

2-18-1898

## Seneca Nation of New York Indians

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SENECA NATION OF NEW YORK INDIANS.

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FEBRUARY 18, 1898.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. QUAY presented the following

**PAPERS TO ACCOMPANY S. 2828, TO REGULATE THE COLLECTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF MONEYS ARISING FROM LEASES MADE BY SENECA NATION OF NEW YORK INDIANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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Hon. WILLIAM A. JONES,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of January 28 I proceeded to the New York Agency at Olean for the purpose of investigating the matters to which you called my attention relating to the Seneca Nation of Indians. I have been to Little Valley, the county seat, and examined the records of the Indian leases as recorded there, and also have examined the books of the nation of the Seneca Indians, kept by the clerk at the town of Salamanca.

The Senecas reside upon three reservations—the Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Oil Spring—and are a corporate body under the laws of the State of New York. They are acting under a constitution which, as amended, was adopted January 13, 1893. Their government consists of a legislative, executive, and judicial department. The legislative power is vested in 16 councilors, 8 of whom were elected on the Allegany Reservation, and 8 of the Cattaraugus; 10 members of this council constitute a quorum. The executive power is vested in a president, and he presides over the deliberations of the council, and only votes when his vote is necessary to break a tie. The judicial power is vested in a court known as the peacemakers court. Peacemakers court is composed of 3 members from each reservation; their term of office is three years. Under the constitution, they are a court of general jurisdiction as to all controversies between Indians. They have jurisdiction in divorces between Indians residing on the reservations, and they have power to decide all questions arising between individual Indians on the reservations, including all personal controversies and those involving the title to or possession of real estate.

Under their constitution, the council has power to lease lands for agricultural purposes, and they have so leased for many years. Under an act of the legislature of 1875, there was a series of towns or villages incorporated on these reservations, and the council was given authority to lease lots, and it is in these villages that the controversies have arisen over the rentals. I will give you approximately the number of

acres in the villages; I have been unable to obtain the number of lots: The village of Vandalia contains about 240 acres; Carrollton, about 2,200; Great Valley, about 260; Salamanca, about 2,000; West Salamanca, about 750, and Red House, a small strip of land, about 40 acres. Prior to 1892 these lands were leased on twelve-year leases, and the income from them was about \$11,000 to \$13,000, varying during the years that I examined the records, from 1881 down to 1892.

Under an act of the legislature in 1892, this council was authorized to make ninety-nine-year leases of this property. At this time it was estimated that the approximate value of the lots and improvements in each of the villages was as follows: Vandalia, the improvements were valued at \$8,000, lots \$6,000; Carrollton, improvements \$30,000, lots \$25,000; Great Valley, improvements \$20,000, lots \$20,000; Salamanca, improvements were valued at \$1,200,000 and lots at \$300,000; West Salamanca, improvements \$50,000, lots \$50,000; Red House, improvements \$10,000, lots \$8,000. Notwithstanding the largely increased value of the improvements on this reservation, in 1892 the rentals were reduced from in the neighborhood of \$12,000 to about \$6,000, and the collection of rentals from that time down to the present has varied from \$5,000 to \$7,000. According to the books of the clerk at this time, the income for 1897 was \$7,416.44, including oil leases, farm leases, and everything. The value of the railroad improvements on the reservation is very large, aggregating at least a million and a half dollars.

I find in the report of the agent made to your Department August 12, 1897, the following:

I have reason to believe, from well-directed inquiries made by me, that the funds of the nation are improvidently expended. After diligent inquiry I am satisfied that the funds of this nation are absorbed to a large extent by the officers of the nation, and that the officers have been known to collude with white men to discount the orders issued, for the payee named in the order, when the treasurer has the funds to pay the same in full. Quite a large sum is expended each year to the councilors, who procure meetings of the council unnecessarily, without any business to transact of any consequence. The officers and councilors also perpetuate themselves in office by corruptly using the funds of the nation among the ignorant and illiterate Indians, purchasing votes, so that it is almost impossible for the honest Indian to get rid of the corrupt dynasty which has conducted the affairs of the nation for many years.

After carefully investigating the books of the clerk of the nation, I am inclined to corroborate the report of the agent, and in this connection desire to call your attention to a report of the Seneca Nation made by its officers and attached to a memorial which they have filed with the House Committee on Indian Affairs within the present month. In their report from June, 1891, to June, 1892, they say that they paid officers \$6,114.44 out of the total income of \$16,000; that they paid board bills for said officers, \$2,337.35; and for miscellaneous accounts allowed \$2,859; and for contingent incidental expenses of the executive officers, \$323; making a total of \$11,633, that I think one can fairly infer was used for the benefit of the officers and council. The same report for 1892 to 1893 shows that they paid officers \$2,363.15; board bills, \$1,374.04; paid renewed orders, \$1,482.70; and paid miscellaneous accounts, \$1,281.55. This scheme of paying renewed orders is alleged to be one of the plans of the officers to defraud the nation. I have been absolutely unable to find any reason for any such entries, or for the payment of any moneys on renewed orders.

