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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a remonstrance of leading men of the Osage Nation against the establishment of a territorial government over the Indian country

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A remonstrance of leading men of the Osage Nation against the establishment of a territorial government over the Indian country.

JUNE 17, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 16, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a protest of the leading men of the Osage Nation against the establishment of a territorial government over the Indian country, addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives, together with copy of letter, dated the 15th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, forwarding the same to the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, June 15, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a petition or protest of the leading men (as stated by the United States agent, Cyrus Beede) of the Osage Nation, against the establishment of a territorial government over the Indian country, addressed to the honorable Senate and House of Representatives, and respectfully suggest that it be forwarded to Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

OSAGE AGENCY, INDIAN TERRITORY,
Fifthmonth 30, 1876.

I inclose herewith a protest, signed by the leading men of the Osage Nation, against the establishment of a territorial government over the Indian country, which they request forwarded as early as practicable.

Very respectfully,

CYRUS BEEDE,
United States Indian Agent.

WILLIAM NICHOLSON,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Lawrence, Kans.

To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, Washington, D. C. :

We, your petitioners, chiefs and headmen of the Osage nation of Indians, resident in the Indian Territory, learn with some alarm of the introduction of several bills into Congress for the establishment of a territorial form of government over the Indian country, heretofore guaranteed by treaties to the peaceable possession of the various Indian tribes resident therein forever, most of whom hold their titles in fee-simple by patent of the United States, or by purchase of grantors holding such patents, which purchases have been confirmed by act of Congress. We entertain grave fears that the introduction of these bills is in the interest of extensive railroad corporations, for the purpose of securing land-grants contingent upon the extinction of the Indian title. We fear that the establishment of a territorial government over our country would be regarded as but the stepping-stone to opening up the same to settlement by citizens of the United States and consequent extinction of the Indian title. In fact we have grave apprehensions that the establishment of a duly-organized territorial government would be regarded by the courts as conferring, under existing laws, the rights to citizens to settle upon the unoccupied lands thereof. This we feel would be a grievous wrong upon the Indians, the rightful owners of the soil by purchase; a wrong committed by a great Government upon a weak people in violation of its solemn treaties; a wrong which, in itself, seems almost to determine our future existence as a people. We cannot believe that the Government of the United States, our assumed guardian and protector, will perpetrate this wrong upon us, and for these and other reasons we do most earnestly protest against the establishment of a territorial government over the Indian country.

JOSEPH PAW NE NO PASHE, *Governor of Osages.*

CHE TO PAH, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*

CHI CHA SHUNKA, his x mark, *Head Chief Big Chief Band.*

WHITE HAIR, his x mark, *Head Chief White Hair Band.*

TA WAN GA HE, his x mark, *Head Chief Big Hill Band.*

BLACK DOG, his x mark, *Head Chief Black Dog Band.*

NOPA WALLA, his x mark, *Head Chief Little Osage Band.*

GEORGE BEAVER, his x mark; *First Chief Beaver Band.*

NON SE WAH HA, his x mark, *First Chief Joe's Band.*

NE KAH KE PON NA, his x mark, *First Chief Hominy Band.*

SAUCY CHIEF, his x mark, *First Chief Saucy Chief Band.*

YOUNG STRIKE AXE, his x mark, *First Chief Strike Axe Band.*

YOUNG CLAMMORE, his x mark, *First Chief Clammore Band.*

WATIANCA, his x mark, *First Chief Watianca Band.*

TALL CHIEF, his x mark, *First Chief Tall Chief Band.*
 TOWN MAKEE, his x mark, *First Chief Big Hill Band.*
 LA TUM WA SA, his x mark, *First Chief Big Chief Band.*
 LITTLE CHIEF, his x mark, *First Chief Little Osage Band.*
 WM. PENN, his x mark, *First Chief Hominy Band.*
 ALEXANDER BEYETT, *First Chief Half-Breed Band.*
 HARD ROPE, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 MO SHO LI KI, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 CON SE GAH HLE, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 WASH CUM WA, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 TWO GIVER, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 BEL VI ZO, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 WA CUM TA AH O KA, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 SHOP PA KEA, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 HU LAH TSE, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 BIG HEART, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 O KUN TSE WA SKA, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 WAH SHA SHA WA TI AN KA, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 KO SHA WAH SHA, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 IN TO WA TI AN KA, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 MUN KA SAP PA, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 KE WAH HE SHE, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 LAH A KAH HA, his x mark, *Chief Counselor.*
 SAMUEL BEIVNEER, *Chief Counselor.*
 WAH TSE WAH HE, his x mark, *Second Chief Big Chief Band.*
 KAH TUM WA, his x mark, *Second Chief White Hair Band.*
 SHUM KA MO NO, his x mark, *Second Chief Big Hill Band.*
 SHUM KA LE HE, his x mark, *Second Chief Black Dog Band.*
 CHIS HO HUM KA, his x mark, *Second Chief Little Osage Band.*
 BIG WOLF, his x mark, *Second Chief Beaver Band.*
 WE KAH WA CHE TUNLA, his x mark, *Second Chief Joe's Band.*
 HO WAH SAPA, his x mark, *Second Chief Hominy Band.*
 WAH TA KO LA, his x mark, *Second Chief Saucy Chief Band.*
 HESK KA MO NA, his x mark, *Second Chief Strike Axe Band.*
 TALLY, his x mark, *Second Chief Clammore Band.*
 MO SA NOM PA, his x mark, *Second Chief Watianka Band.*
 HU LAH TSE, his x mark, *Second Chief Tall Chief Band.*
 LSA MON NA, his x mark, *Second Chief Big Hill Band.*
 CHE SHA WA LA, his x mark, *Second Chief Big Chief Band.*
 ME TSE NO NA HA, his x mark, *Second Chief Little Chief Band.*
 WAH HA TO ME, his x mark, *Second Chief Wm. Penn's Band.*
 TSU NO PA SHE, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 NE KAH, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 MO SHON E SHE, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 NE KAH KAH GRE, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 E PE SUN SA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 HES KUM WA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 PAH NE WA WA TAH, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 NE KAH KON LA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 CHE SHO WA TE AN KA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 ME HE LA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 WAH SA KAH HE KA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 UTE TSA TAH WATIANKA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 KO SHE CE LA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 MAH O LAH HA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*
 HUM KA WATIANKA, his x mark, *Second Counselor.*

NE HU TSE IN KA, his mark, *Second Counselor.*
O. LO HE WALLA, his mark, *Second Counselor.*
AUGUSTUS CHAPLIN, *President of Council.*

Signed in presence of—

J. M. HIATT.
W. P. MATHES.
THEO. R. GAY.
THOMAS MOSIER.
JAMES BIGHART.

THOMAS L. ROGERS,
Secretary of Council.
CYPORAN TAYRIEN.

OSAGE INDIAN AGENCY, INDIAN TERRITORY,
5th month, 30th day, 1876.

Examined and approved.

CYRUS BEEDE,
United States Indian Agent.