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Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, with the draft of a bill relative to the settlement of certain accounts for advertising the sale of Kansas Indian lands

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ADVERTISING THE SALE OF KANSAS INDIAN LANDS.

M E S S A G E

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, with the draft of a bill relative to the settlement of certain accounts for advertising the sale of Kansas Indian lands.

FEBRUARY 2, 1882.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, with the draft of a bill to authorize the settlement of certain accounts for advertising the sale of Kansas Indian lands, with accompanying papers, referred to in said communication.

The subject is commended to the consideration of Congress.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
February 2, 1882.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 21, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith, for your consideration, a draft of a bill providing for the adjustment, by the Secretary of the Interior, of the accounts of certain newspapers for the advertisements of the sales of Kansas trust and diminished reserve lands in 1874 and 1875.

This subject was brought to the attention of Congress under dates of May 23 and December 8, 1879, but no action appears to have been taken by that body.

Appreciating the necessity for legislative action in the premises, I respectfully request that the draft of the bill, with the accompanying papers, may be transmitted to Congress for its consideration.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. BELL,
Acting Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.

A BILL to enable the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the accounts of certain newspapers for the advertisements of the sales of the Kansas Indian lands.

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 be, and he is hereby, authorized to pay to such newspapers as published under previous authority of the department the advertisement of Kansas trust and diminished reserve Indian lands, in eighteen hundred and seventy-four and eighteen hundred and seventy-five, the amount of their bills as rendered at the Interior Department, not exceeding the regular commercial rates, and not in any case exceeding twenty-five cents per line for each insertion, payment to be made from the proceeds of the sales of said lands in the same manner as other expenses of such sales are now provided by law.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, May 23, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith the draft of a bill for the adjustment of certain newspaper accounts for advertising the sale of Kansas Indian lands in 1874 and 1875, upon which the favorable action of Congress is requested.

These accounts were presented in good faith, the advertising having been done while the revision of laws as embraced in the Revised Statutes was going through the press, and upon receipt of the compilation it was discovered by the department that section 853 taken from an act passed in 1853 limited the allowance of such accounts to forty cents per hundred words for the first and twenty cents for each subsequent insertion, a price at which it is manifest no responsible newspaper could afford to advertise. Up to that time advertising had been paid for at commercial rates, and Congress has since practically repealed the section by the provision found in the sundry civil appropriation act of June 20, 1878, Pamphlet Laws, 216. This statute does not, however, relieve the accounts in question, as they were presented prior to April 10, 1877, but had not been paid, on account of delay in selling the lands, from the proceeds of which they must be paid. In my judgment these accounts should be settled in the same manner as others, without insisting on the limitations of what was considered at the date of incurring the expense as an obsolete statute, and which has, as soon as called to the attention of Congress, been repealed as to the future. They are the only cases of the kind known to be on file in this department, and their speedy adjustment, now that funds are in hand, would seem to be justly demanded; the claimants having already waited for their money nearly five years.

I have limited the amount proposed to be allowed in any case to twenty-five cents per line for each insertion, which is about the commercial rate of New York dailies of the first class; which will have the effect to reduce the claims of some of the papers, while none of them will be allowed for a greater amount than is charged in the accounts, a list of which, with the rates charged, and the amounts which can be paid under section 853 I inclose for the information of Congress.

I hope this matter may be disposed of at the present session.

Very respectfully,

C. SCHURZ,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 8, 1879.

SIR: Under date of May 23, 1879, I had the honor to invite the attention of Congress to the subject of the payment of certain newspaper accounts for advertising the sale of Kansas Indian lands in 1874 and 1875, with a request for favorable action in the premises.

Communications were severally addressed to the Speaker, House of Representatives, and Hon. Richard Coke, chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate, with a draft of the proposed legislation to effect the relief desired and a list of the claims in question.

No action appears to have been taken by Congress, and the case is again respectfully presented with a request for early and favorable action on the part of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. SCHURZ,
Secretary.

Hon. RICHARD COKE,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, U. S. Senate.

List of newspaper accounts for publishing advertisements for sale of Kansas lands.

Names of papers.		Rate.	Amount charged.	Amount allowed.
Church and State	New York	20 cents per line	\$76 00	\$5 80
Graphic	do	20 cents per line	10 00	1 00
Christian Union	do	\$1 per line	330 60	5 80
Commercial Advertiser	do	20 cents per line	279 60	25 80
Evening Bulletin	Philadelphia	20 cents per line	325 60	25 80
Item	do	50 cents per line	853 00	25 80
North American and United States Gazette	do	15 cents per line	285 50	24 80
Post	do	25 cents per line	49 00	4 00
Post and Mail	Chicago	12½ cents per line	36 75	5 80
Inter-Ocean	do	50 cents per line	206 96	9 00
Globe	Saint Louis	35 cents per line	84 15	5 80
Democrat	do	25 cents per line	57 50	4 80
Journal of Commerce	Kansas City	\$1.50 per square	96 75	25 80
Freie Press	Cincinnati	20 and 15 cents per line	39 80	4 80
Gazette	do	60 cents per square	272 50	9 00
Times	do	40 cents per line	180 00	4 80
Leader	Cleveland	\$1 per square	28 00	4 40
Herald	do	7 cents per line	117 65	25 80
Ohio State Journal	Columbus	75 cents per square	27 00	5 00
Times	Leavenworth	\$3 per square	25 00	1 00
Journal	Lawrence	35 cents per square	140 40	9 00
Commercial	Louisville	\$2 per square	73 00	5 80