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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, in response to resolution of the Senate of January 25, 1899, calling for number of adult male Indians belonging to the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Tribes in October, 1892

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NUMBER OF ADULT MALE INDIANS BELONGING TO THE
KIOWA, COMANCHE, AND APACHE TRIBES IN OCTO-
BER, 1892.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN RESPONSE TO

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF JANUARY 25, 1899, CALLING
FOR NUMBER OF ADULT MALE INDIANS BELONGING TO THE
KIOWA, COMANCHE, AND APACHE TRIBES IN OCTOBER, 1892.

JANUARY 28, 1899.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be
printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 28, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt of the following Senate reso-
lution of the 25th instant:

“Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby directed to inform the Senate, from the records of his Department, what was the total number of adult male Indians belonging to the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache tribes of Indians in October, eighteen hundred and ninety-two, and whether the signatures attached to the agreement made with said Indians at said date comprises three-fourths of such adult males of said tribes.

The records of the department fail to show a census of these Indians for the year 1892.

From a roll used in making a payment to them in January and February, 1893, it appears that there were 725 males over 18 years of age, of whom 639 were 21 years and over.

Article 2 of the agreement of 1892 provided that “each member of the said Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes of Indians over eighteen years of age shall have the right to select for himself or herself one hundred and sixty (160) acres of land, to be held and owned in severalty, * * *”

It appears that 456 Indians signed the agreement in question.

If 18 years and over be held to be the legal age of those who were authorized to sign the agreement, the number of persons who actually signed was 87 less than three-fourths of the adult male membership of the tribes; and if 21 years be held to be the minimum age, then 23 less

2 NUMBER OF ADULT MALES OF CERTAIN INDIAN TRIBES.

than three-fourths signed the agreement. In either event, less than three-fourths of the male adults appear to have so signed.

I transmit a copy of a report on the subject from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 27th instant.

Very respectfully,

C. N. BLISS, *Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 27, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by your reference of the 25th instant, for immediate report, in duplicate, of Senate resolution calling for information as to the total number of adult male Indians belonging to the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache tribes in October, 1892, etc.

In reply, I have the honor to state that there is no census roll of these Indians for the year 1892 on file in this office. The best information this office can furnish in the matter is obtained from a pay roll containing the names of the Indians belonging to the said tribes, paid in January and February, 1893, and which shows 639 males 21 years of age and over and 725 males 18 years of age and over.

It appears from the records that 456 Indians signed the agreement for the cession of certain lands in the Territory of Oklahoma.

Article 2 of the said agreement provides "* * * that each member of the said Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache tribes of Indians over the age of eighteen (18) years shall have the right to select for himself or herself one hundred and sixty (160) acres of land, to be held and owned in severalty, * * *."

If 21 is to be considered the legal age, the records show that the 456 Indians who signed the agreement were 23 less than three-fourths of the 639 males 21 years of age and over, as shown by the pay rolls. If 18 is to be considered the legal age, as provided in article 2 of the agreement, the records show that the 456 Indians who signed the agreement were 87 less than three-fourths of the 725 males 18 years of age and over, as shown by the pay roll.

The certificate of Mr. George D. Day, United States Indian agent in charge of Kiowa Agency (p. 23, vol. 44, Miscellaneous Indian Documents, Fifty-second Congress, second session), under date of October 21, 1892, gives the number of adult male Indians at that time as 562. There is, however, no information obtainable from the files of this office by which the certificate of Mr. Day can be verified.

The paper inclosed with your letter is herewith returned, as requested.

Very respectfully,

W. A. JONES,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.