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Memorial of the Chippewa Indians of Turtle Mountain, Dakota Territory, praying for the segregation and confirmation of a certain tract of their land to them, and that certain provisions be made for their protection

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MEMORIAL

OF THE

CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF TURTLE MOUNTAIN, DAKOTA TERRITORY,

PRAYING FOR

The segregation and confirmation of a certain tract of their land to them, and that certain provisions be made for their protection.

FEBRUARY 23, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

Your memorialists, the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa Indians, respectfully represent that they and their forefathers for many generations have inhabited and possessed, as fully and completely as any nation of Indians on this continent have ever possessed any region of country, all that tract of land lying within the following boundaries, to wit: On the north by the boundary between the United States and the British possessions; on the east by the Red River of the North; on the south their boundary follows Goose River up to Middle Fork; thence up to the head of Middle Fork; thence west-northwest to the junction of Beaver Lodge and Shyenne River; thence up Shyenne River to its headwaters; thence northwest to the headwaters of Little Knife River, a tributary of the Missouri River; and thence due north to the boundary between the United States and the British possessions. That their possession of this country has never been successfully disputed by any of the neighboring nations or tribes of Indians, but has at all times been recognized as the country of the Turtle Mountain band of the Great Chippewa Nation, of which the three Chippewas, Little Shell, Grandfather, Father and Son, have been principal chiefs for the past fifty years, and that they have never, by general council by their chiefs or by any authorized delegates, entered into any treaty with the United States by which they ceded any portion of their possessions.

That a certain treaty was made at ——— by the Pembina Chippewas who inhabited the country lying east of the Red River of the North, in which treaty a strip of thirty miles off of the east end of their lands, embracing all of the valley of the Red River, was described as being ceded to the United States, and it has since been surveyed and opened to settlement; but this cession never received the sanction of your petitioners. And again the United States has encroached on your petitioners' territory, and has assigned a reservation to a tribe of Sioux on the southern shores of Lake Miniwakan; but aside from this no one has or can justly question the right of your petitioners to the territory described.

This vast extent of territory, (over 35,000 square miles,) of which your petitioners have possession, they wish to surrender to the United States, and, abandoning their present mode of life, which has, from many causes, become so uncertain that they are no longer willing to depend upon it for supplying the old and young of their tribe with food and clothing, they ask for instruction that they may be able to follow pastoral and agricultural pursuits.

They therefore pray that Congress will pass a bill for their relief, authorizing the President to cause a reservation to be set apart and confirmed to them—the full and half bloods of the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewas—and their descendants in perpetuity, out of the land heretofore described, and to be located and bounded as follows: Beginning at a small lake in the foot-hills east of the Turtle Mountains, and on the boundary between the United States and the British possessions, and running thence due south fifty miles; thence due west sixty miles; thence due north fifty miles to the boundary between the United States and the British possessions, and thence along said boundary to the place of beginning; to establish on said reservation a United States agency, and maintain thereat an agent, a doctor, a practical farmer, a blacksmith, a wagon-maker, and two school-teachers, and annually, for the period of twenty years, to distribute to the heads of families residing on said reservation and engaged in pastoral or farming life, such implements of civilized life and goods as their wants most demand, to the value of \$20,000; and further providing that the United States shall issue land-scrip to the amount of six hundred sections of land, that may be located on any part of the land herein described, five hundred sections of which is to be sold by the United States at not less than fifty cents per acre, and the proceeds invested in five per cent. bonds, the interest to be expended in the establishment and maintenance of a manual-labor school on their reservation; and the remaining one hundred sections of scrip, not devoted to the school-fund, to be subject to the order of the council of the Chippewas making this session. And said bill may further provide that the United States may direct the settlement on the reservation therein provided for of any part of the Assinaboine tribe, or any other Indians of that region of country who may not now be located on any designated reservation.

Your petitioners humbly represent that they are very poor and in need of help; that they have of late years suffered for want of clothing and food, many of them having died from cold and starvation during the long, cold winters; and they beg of you to take their land, and in return teach them the pursuits that give the white man clothing and food and homes.

his
LITTLE + SHELL, *Head Chief.*
mark.

his
LITTLE + BULL, *Chief of the Braves.*
mark.

his
KAS + PASH.
mark.

his
KA-WA + SA-WI-NIN.
mark.

Witnesses:

BRO. GONZAGA.
I. L. LÉGARÉ.

I hereby certify that I have fully explained the foregoing paper to the parties signing the same, and that they sign it freely and with full knowledge of its meaning.

JOSEPH ROLETTE, *Interpreter.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 21, 1876.*