The total amount reported for this period, 1892 to 1893, was \$8,710.75, of which \$6,500 seems to have gone for the benefit of the council and executive officers. From 1893 to 1894 they report \$2,847, out of which the officers received \$804 salaries; and there was board, \$677; and miscellaneous accounts allowed, mostly to the officers, \$496. In other

words, \$1,977 seems to have been used for the benefit of the officers. From 1894 to 1895 this report shows that the president and officers received as salaries \$1,867.75; that their board was paid to the amount of \$658.10; miscellaneous, \$1,120.87; in other words, \$3,645 seems to have been used for the benefit of the officers, out of the total of \$4,284. From 1895 to 1896 the total amount received was \$5,321; the officers were paid \$1,847 salaries; board was paid to the amount of \$1,092; and miscellaneous accounts, \$880; in other words, \$3,819 out of \$5,321 seems to have been absorbed by the officers. From 1896 to 1897 the total amount collected was \$8,398. This year they paid the officers \$1,016; paid board for them, \$1,055; paid miscellaneous accounts, which are entirely unitemized, \$4,783; so that there was absorbed in the three items—salary, board, and miscellaneous—\$6,854 out of \$8,398.31.

It is a fact that I do not think they will dispute that the body of the people have not received from its officers a single dollar of income from these leases during the last four or five years.

I desire in this connection to incorporate a few of the memorandums as I have taken them from the record. These are exactly as they appear on the records of the tribe, and are records made of the council of April 24, 1897, and later:

Frank Patterson moved and seconded that committee on settlement of accounts with F. T. Jemerson, jr., treas., make report in council. Carried.

Howard Doxtater made a following report: Receipts, commencing June 6th, 1896, \$4,521.46; disbursements, \$4,098.02; bal. on hand, \$423.44. Same moved and seconded that the report of said com. is hereby approved. Carried.

Frank Seneca moved and seconded we appropriate \$25 each to the president and clerk for expenses; total, \$50. Carried.

Frank Patterson moved and seconded we appropriate \$150 for extra services for T. F. Jemerson, treas. Carried.

Roll called, and appropriated \$150.

Frank Patterson moved and seconded we instruct the clerk to make a statement of the expenses of two councils. Carried.

The clerk, F. T. Jemerson, reported in council the expenses \$944.94.

Patterson moved, and was seconded, we appropriate the sum of \$944.94. Carried.

Roll call, and appropriated.

Frank Patterson moved and seconded we appropriate \$300 to be distributed among the Seneca Nation.

Roll called, and appropriated.

Adj'd.

COUNCIL, *May 6th, '97.*

President stated object of calling council was to appropriate money to H. Half-town and C. C. Lay for taking census, and to make appropriation to councilors for services on examination of oil leases.

Eli Jemerson moved and seconded we appropriate \$50 to pay C. C. Lay and Harrison Halftown \$25 each. Carried.

Frank Patterson moved and seconded we appropriate \$255 to the 14 councilors, president, and 2 clerks for services at ex. oil leases. Carried.

Jesse Jemerson moved and seconded we reconsider in regard to money appropriated by council to go to the people, known as oil money. Carried.

By Thos. Silverheels:

*Resolved.* That F. T. Jemerson, jr., treas., be, and he is hereby, instructed to pay all orders belongs to the councilors and executive officers out of said funds.

Frank Patterson moved and seconded we appropriate the sum of \$100 apiece to W. C. Hoag and A. L. Jemerson for extra services. Carried.

Casler Redeye moved and seconded we appropriate \$20 to pay Frank Seneca and Thomas Silverheels. Com. appointed by council to look after same.

Wm. Jemerson moved and seconded we appropriate sufficient sum to pay the Atty., M. T. Jenkins, services for Seneca Nation, \$50. Carried.

Casler Redeye moved and seconded we appropriate \$16 to Robt. White for board bill. Carried.

The clerk states that the expenses during this council, \$633.16.

Roll called and appropriated \$633.16.

F. T. JEMERSON, *Pres.*  
KING TALLCHIEF, *Clk.*  
W. C. HOAG, *Treas.*

New council organized June 1st, 1897:

President, T. F. Jemerson; clerk, King Tallchief; treasurer, William C. Hoag.

*Councillors.*—Cattaraugus: Thos. Silverheels, Frank Seneca, Frank Patterson, Francis Lay, George Tomma, Jesse Jimerson, Young M. Lay, Eli Jimerson. Allegany: Sackett Redeye, ——— Phillips, A. L. Jimerson, Robt. White, Chas. Logan, Edmund Bowen, Fred Abrams, Casler Redeye.

On June 5th, 1897, held another session and appropriated \$616 to council, \$25 each to Jemerson, Tallchief, and Hoag for incidental expenses, and \$40 each as salary.

Last session, Sept. 4th, adj'd until 9 a. m. next morning. No further record.

The extracts from the record of the council above given therefore show that between April 24 and June 5, 1897, the council of the Seneca Nation absolutely voted to themselves and the executive officers \$3,150 of the people's money, and there is nothing on file or of record to show either services rendered, valuable or otherwise, and no pretense of a voucher. I desire to call attention to the fact that in every instance save two, where money was appropriated, it was to a member of the council, even for board and taking the census.

I also wish to state that the taking of the census was paid for by the United States, and refer you to the first quarterly statement of Agent Jewell for 1898. Indeed, the principal business of these sessions seems to be to appropriate money to the council or the executive officers.

