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Letter of the Secretary of the Interior, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the 27th ultimo, information in relation to the reasons why a number of persons enrolled as Creek Indians by the Creek Agent in 1867 said to have been stricken from said rolls, and as to the payment of their per capita dividend.

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L E T T E R
OF
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the 27th ultimo, information in relation to the reasons why a number of persons enrolled as Creek Indians by the Creek Agent in 1867 said to have been stricken from said rolls, and as to the payment of their per capita dividend.

JUNE 10, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., June 8, 1868.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the United States Senate dated the 27th ult., directing the Secretary of the Interior to report "the reasons why a large number of persons enrolled as Creek Indians by the Creek agent in the spring of 1867 were stricken from said rolls and payment of their per capita dividend refused," I have the honor to state that I am not aware that the names of any of the Creek Indians were stricken from the rolls referred to and their per capita dividend refused.

The resolution does not very clearly indicate what "per capita dividend" is the subject of inquiry, but it is supposed to have reference to the sum of \$200,000 provided for by a clause of the 3d article of the treaty concluded June 14, 1866, with the Creek Indians.

That clause is as follows: "In consideration of said cession of the west half of their lands, estimated to contain 3,250,560 acres, the United States agree to pay the sum of thirty (30) cents per acre, amounting to \$975,168, in the manner hereinafter provided, to wit; \$200,000 shall be paid per capita in money, unless otherwise directed by the President of the United States, upon the ratification of this treaty, to enable the Creeks to occupy, restore, and improve their farms, and to make their nation independent and self-sustaining, and to pay the damages sustained by the mission schools on the North Fork and the Arkansas rivers, not to exceed \$2,000, and to pay the delegates such per diem as the agent and Creek council may agree upon as a just and fair compensation, all of which shall be distributed for that purpose by the agent, with the advice of the Creek council, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior."

That the payment might be properly made in accordance with the foregoing provision, a careful census of the Creek Indians was directed to be and was taken, and upon the census rolls so prepared by the agent of the Indians, the payments per capita in money were made to the Creeks to enable them to "occupy, restore, and improve their farms."

The name of no Creek Indian was stricken from the rolls, but the payments were made per capita to them, and to them alone, no other class of persons being entitled or allowed to participate in the distribution.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

Hon. B. F. WADE,
President of the Senate U. S.