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Letter of the Commissioner of the General Land-Office, to Hon. W. M. Stewart, Committee on Public Lands, in relation to the bill (H. R. 1108) to amend the act entitled "An act to provide for the removal of the Flathead and other Indians from the Bitter Root Valley, in the Territory of Montana," approved June 5, 1872.

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LETTER
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND-OFFICE,

TO

HON. W. M. STEWART, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,

IN RELATION TO

The bill (H. R. 1168) to amend the act entitled "An act to provide for the removal of the Flathead and other Indians from the Bitter-Root Valley, in the Territory of Montana," approved June 5, 1872.

FEBRUARY 2, 1874.—Ordered to be printed.

[To accompany bill H. R. 1168.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND-OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., January 31, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of House bill No. 1168, entitled "An act to amend an act entitled 'An act to provide for the removal of the Flathead and other Indians from Bitter-Root Valley, in the Territory of Montana,'" approved June 5, 1872, together with a request for my opinion on the same.

I have consulted with the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to the provisions of section two and base my opinion of the propriety of that section upon his statement that he should offer no objections to it.

I see no objections to any of the provisions of the bill.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIS DRUMMOND,
Commissioner.

Hon. W. M. STEWART,
Committee on Public Lands, U. S. Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., December 4, 1873.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 30th October last, asking further instructions concerning sales of lands in Bitter-Root Valley, Montana Territory, under act of June 5, 1872, I now transmit a copy of a report, dated the 2d instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom your communication was referred, from which you will perceive that the

Indian Office is in receipt of a letter from Agent Shanahan, reporting that the schedule of selections of land made under said act for members of the Flathead tribe of Indians electing to remain in the Bitter-Root Valley, which was forwarded by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, through the Department, on the 20th October last, will cover all cases of Indians entitled.

Such being the case the Department concurs in the opinion expressed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, that there is no necessity for further delay on the part of the General Land-Office in notifying the proper local land-officers to proceed to sell the unselected lands in the Bitter-Root Valley to settlers, and you are, therefore, requested to take action accordingly.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND-OFFICE.

[Indorsement.]

Letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, stating that the Indian claims *are all satisfied*, and directing that the lands be now opened to entry by our white settlers.

DECEMBER 4, 1873.

NOTE.—From the above it will be seen that, allowing for time for instructions to reach the local land-office, but two months remained to the settlers, the delay having virtually annulled the former act of Congress, giving them twenty-one months.