There is a great deal of complaint among the people as to the peacemakers' court, and the general opinion seems to be that they are impractical and arbitrary, and rule without justice or form of law. It seems to me that in controversies between Indians the Indian is practically without remedy at law. The peacemakers are men unlearned in the law, and are entirely without the knowledge of the rules of practice in any court. They have not the least notion whatever of equity, and no knowledge of the rules of evidence. It is openly charged that they are mercenary, and arbitrarily refuse to issue process or entertain application for process where important rights are involved, and there is no power to compel them to act, and no appeal from their action except to the council, composed of the same class of men, of which they are the most influential members. The powers of this peacemakers' court should be diminished, and the right of appeal to the courts of the State of New York should be given. To this end a petition has been circulated among the Indians, and signed by a large number, asking the legislature for relief; but the council and executive force are using and will continue to use all their influence against any modification of the law that will result in a loss of power to them, and they frighten and coerce the ignorant by telling them it is a Government scheme to make them take lands in allotment and become citizens, the old bugaboo that is used with all classes of Indians everywhere, and for all purposes. If possible the legislature of the State of New York should be induced to amend this law.

My conclusion is that the affairs of this nation are very loosely and irregularly managed; that the officers use the power of the place for the purpose of perpetuating themselves, and it is openly charged here that the money of the nation is used for the same purpose. I do not pretend to say that this is true, but certain it is that the same lot of gentlemen have been in power for many years, and it looks very much like a political ring, with the power of perpetuation. I think the great wrong was done the people of this nation at the time the ninety-nine-year leases were consummated. The idea of 5,490 acres of the reservation lands of these people being given up to village purposes, laid out in lots, and occupied by at least six or seven thousand people, and only an income of about \$600 a year from it, seems monstrous to me. I do

not know what the remedy is, or that anything can be done by your Department to correct the evils done in making these leases, but I think you can arrange to have the people get a little of the beggarly income that is produced by these leases.

The responsibility for the existing condition of affairs on these reservations and among the Seneca Nation of Indians is very largely with and upon the president, treasurer, and clerk, who are denominated the executive officers. Of this trio, I think the treasurer, Mr. Hoag, is the dominant character and the power that organizes the political forces. He has been president or treasurer most of the time for five or six years, and I think it is plain that it is his management that has brought about the conditions that exist here. He has kept his books neatly, and takes pride in showing them and assuring everyone that not a dollar has been paid out except upon the order of the council. I presume this is so, but when you recur to the figures and note that more than one-half of all the funds received have, by this same council, been voted either to themselves or to the executive officers I am not surprised that the Indian people complain.

When some poor Indian takes up this same report for the twelve months between June, 1891, and June, 1892, and notes that \$6,144.44 was paid for salaries, and only \$1,117 devoted to the poor people, I do not wonder that he groans at the weight of his burden. When he notes that \$2,337.35 was paid for the board of this council in the same year, and only \$502 devoted to the highways of all the reservations, I am not surprised that he calls for relief.

The proportion of money used by the executive officers and the council for themselves is about the same all through the years 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897, and I did not find from examination, or learn from many inquiries, that any of this fund had ever been paid out to or divided among the people. Early in 1897 \$300 was appropriated for this purpose, but within a few days this action was rescinded, and the money was appropriated to the officers, as you will see by the quotations from the record which are incorporated herein.

My investigation here has been confined for the most part to an examination of the records and discussing matters with the officers of the council. I have also been visited by a few members of the nation who represent the faction opposed to the council. While I have given the facts gleaned from the records of the past year, I do not wish to be understood as saying that they are worse, or that the business has been conducted more loosely under their management than in the past. The affairs are now conducted practically as they have been for many years past.

With the limited means at my disposal, and the time I am expected to do this work, it has been impossible to go into details.

In order to check up the leases with the cash accounts it would be necessary to abstract the records of leases contained in eight large volumes. This would take months of time. In this regard I can only say that the treasurer claims they have 1,412 outstanding live and effective leases. His cashbook shows that he collected rentals on less than 1,200 leases. There are grave charges in regard to this very matter.

It is my judgment that the affairs of the Seneca Nation of Indians should have a thorough investigation. I believe it to be for the material and best interests of all the people of this nation that it be done. In justice to all who have been connected with the control of its affairs, as well as the poor and ignorant who have suffered, as they believe,

through misappropriation of funds, this investigation should be made thorough and complete.

I attach to this report certain data and facts showing the number of leases, etc.; also showing the manner of describing property, with observations on the official report, and also the report of the executive officers, and affidavits, etc.

G. B. PRAY,  
*Special United States Indian Agent.*

The whole number of leases recorded.....	3, 111
The number of libers occupied.....	8
The number of pages in each liber.....	600
The whole number of leases prior to 1892.....	2, 031
The term of said leases prior to 1892, act of Congress 1875..... years..	11½
The number of leases renewed in 1892 and since.....	1, 080
The term of said leases, under act of 1875 and 1890..... years..	99
Average amount of rental per lease, prior to 1892.....	\$10. 75
Average amount of rental since 1892.....	\$5. 00

The character of the descriptions in leases is very hard to determine from as to the number of acres contained, as the description is given by very indefinite metes and bounds, of which the following are samples:

Commencing at a point in the road running from Salamanca to Cold Spring, at the southwest corner of land leased to R. Fellows; thence westerly along said highway 330 feet; thence north 218 feet; thence east 330; thence south 218 feet to the place of beginning. Amount rental, \$4.50. Seneca Nation to C. S. Hubbell.

