

6-23-1898

Message from the President of the United States, transmitting report of the Secretary of the Interior, relative to resolution of the Senate of June 10, 1898, requesting the President to make such arrangements as may be necessary to secure the attendance at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, to be held at Omaha, Nebr., of representatives of certain Indian tribes which have emigrated from the territory now of the United States to Canada.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>

 Part of the [Indian and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

S. Doc. No. 312, 55th Cong., 2nd Sess. (1898)

This Senate Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact darinfox@ou.edu.

ATTENDANCE OF CERTAIN TRIBES OF INDIANS AT THE
TRANS-MISSISSIPPI AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, RELATIVE TO
RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF JUNE 10, 1898, REQUESTING
THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AS MAY BE
NECESSARY TO SECURE THE ATTENDANCE AT THE TRANS-
MISSISSIPPI AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, TO BE HELD
AT OMAHA, NEBR., OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CERTAIN INDIAN
TRIBES WHICH HAVE EMIGRATED FROM THE TERRITORY NOW
OF THE UNITED STATES TO CANADA.

JUNE 23, 1898.—Read, referred to the Select Committee on International Expositions,
and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith a report from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to Senate resolution of June 10, 1898, requesting the President—

to make such arrangements as may be necessary to secure at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to be held in the city of Omaha, Nebr., the attendance of representatives of the Iroquois tribes and Delawares of Canada, and of the Abenakis of St. Francis and Becancourt, and such other Indian nations as have emigrated from the territory now of the United States to Canada.

To carry out this resolution, if it shall be found agreeable to the government of Canada, it will be necessary for this Government to send an agent to visit the tribes and secure their assent, organize the representative delegations, escort them to the Exposition, take charge of and care for them while there and until they are returned to their respective tribes.

The resolution seems to presuppose that there are funds which may be lawfully used to defray the expenses which must necessarily be incurred in the premises. By reference to the Secretary's report, it will be seen that there are no moneys lawfully available for that purpose.

It is not to be presumed that the Senate, under such circumstances, would desire the Executive to take the action indicated in the resolution, and I am therefore constrained to await the requisite appropriation by Congress for the payment of the expenses that must be necessarily incurred in the accomplishment of the proposed objects.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
June 23, 1898.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 21, 1898.

The PRESIDENT:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference, of the resolution of the Senate of the United States of June 10, 1898, herewith returned, requesting the President to make such arrangements as may be necessary to secure, at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to be held in the city of Omaha, Nebr., the attendance of representatives of certain Indian tribes which have emigrated from the territory now of the United States to Canada.

Having referred the same to the Indian Office for consideration, a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon is submitted.

It is not to be presumed that the resolution contemplates that the expenses which must necessarily be incurred in securing the attendance at said Exposition of such Indian representatives will be paid by the Government of Canada, and there is no fund at the disposition of the Government of the United States which can be lawfully used for that purpose. It would therefore seem that the object of the resolution must remain unattainable until Congress shall make appropriation to pay the necessary expenses.

It is respectfully recommended that the attention of Congress be drawn to the situation in order that it may take such further action in the premises as in its wisdom may seem proper.

Respectfully,

C. N. BLISS, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, June 15, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt, by your reference on the 14th instant, "for early report as to the practicability of carrying into effect the requirements of the within resolution and generally such other information touching the object of such resolution as will enable the Department to report intelligently thereon," of a copy of resolution agreed upon by the United States Senate on the 10th instant. Said resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the President is hereby requested to make such arrangements as may be necessary to secure at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to be held in the city of Omaha, Nebr., the attendance of representatives of the Iroquois tribes and Delawares of Canada and of the Abenakis of St. Francis and Becancourt, and such other Indian nations as have emigrated from the territory now of the United States to Canada.

