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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to the removal of the Pawnee tribe of Indians from the State of Nebraska to the Indian Territory.

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PAWNEE INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

The removal of the Pawnee tribe of Indians from the State of Nebraska to the Indian Territory.

DECEMBER 16, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., December 14, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report, dated the 7th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in relation to the removal of the Pawnee tribe of Indians from the State of Nebraska to the Indian Territory, together with a draught of a bill providing for the sale of the Pawnee Indian lands in said State, and for an appropriation by Congress of \$300,000 for the purchase of a new reservation in the Indian Territory, and establishing them thereon; the amount appropriated to be re-imbursed from the proceeds of the sale of their lands in Nebraska.

I commend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 7, 1874.

SIR: An act of Congress, approved June 10, 1872, made provision for the survey and sale, with the consent of the Indians, of a portion of the Pawnee Indian reservation in the State of Nebraska, not exceeding

50,000 acres, to be taken from that part of said reservation lying south of Loup Fork.

The Pawnees, in open council, consented to this sale, and the portion of their reservation mentioned has been surveyed and appraised, though not yet offered for sale.

During the autumn of 1873, about thirty lodges of Pawnees visited the Wichita agency in Indian Territory, and meeting with a friendly reception there, through them an invitation was extended by the Indians of that locality to the entire tribe to remove to the Indian Territory. This invitation, in connection with the flattering reports given by their brethren of the character of the country, and the fact that their crops have been destroyed by grasshoppers, has impressed the Pawnees with a desire to remove to and make their future home in the Indian Territory.

Finally, their necessities became so great that many of them determined to leave their reservation and remove south without authority from the Department; and on the 9th of September, Superintendent White telegraphed this Office that about one-fourth of the tribe had, in open council, defied the authority of the agent to compel them to remain on their reserve, and declared their intention to leave in a body.

September 22, 1874, Superintendent White was advised that if the Pawnees, in open council, should ask that their present reservation be sold, and another reservation be set apart for them in the Indian Territory, the Department would take the necessary steps for carrying out their wishes, and ask that their lands be brought into market through congressional legislation, from the proceeds of which a new reserve in the Indian Territory could be purchased for them, and necessary improvements, stock, and farming-implements paid for.

Under date of October 9, 1874, Superintendent White transmitted to this Office minutes of the proceedings of a council of the tribe, held on the day previous, in which it was unanimously requested that they be allowed to remove to the Indian Territory, and that their present reservation be disposed of for their benefit.

On the 14th of the same month, Superintendent White was advised that the action of the Indians met with the approval of this Office, and that steps would be taken to procure the necessary congressional legislation to bring their lands into market as soon as practicable, and also to make arrangements for the selection of a suitable reservation in the Indian Territory for their future home.

With these purposes in view, I have the honor to submit herewith, for transmission to Congress, with recommendation for early and favorable action, a draught of a bill providing for the disposition of the entire reserve of the Pawnees in Nebraska, and the appropriation by Congress of \$300,000 for the purchase of a new reservation for them in the Indian Territory, establishing them thereon, and encouraging them in civilization; such amount, however, to be re-imbursed from the proceeds of sale of their lands in Nebraska.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,
Acting Commissioner.

THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

A BILL to provide for the sale of the Pawnee Indian lands in the State of Nebraska.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to cause to be surveyed the remainder of the Pawnee Indian lands in Nebraska, not heretofore surveyed, and to have the same appraised by three persons to be appointed by him for that purpose; and after such appraisement shall have been approved by the Secretary, said lands, together with those which have heretofore been surveyed and appraised in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress entitled "An act for the relief of certain Indian tribes in the Northern superintendency," approved June tenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, shall be offered at public sale, under the direction of the Commissioner of the General Land-Office, by the register and the receiver of the local land-office at Grand Island in the State of Nebraska, and shall be sold to the highest bidder for cash, at not less than the appraised price. And all of said lands which shall not have been disposed of at such offering shall be sold by the register and the receiver at not less than the appraised price; such purchaser to make payment, one-fourth at the time of purchase, and the remainder in three equal annual installments, bearing interest at six per centum per annum from the date of purchase: *Provided,* That where there is timber or any other valuable material on any of the lands sold under the last-mentioned provision, the purchaser shall be compelled to enter into bond, with approved security, conditioned that he will commit no waste until final payment has been made; and the Secretary of the Interior shall cause patents in fee-simple to be issued to all parties who shall complete purchases under the provisions of this act.

SEC. 2. That there be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of three hundred thousand dollars, to be expended, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, in purchasing a new home in the Indian Territory for the said Pawnee Indians, in establishing them thereon, and for their advancement in civilization; the said amount so appropriated to be re-imbursed out of the first proceeds arising from the sale of the lands of said Indians under the provisions of this act, after defraying the expenses of the survey, appraisement, and sale; the remainder of the proceeds of sale to be invested in United States bonds, to be held in trust for said Indians, and the interest to be expended for their benefit under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

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