Fourteen leases to C. S. and Emeline Hubbell, aggregate rental only \$48 per annum.

Beginning at a point in center of West River street at southwest corner of lands owned by James Quigley; thence westerly along the center of West River street, 45 feet to lands owned formerly by Sylvester Sherwood; thence northerly along said Sherwood's east line to lands owned formerly by D. M. Cloud; thence easterly to said Quigley's northwest corner; thence southerly along said Quigley's west line 125½ feet to the center of said West River street to place of beginning. John Hoag, \$3 per annum.

Leases run from 50 cents to 30 cents per annum; average about \$5 on the 1,080 ninety-nine-year leases.

The whole number of leases prior to 1892 was 2,031. The income therefrom, between 1880 and 1885 was from \$10,000 to \$11,000 per annum.

According to the books of the nation there are now 1,412 ninety-nine-year leases in force. In 1895 the clerk collected rentals on only 1,036 leases; in 1896 the clerk collected rentals on only 1,180 leases; in 1897 the clerk collected on about the same number as in 1896, and yet the amount of total receipts for these years vary widely, and unaccountably to me. For instance, receipts for period from 1894 to 1895 are put down at \$5,522.24; 1895 to 1896, at \$6,850.15; 1896 to 1897, at \$10,448.21.

This according to the attached report, and yet the figures given me at the office were but \$7,416.40. I do not know which is right, and, so far as the people of the Seneca Nation are concerned, it is immaterial; they get none of it anyway.

In connection with the attached report, I desire to call your attention to another peculiar circumstance. In the period from June 1, 1891, to 1892, the table of disbursements shows \$16,653.55 disbursed. In the totals given just below the receipts are put down as \$11,411.47; disbursements \$11,413.43, making a difference in the amount of disbursements on same sheet for same period of \$5,240.

In period from 1892 to 1893 the disbursements are put down in the table at \$8,710.75. Just below the table says:

Receipts.....	\$7, 873. 52
Disbursements.....	7, 875. 17

In period from 1893 to 1894, disbursements per table, \$2,847.50. Just below totals say:

Receipts.....	\$6, 459. 98
Disbursements.....	6, 466. 97

In period from June, 1894, to June, 1895, table of disbursements says \$4,284.07.

Total receipts.....	\$5, 522. 34
Disbursements.....	5, 520. 88

In period from 1895 to 1896 table to disbursements says \$5,321.30.

Total receipts .....	\$6, 850. 15
Total disbursements .....	6, 841. 60

In period from June, 1896, to June, 1897, table of disbursements shows \$8,398.13.

Total receipts .....	\$10, 443. 21
Total disbursements .....	10, 082. 61

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
SENECA NATION OF INDIANS,  
*Allegany Reservation.*

Know all men by these presents:

That the Seneca Nation of Indians, in council assembled, have duly made and appointed T. F. Jamerson, W. C. Hoag, Frank Patterson, King Tallchief, and Frank Seneca to be our delegates to go to Washington, D. C., on business for the said Seneca Nation of Indians, and especially to remonstrate against the passage by Congress of the proposed bill introduced by Hon. Charles W. Stone, H. R. 5427, "a bill to regulate the collection and disbursement of moneys from leases made by the Seneca Nation of New York Indians and for other purposes." We give them full power and authority in the matter, with full confidence in them, to represent us and make known our wishes.

The foregoing was duly adopted in open council by a unanimous vote of the Seneca Nation council, assembled at Shongo council house on the Allegany Reservation, this 8th day of January, 1898.

In testimony whereof we have caused these presents to be signed by our president and attested by our clerk, and have caused the great seal of our nation to be hereunto attached the day last above named.

[SEAL.]

T. F. JAMERSON,  
*President of the Seneca Nation of Indians.*

Attested:

KING TALLCHIEF,  
*Chief Seneca Nation of New York Indians.*

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

We, the undersigned, delegates of the Seneca Nation of Indians, would respectfully memorialize your honorable body against H. R. 5427, a bill introduced by Hon. Charles W. Stone, of Pennsylvania.

A BILL.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That all moneys which shall belong to the Seneca Nation of New York Indians arising from rents under the provisions of the act of Congress entitled "An act to authorize the Seneca Nation of New York Indians to lease lands within the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations, and to confirm existing leases," approved February nineteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, and September thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety, respectively, together with all moneys which shall belong to said Seneca Nation arising from the lease of the oil springs, the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations, for the purpose of boring and testing said territory for gas and oil, as ratified and confirmed by an act of Congress entitled "An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, and for other purposes," approved the seventh day of June, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, shall be paid to and recoverable by the United States Indian agent for the New York Indian agency for and in the name of the said Seneca Nation.

SEC. 2. That from the moneys so received from said leases the said agent shall annually, on the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in June, pay over to the treasurer of the Seneca Nation the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars, and shall distribute the balance of said moneys, after deducting all necessary charges and expenses, among the heads of families of said Seneca Nation in the same manner



and under the same conditions that the annuities now paid to the said Seneca Nation by the United States are distributed.