After carefully examining and considering the aforesaid resolution, it seems to me that the same contemplates the attendance, if it can be secured, of what might be termed United States Indian refugees in Canada at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition now in progress at Omaha, Nebr. From the annual report of the department of Indian affairs of Canada for 1895 (pp. 354, 355)—the latest in the files of the office, and it is thought little change has taken place in the number and location of such Indians since that time—the following data are collated for your information in this connection:

Iroquois:

1. Six Nations on Grand River, Ontario (keep up their national organization in communication with those in New York). Left United States in Revolution.....	3,629
2. Iroquois of Coughnawaga, Quebec (Catholic Iroquois drawn off from home tribes in New York by French missionaries about 1680-1700)....	1,897
3. Iroquois of St. Regis, Quebec. (The Catholic portion of the St. Regis Reservation, as the international boundary was finally established). Another Catholic colony drawn off from the home tribes.....	1,231
4. Iroquois (with Algonquins) at Lake of Two Mountains, Quebec. (Another Catholic colony) part of.....	431
5. Iroquois (and Algonquins) of Gibson, Ontario, part of.....	136
6. Mohawks of Quinte Bay, Ontario.....	1,153
7. Oneidas of the Thames, Ontario.....	783
	<hr/> <hr/>

Delawares:

1. Moravians of the Thames, Ontario.....	304
2. Munsees of the Thames, Ontario (from Ohio, etc., after Revolution) ...	122
	<hr/> <hr/>
	426

Abenakis:

1. Abenakis of St. Francis, Quebec.....	325
2. Abenakis of Becancourt, Quebec (from Maine, etc., about 1680)	55
	<hr/> <hr/>
	380

Pottawatomies:

On Walpole Island Ontario, opposite Detroit.....	183
At Aux Sables, Ontario (practically on original territory).....	22
	<hr/> <hr/>
	205

Wyandottes:

Of Anderdon, Ontario, near Detroit.....	10
Scattering representatives of Ojibwas (Chippewas) and Plains tribes across border.	

It will be observed that the Senate resolution carries with it no appropriation out of which to defray any expenses that would be incurred in securing the attendance of the aforesaid Indians at Omaha. Without such an appropriation I do not see how organized delegations representing the refugee Indians, such as are evidently contemplated by the resolution, could be secured and brought to the Exposition. To accomplish the purposes of the resolution it would be necessary, it seems to me, after having first obtained the permission of the Dominion Government, to send someone from the United States among said Indians for the purpose of organizing the delegations. They would then have to be escorted to Omaha and subsisted and properly cared for while there.

Of course the President could extend an invitation through the proper diplomatic channels to the Canadian Government for representatives of these tribes to attend the Exposition at Omaha, at their own expense, as visitors, but it is not thought that this is what is intended by the resolution.

Concerning the aforesaid refugee Indians, I deem it proper to remark that all of the tribes named are represented at the present time in equally as large if not larger numbers in the United States. We have the Iroquois on the several New York reservations, the Delawares with the Cherokee Nation and with the Caddos on the Kiowa and Comanche Reservation, and the Abenakis at Oldtown, Me., and on Passamaquoddy Bay. The greater portion of the Chippewas and Sioux are, of course, in the United States. Should it be deemed desirable to have the aforesaid tribes represented at Omaha, the portions thereof in this country have equally as effective organizations to draw from for the purpose, and of course they could be more readily reached. All of the Indians named excepting the Chippewas and Sioux are what might be termed civilized and Christianized Indians. They are on the whole more or less degraded, and the office is assured by those who are familiar with their condition that they would present very poor material for an ethnological exhibit, such as is contemplated for the Exposition at Omaha by the United States, setting forth the aboriginal Indian tribes thereof—an appropriation for which purpose is now pending in Congress as an item in the Indian bill.

The office has understood from the exposition management that arrangements were being made with the Canadian government to have native British-American tribes, and also Mexican, represented at the exposition, and that such tribes were to represent distinctive types of American Indians whose habits and modes of life were different from those of any Indians in our own country. This arrangement, however, was contingent, so far as the Dominion government was concerned, upon the carrying out of the plans for our own Indian exhibit.

I return said copy of Senate resolution herewith and inclose a copy of this report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. A. JONES, *Commissioner*.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

