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Taxation of Indian allotments.

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TAXATION OF INDIAN ALLOTMENTS.

FEBRUARY 27, 1899.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

The VICE-PRESIDENT presented the following

MEMORIAL FROM THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE TERRITORY OF OKLAHOMA URGING THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR THE TAXATION OF INDIAN ALLOTMENTS.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Guthrie, Okla., February 23, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor of transmitting to you a copy of Council joint resolution No. 1, the same having passed both houses of the Fifth legislative assembly of the Territory of Oklahoma and been signed by the governor.

Very respectfully, yours,

O. G. PALMER,
Chief Clerk of the Council.

HON. GARRET A. HOBART,
Vice-President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

Council joint resolution No. 1, relating to taxation of Indian allotments. Memorializing the Congress of the United States to permit the taxation by the local government of Indian allotments.

Whereas there are within the limits of this Territory a large acreage and extensive bodies of land held by the Iowa, Sac and Fox, Pottawatomie, Absent Shawnee, Cheyenne and Arapahoe, Pawnee, Cherokee, Tonkawas, and other tribes of Indians, which were allotted to said Indians under the several acts of Congress relative thereto, which said allotments include the best agricultural lands in the Territory, and which said lands are, by treaty stipulation with the several tribes by the General Government, exempted from taxation by the Territorial, county, and township authorities; and

Whereas the expense of maintaining the Territorial and local governments, the organization and maintaining of schools and public institutions is paid by taxation upon the homesteads and property of other citizens of the Territory; and

Whereas representation without taxation is as equally un-American as taxation without representation; and

Whereas the Indian population of this Territory derives as much benefit, if not more, from our Territorial and local government than the

other citizens thereof, and should therefore bear their proportionate expense for the benefit derived; and

Whereas the Indian population of the United States is confined to a few of the Western States and Territories, notably among which is the Territory of Oklahoma; and

Whereas the great majority of the States of the Union are not burdened with the care, trials, and expense incident to an Indian population endowed with all the rights of citizenship, and ought, therefore, to aid in the expense occasioned thereby: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the legislative assembly of the Territory of Oklahoma: That we do and here now memorialize the Congress of the United States to so correct the laws and agreements with said Indian tribes and allottees that their lands in this Territory may be taxed as other lands, or in lieu thereof that an annual appropriation be made by the General Government, based upon equitable appraisement of such lands, and paid into the Territorial treasury, to be distributed to the various funds of the Territory and counties in which such lands are located, in the same proportion as if such lands were taxable under the revenue laws of the Territory; and

Resolved, That one copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the Senate, one copy to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one copy to our Delegate to Congress.