Sec. 3. That the said agent shall give bond to the United States in such sum as may be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and he shall make an annual report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the receipt and disbursement of all moneys arising from said leases, and he shall receive annually, as additional compensation, the sum of five per centum of all sums so received and disbursed by him.

Sec. 4. That the treasurer of the Seneca Nation shall annually, on the last Tuesday in April, make a written report to the United States Indian agent for the New York Indian Agency of all disbursements made by him of all moneys received by him as treasurer of said Seneca Nation.

Sec. 5. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

This intended legislation caused great disturbance among the people of the Seneca Nation of Indians, and the council of said nation took immediate consideration on the subject and took steps to oppose said legislation for the following reasons:

Your memorialists believe such act of legislation on the part of the Congress of the United States is inconsistent with the laws of the State of New York.

First. Now, the United States acknowledge that the Seneca Nation of Indians is a body corporate, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York and subject to the control of the legislature of that State. Any needed change in the manner of conducting their business should originate with, come from, and be under the sanction of the legislature of that State.

As bearing upon that question, and in proof thereof, see chapter 150, laws of New York, year 1845; chapter 378, laws of New York, year, 1849; section 44, chapter 679, laws of New York, year 1892; section 44, chapter 229, laws of New York, year 1893.

Second. The legislature of the State of New York, which has control of the business conduct of the affairs of the Seneca Nation of New York Indians, should continue to have supervision of such affairs, as it always has thrown every safeguard around the finances of the nation and protected the interests of the individuals composing the Seneca Nation, by providing that the treasurer of the nation should give bonds for the faithful performance of his duties, which the treasurer has done by giving ample security with responsible white men as sureties, as required by the constitution of the Seneca Nation of New York Indians and by the laws of the State of New York. The proposed act of Congress would be the taking away of the powers always delegated to and assumed by the State legislature over such legislation. (See constitution of Seneca Nation of New York Indians, year 1893, chapter 378, laws of New York, year 1894.)

Third. The proposed bill, besides being a violation of the rights and duties of the legislature of the State of New York, is unnecessary, and imposes a burden on the Seneca Nation by providing for the tax of 5 per cent on all moneys belonging to the Seneca Nation received and paid out by the Indian agent, as well as all necessary charges and expenses on account thereof, and which tax would be a direct loss to the members of the Seneca Nation, and would go to the benefit alone of the Indian agent.

And your memorialist calls the attention of your honorable body to the annexed financial statement of the Seneca Nation of Indians, and the report of H. S. Merrill, county clerk of Cattaraugus County, N. Y., made to J. R. Jewell, United States Indian agent.

Therefore your memorialist respectfully and earnestly prays before your honorable body that no such legislation be enacted as proposed by Hon. Charles W. Stone, of Pennsylvania.

T. F. JAMERSON,  
W. C. HOAG,  
FRANK PATTERSON,  
KING TALLCHIEF,  
FRANK SENECA,  
*Seneca Indian Delegation.*

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*Financial statement of Seneca Nation of New York Indians, 1897.*

At the council of the Seneca Nation of New York Indians, held at the schoolhouse, on the Cattaraugus Reservation, on the 4th day of December, 1897.

Present, Theodore F. Jamerson, president; King Tallchief, clerk; Thomas Silverheel, Frank Patterson, Frank Seneca, Jesse Jameson, Eli Jameson, Francis Lay, Young M. Lay, George Tomma, councilors of the Cattaraugus Reservation; Sackett Redeye, Alfred L. Jameson, Willie Phillip, Casler Redeye, Robert White, Freddie Abram, Edmund Bone, Charles S. Logan, councilors of the Allegany Reservation.

Whereupon Councilor Alfred L. Jameson offered the following preamble and resolution:

“Whereas it is the sense of the council that the interests of the Seneca Nation of Indians renders it necessary to be fully apprised of the financial condition of said nation: Therefore, it is hereby

*Resolved*, That Theodore F. Jamerson, King Tallchief, Harrison Halftown, and John Snyder be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee for the purpose of making a full and complete investigation of the financial affairs of said Seneca Nation and report the same to this council with all convenient speed.”

*To the council of the Seneca Nation of Indians:*

We, the undersigned, duly appointed a committee by and for the purposes specified in the foregoing annexed resolution, respectfully report as follows:

That we have made a full and complete investigation of the financial affairs of the said nation from June 1, 1891, to June 1, 1897, and the following is the result of such investigation:

Total number of leases in vol. 1, 341; rents amounting to.....	\$1, 952. 75
Total number of leases in vol. 2, 220; rents amounting to.....	\$1, 063. 25
Total number of leases in vol. 3, 252; rents amounting to.....	\$1, 402. 50
Total number of leases in vol. 4, 360; rents amounting to.....	\$1, 459. 00
Total number of leases in vol. 5, 239; rents amounting to.....	\$1, 123. 90
Total number of leases recorded in the lease books of the Seneca Nation of New York Indians, vols. 1, 4, 3, 4, and 5.....	1, 412
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Total amount of rents accruing—	
From above leases.....	\$7, 001. 40
From Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg Railroad Company.....	200. 00
From Oil Spring Farm lease.....	130. 00
From other sources.....	85. 00
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Total amount of revenue each year.....	7, 416. 40

