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Sale of Logs Cut by Indians

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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. 866.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 866) authorizing the sale of certain logs cut by the Indians of the Menomonee Reservation, in Wisconsin, have examined the same and report thereon as follows:

This bill was communicated to Congress by the President, January 24, 1882.

The following is the message of the President, with the accompanying papers, transmitting the bill:

S. Ex. Doc. No. 74, Forty-seventh Congress, first session.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, with draft of a bill authorizing the sale of certain pine timber cut upon the Menomonee Reservation in Wisconsin, together with the accompanying papers noted in said communication.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
January 24, 1882.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 24, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration a draft of a bill prepared in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, authorizing the sale of certain pine timber cut upon the Menomonee Indian Reservation, in the State of Wisconsin, together with the letter of the Commissioner transmitting the same; and respectfully request that the subject may be transmitted for the consideration of Congress.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. J. KIRKWOOD,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 5, 1882.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

SIR: On the 25th April, 1876, an act of Congress (19 Stat., 37) was passed authorizing the sale of certain logs cut by the Indians of the Menomonee Reservation in Wisconsin, under the direction of this department, in compliance with which such logs were subsequently sold.

It has since transpired that there are from a million to a million and one-half feet of pine logs lying skidded in the woods on the Menomonee Reservation, which were cut subsequent to the passage of said act, viz, during the winter of 1876-'77, under the direction of the then agent, J. C. Bridgman, contrary to the express orders of this department issued to him on the 14th January, 1876.

This timber is depreciating in value every year from being worm-eaten, besides the great danger of forest fires, and unless soon sold will be a total loss.

I therefore respectfully recommend that the matter be presented to Congress at once, and that immediate legislation be urged, giving authority to sell the logs in question.

I herewith submit the draft of a bill (in duplicate) calculated, in my judgment, to meet the requirements of the case. A similar bill was introduced in the House at the last session of Congress, but progressed no further than a reference to a committee.

A copy of this report is also inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

A BILL authorizing the sale of certain logs cut by the Indians of the Menomonee Reservation in Wisconsin.

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 hereby is, authorized to cause to be sold at public sale to the highest bidder, for cash, after due public advertisement, and in such lots or quantities as he may deem judicious, all pine timber cut upon the Menomonee Indian Reservation during the winter of 1876-'77, under the direction of the then United States Indian agent, J. C. Bridgman.

SEC. 2. That the proceeds arising from all sales of such timber shall be applied, first, to the payment of any and all indebtedness incurred for labor, supplies, and other expenses incident to the cutting and sale of said timber, and the surplus, if any, shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of said Indians, and expended for their benefit under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

Your committee recommend that the bill do pass.