office on the 28th ultimo, by John B. Jones, United States agent of the Cherokee Indians, in which he quotes from a letter received by him from Isaac T. Gibson, United States agent for the Osage Indians, to the effect that the latter had been across the Arkansas River, twenty miles south of the Kansas line, where he found hundreds of settlers, who informed him that all the good lands for 15 miles down the river were "claimed up;"

that most of the timber-lands and valleys are claimed from Coffeyville to the Arkansas River, for 20 or 30 miles into the Indian Territory; that the settlers are sanguine of holding their claims, and say, if they are not molested until the first of March, their numbers will be so great that the Government will not dare attempt their removal. Agent Jones adds that there are also many intruders east of the 96th meridian in the Cherokee country.

In addition to the foregoing, it is known that there are many intruders along the lines of the railroads in the Indian Territory, but this office is unable to give their number from the data at present in its possession.

The resolution is respectfully returned herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.