*Receipts and expenditures of the Seneca Nation of Indians from June, 1891, to June, 1897.*

1891 TO 1892.

Paid officers, under the administration of Thomas Kennedy, president, June 1, 1891, to June, 1892 (total amount).....	\$6, 114. 44
For school trustees, and furnished wood for schools on Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations.....	258. 15
For poor masters and for the poor of Cattaraugus and Allegany reserva- tions.....	1, 117. 00
Board bill for the officers and the people during sessions of the council....	2, 337. 35
For highway labor on both reservations.....	502. 00
For attorney services and disbursements in suits.....	1, 421. 85
For agriculture, churches, and public building.....	665. 00
For renewed orders.....	292. 00
For miscellaneous accounts allowed.....	2, 859. 49
For contingent and incidental expenses of the executive officer.....	323. 77
For land claims.....	762. 50
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Total.....	16, 653. 55

The total receipts and disbursements of the treasurer of the Seneca Nation of Indians, under the administration of Thomas Kennedy, president.

WILLIAM C. HOAG, *Treasurer.*

Total receipts.....	\$11, 411. 47
Total disbursements.....	11, 413. 43
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Amount due the treasurer.....	1. 96

1892 TO 1893.

Paid officers under the administration of Wallace Halftown, president, June 1, 1892, to June, 1893.....	\$2, 363. 50
Paid board bill for the officers and the people during council in session....	1, 374. 04
Paid school trustees, and wood for the schools on Cattaraugus and Alle- gany reservations.....	196. 00
Paid poor master and for the poor on the Cattaraugus and Allegany reser- vations.....	471. 00

Paid highway labor on Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations.....	\$485.90
Paid attorneys and disbursements in suits.....	806.06
Paid miscellaneous accounts allowed.....	1,281.55
Paid renewed orders.....	1,482.70
Paid aid church.....	25.00
Paid public building.....	225.00
Total.....	8,710.75

The total receipts and disbursements of the treasurer of the Seneca Nation of Indians, under the administration of Wallace Halftown, president.

FRANK PATTERSON, *Treasurer*.

Total receipts.....	\$7,873.52
Total disbursements.....	7,875.17
Amount due the treasurer.....	1.65

1893 TO 1894.

Paid officers under the administration of Frank Patterson, president, June, 1893, to June 1, 1894.....	\$804.30
Paid board bill for the officers and the people during council in session...	677.45
Paid school trustees, and wood for the schools on the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations.....	241.50
Paid highway labor on the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations.....	251.50
Paid poor masters and for the poor, Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations	151.00
Paid attorneys and disbursements.....	225.00
Paid miscellaneous accounts allowed.....	496.75
Total.....	2,847.50

The total receipts and disbursements of the treasurer of the Seneca Nation of Indians, under the administration of Frank Patterson, president.

W. C. HOAG, *Treasurer*.

Total receipts.....	\$6,459.98
Total disbursements.....	6,466.97
Amount due the treasurer.....	6.99

1894 TO 1895.

Paid officers under the administration of William C. Hoag, president, June, 1894, to June, 1895.....	1,867.75
Paid board bill for the officers and the people during council in session...	658.10
Paid school trustees and wood for the schools, Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations.....	117.00
Paid poor masters and for the poor, Cattaraugus and Alleghany reservations.....	150.00
Paid highway labor, Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations.....	370.35
Paid miscellaneous accounts allowed.....	1,120.87
Total.....	4,284.07

The total receipts and disbursements of the treasurer of the Seneca Nation of Indians, under the administration of William C. Hoag, president.

FRANK PATTERSON, *Treasurer*.

Total receipts.....	\$5,522.34
Total disbursements.....	5,520.88
Balance on hand.....	1.46

1895 TO 1896.

Paid officers under the administration of Frank Patterson, June, 1895, to June, 1896.....	\$1,847.20
Paid board bill for the officers and the people during session in council...	1,092.60
Paid school trustees and wood for the schools, Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations.....	127.00
Paid poor masters for the poor, Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations...	443.00

Paid highway labor, Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations.....	\$464.50
Paid miscellaneous accounts allowed .....	880.00
Paid attorney and disbursements in suits .....	147.00
Paid land claim.....	20.00
Paid agriculture .....	150.00
Paid for churches and public buildings .....	150.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>5,321.30</b>

The total receipts and disbursements of the treasurer of the Seneca Nation of Indians under the administration of Frank Patterson, president.

W. C. HOAG, *Treasurer.*

Total receipts.....	\$6,850.15
Total disbursements .....	6,841.60
Balance on hand .....	8.55

1896 TO 1897.

Paid officers under the administration of William C. Hoag, president, June, 1896, to June, 1897 .....	\$1,016.19
Paid board bill for the officers and the people in council .....	1,055.15
Paid school trustees and for schools, Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations .....	128.50
Paid for the poor relief, Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations.....	389.00
Paid highway labor, Cattaraugus and Allegany.....	696.13
Paid miscellaneous accounts allowed .....	4,783.16
Paid attorneys.....	50.00
Paid for churches .....	105.00
Paid agriculture society.....	175.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>8,398.13</b>

The total receipts and disbursements of the treasurer of the Seneca Nation of Indians under the administration of William C. Hoag, president.

