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Green Bay Indian Agency

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 14, 1882.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CAMERON, of Wisconsin, from the Committee on Indian Affairs; submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 864.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 864) entitled "A bill to confirm certain instructions given by the Department of the Interior to the Indian Agent at Green Bay Agency, in the State of Wisconsin, and to legalize the acts done and permitted by said Indian agent pursuant thereto," have considered the same and submit the following report thereon:

It appears that there is considerable dead and down timber on the Indian Reservation at the Green Bay Agency.

Mr. E. Stephens, the United States Indian agent at said agency, in his last annual report, stated that the Indians on the reservation complained that they are not allowed to dispose of such dead and down timber going to waste on their reserve.

The attention of Mr. Price, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, being called to the matter, he, on the twenty-eighth day of November, eighteen hundred and eighty-one, addressed to the Indian agent at the Green Bay Agency, in the State of Wisconsin, a letter of instructions as follows, namely:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, November 28, 1881.

E. STEPHENS,
United States Indian Agent, Green Bay Agency, Wisconsin:

SIR: I notice in your annual report a statement that the Indians of your agency complain that they are not allowed to dispose of the dead and down timber going to waste on their reserve.

You are hereby informed that the sale of such timber is allowed by this office; but great care must be taken by you to see that the Indians dispose of only surplus dead or down wood which without such disposition would soon become worthless, and that they do not take advantage of this permission to cut other timber, in violation of section 262, "Instructions to Indian Agents."

Personal oversight should be exercised by you of the bargains and sales made by Indians under this authority, and that they should understand that a failure to observe the restrictions of this permission will result in a forfeiture of the permit.

Yours, respectfully,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

Agent Stephens, under the authority supposed to be conferred by the said letter of instructions, permitted the Indians upon the reservation under the charge of the said agency to proceed to cut into logs a con-

siderable quantity of timber of the kind designated in said letter of instructions, in which work they are now engaged.

The Commissioner, upon investigation, became satisfied that he had no authority to authorize such sale, disposal, cutting, or removal of such timber, and, therefore, that the parties purchasing said timber from the Indians acquired no title thereto.

The purchasers have paid the Indians in part for the timber, and have expended considerable in cutting and hauling it.

The Commissioner is satisfied the Indians will be benefited by having the sale of the timber ratified and confirmed.

This bill was prepared by the Commissioner and meets with his entire approval.

The committee report the bill back with the recommendation that it do pass.

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