T. F. JAMERSON, *Treasurer.*

Total receipts.....	\$10,443.21
Total disbursements .....	10,082.61
Balance on hand .....	360.60
Of all the disbursements from June, 1891, to June, 1897, the total amount paid on orders issued prior to June, 1891.....	3,136.10

All of which is respectfully submitted.  
Dated this 28th day of December, 1897.

THEODORE F. JAMERSON,  
KING TALLCHIEF,  
HARRISON HALPTOWN,  
JOHN SNYDER,

*Committee.*

Report of H. S. Merrill, county clerk of Cattaraugus County, N. Y., made to J. R. Jewell, United States Indian agent, concerning the number, average term, rent reserved, etc., of the leases granted by the Seneca Nation of Indians upon the Allegany Indian Reservation in New York under the act of Congress passed in 1875, and the act amendatory thereof.

First. The whole number of leases from the Seneca Nation of Indians to different persons which have been recorded in this office is 3,111. The number of libers occupied by said leases is 8. The number of pages in each liber is 600.

Second. The whole number of leases prior to 1892 was 2,031. The average term of said leases was for twelve years, and the same were renewed prior to 1892 every twelve years, according to an act of Congress entitled "An act to authorize the Seneca Nation of New York Indians to lease lands within the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations and to confirm existing leases," approved February 19, 1875.

Third. The whole number of leases renewed in 1892 which have been recorded is 1,080, the same being for ninety-nine years under two acts of Congress entitled "An act to authorize the Seneca Nation of New York Indians to lease lands within the Cattaraugus and Allegany reservations and to confirm existing leases," one approved February, 1875, and the other approved September 30, 1890.

Fourth. Prior to 1880 a greater portion of the lands in question were leased in large tracts, and afterwards divided up into smaller parcels, being village lots, etc.

Fifth. The average amount of rental (as stated in the leases) received by the Indians per annum prior to 1892 was \$10 per lease.

Sixth. The average amount of rental per annum since 1892 due the Indians, as recited in the leases recorded, is \$5 per lease.

Seventh. The character of the descriptions is such in nearly all of the leases that it will be impossible to determine the amount of land contained therein without a survey of the same.

Eighth. It is a difficult thing for me to make an estimate of what the cost would be of making an abstract or brief of all leases and renewals, showing all that is required, until after the work is completed and I know the amount of time taken in making the same; but I would estimate that the probable expense would be from \$600 to \$800.

Ninth. The number of men required to do the work would depend largely upon the amount of time given to complete the work. The class of men would necessarily be those familiar with office work, having had experience with running typewriters, etc.

Dated at Little Valley, N. Y., November 16, 1896.

H. S. MERRILL, *County Clerk.*

J. R. JEWELL, Esq.,  
*Indian Agent, Olean, N. Y.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, ss:

C. S. YORK, being duly sworn, doth depose and say:

That he is a Seneca Indian, and from a resolution passed in council to pay said Senecas \$2 per capita, purporting to be that much money on hand from sales of crude oil as royalty in the hands of the treasurer of the Seneca Nation.

The said C. S. York further deposes and says on or about the 26th day of April, 1897, the said treasurer began paying by giving checks of \$1.40 made payable at North Collins Bank.

Mr. York further deposes and says the people voted the deficiency shall be paid over to the United States Indian agent for him to pay the Senecas when paying their annuity moneys, etc. The said agent has paid the said Senecas their annuity and not the deficiency, and so it stands up to this 4th day of January, 1898.

Mr. York further deposes and says on or about the month of November, 1897, at the treasurer's office in Salamanca, N. Y., did receive for his family and self a check of \$5.60, which is equivalent to \$1.40 for each individual in the family, made payable at one of the banks in Salamanca, N. Y.

C. S. YORK.

Sworn and subscribed before this 5th day of January, 1898.

HARRISON B. CHRISTY,  
*Notary Public, Erie County, N. Y.*

(Registered in Washington).

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Erie, Town of Brant, ss:*

On this 5th day of January, in the year 1898, before me, the subscriber, personally appeared C. S. York, to me personally known to be the same person described in and who executed the within instrument, and he acknowledged that he executed the same.

HARRISON B. CHRISTY,  
*Notary Public, Erie County.*

(Registered in Washington.)

STATE OF NEW YORK, ss:

NATHANIEL G. PATTERSON, within named, being duly sworn, doth depose and say that he is a Seneca Indian. On the 26th day of April, 1897, I drew a check of \$1.40 from the treasurer of the Seneca Nation, which was supposed to be the oil money.

NATHANIEL C. PATTERSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of January, 1898.

SARAH WELLS, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Erie*:

CHANCEY GREEN, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that he has not received nor was offered any of the oil money paid by the Seneca Oil Company to said Seneca Nation of Indians.

CHANCEY (my x mark) GREEN.

Witnesses to mark:

THOMAS KENNEDY.  
 ULYSSUS T. KENNEDY.

Sworn before me this 5th day of January, 1898.

W. H. WILLETT,  
*Notary Public for Erie County.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Erie*:

NEWTON KENNEDY, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election of officers on Tuesday, May —, 1895, held on the Cattaraugus Reservation, Frank Patterson, who was a candidate for president on that ticket for the Seneca Nation of Indians, gave to the deponent some lager beer to drink; also promised to give the deponent \$1, but gave him only 85 cents. Deponent further says that after voting Frank Patterson drove the team to Versailles and bought box of cigars, which he gave the deponent some of it; also a drink of whisky, which Patterson took out of his pocket, for the purpose of influencing his vote for their ticket.

NEWTON (his x mark) KENNEDY.

Witness:

ULYSSUS T. KENNEDY.

COUNTY OF CATTARAUGUS, *State of New York, ss.:*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of January, 1898.

[SEAL.]

H. J. MERRILL, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Erie*:

MOSES SHONGO, being duly sworn, doth depose and say that he is a Seneca Indian and a voter in the Seneca Nation; that he has not received nor was offered the oil money paid by the Seneca Oil Company.

MOSES SHONGO.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 1898.

H. J. MERRILL, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Erie*:

JAMES KING, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election of officers held on the Cattaraugus Reservation on May 5, 1896, T. F. Jamison, who was a candidate for treasurer of the said Seneca Nation of Indians, gave to the deponent one bag full of meal for the purpose of influencing his vote at said election of their ticket.

JAMES KING.

Sworn to before me January 17, 1898.

HARRISON B. CHRISTY,  
*Notary Public, Erie County, N. Y.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Erie*:

NEWTON KENNEDY, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election of officers held on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation on May 5, 1896, T. F. Jamison, who was a candidate for treasurer of the said Seneca Nation of Indians, promised to the deponent \$1 for the purpose of influencing his vote at said election of their ticket. On July 2, 1896, the candidate, T. F. Jamison, paid to the deponent \$1, as promised to said deponent.

NEWTON (his x mark) KENNEDY.

Sworn to before me January 19, 1898, a notary public for the county of Cattaraugus, State of New York.

[SEAL.]

H. J. MERRILL, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Cattaraugus:*

HARLEY A. BLINKEY, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election of officers held on the Allegany Reservation, and on Tuesday, May 4, 1897, Willie Phillips, who was a candidate for councilor of the said nation, gave to the deponent \$3 to defray for his conveyance and of influencing his vote for his ticket.

HARLEY A. BLINKEY.

Sworn before me this 20th day of January, 1898.

THOS. ROSENBERY, *Justice of the Peace.*

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STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Cattaraugus:*

HENRY JACKSON, 1st, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election of officers on Tuesday, May 4, 1897, held on the Cattaraugus Reservation, Francis Jimerson, who was a candidate for president of the said Seneca Nation of Indians, gave to the deponent \$1 for the purpose of influencing his vote for his ticket.

HENRY JACKSON.

Sworn before me this 21st day of January, 1898.

THOS. ROSENBERY, *Justice of the Peace.*

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STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Cattaraugus:*

PRESCY NEPHEW, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election of officers held on the Cattaraugus Reservation on Tuesday, May 4, 1897, and also on Monday, May 3, 1897, one of the parties who was running on the ticket on which Francis Jimerson was a candidate for president of the said Seneca Nation gave to this deponent hard cider for the purpose of influencing his vote at said election for their ticket.

PRESCY NEPHEW.

Sworn to before me December 8, 1897.

CHARLES S. HOWLAND, *Justice of the Peace.*

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STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Cattaraugus:*

AMOS SNOW, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election of officers held on the Allegany Reservation on Tuesday, May 4, 1897, W. C. Hoag, who was a candidate for treasurer on the ticket on which Francis Jimerson was a candidate for president of the said Seneca Nation, gave to this deponent 25 cents, and promised for more in the future, for the purpose to influencing his vote at said election for their ticket.

AMOS SNOW.

Sworn to before me December 10, 1897.

WILBER CONGLETUS, *Justice of the Peace.*

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STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Cattaraugus:*

HEALEY JIMERSON, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election held on the Allegany Reservation on Tuesday, May 5, 1896, W. C. Hoag, who was a candidate for president of the said Seneca Nation of Indians, gave to the deponent 50 cents for the purpose of influencing his vote at said election for their ticket.

HEALEY JIMERSON.

Sworn before me this 13th day of December, 1897.

THOS. ROSENBERY, *Justice of the Peace.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Erie*:

CHARLIE TALLCHIEF, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election of officers on Tuesday, May 5, 1896, held on the Cattaraugus Reservation, King Tallchief, who was a runner on the ticket on which W. C. Hoag was a candidate for president of the said Seneca Nation of Indians, gave to the deponent \$1 for the purpose of influencing his vote for their ticket.

CHAS. TALLCHIEF.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, 1897.

EDGAR A. SHAW, *Justice of the Peace.*

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STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Erie*:

JEROME JOHNNY JOHN, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an Indian and a voter of the Seneca Nation of Indians; that at an annual election of officers on Tuesday, May 5, 1896, held on the Cattaraugus Reservation, King Tallchief, who was a runner on the ticket on which W. C. Hoag was a candidate for president of the said Seneca Nation of Indians, gave to the deponent \$1 for the purpose of influencing his vote for their ticket.

JEROME JOHNNY JOHN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, 1897.

EDGAR A. SHAW, *Justice of the Peace.*

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