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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, in response to Senate resolution of January 31, 1888, information relative to sale of lands in the Omaha Reservation.

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING,

In response to Senate resolution of January 31, 1888, information relative to sale of lands in the Omaha Reservation.

FEBRUARY 14, 1888.—Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 10, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Senate resolution of January 31, 1888, as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to report to the Senate what amount of lands upon the Omaha Reservation have been sold pursuant to the statute approved August 17, 1882, and the statutes amendatory thereof; how much of the money due as proceeds of such sales has been paid into the Treasury, and how much, if any, is due and unpaid, both principal and interest, and what steps, if any, have been taken to enforce such payments as are due, or to recover possession of the lands so sold, payments for which have failed according to the terms thereof.

In response thereto I inclose herewith copy of report from the Acting Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated the 9th instant, with the information called for by the resolution.

Very respectfully,

H. L. MULDROW,
Acting Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE PRO TEMPORE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., February 9, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by reference from Hon. D. L. Hawkins, Assistant Secretary, under date of February 1, 1888, of Senate resolution of January 31, 1888, calling for information as to what amount of lands upon the Omaha Reservation (in Nebraska) have been sold pursuant to the statute approved August 17, 1882, and the statutes amendatory thereof; how much of the money due as proceeds of such sales has been paid into the Treasury, and how much, if any, is due and unpaid, both principal and interest, and what steps, if any, have been taken to enforce such payments as are due, or to recover

possession of the lands so sold payments for which have failed according to the terms thereof.

In accordance with directions given by the Assistant Secretary the following report is submitted in relation to the sales of said lands, under the above-mentioned act and those amendatory thereof, as shown by the records of this office, to wit:

First. Amount of lands sold up to and including December 31, 1887, 49,630.59 acres.

Second. Amount of money paid into the Treasury on account of such sales from the date of first payment to December 31, 1887, \$154,654.67.

Third. Amount of interest due and unpaid up to December 31, 1887, \$4,108.06.

By the act of Congress approved August 2, 1886, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to extend the time of payment to purchasers of lands of the Omaha Indians "two years from June 29, 1886, who had filed by November 30, 1884, making the first payment due June 29, 1888, the interest due on said payments to be paid annually at the time said payments are now due." Parties who had filed since November 30, 1884, and prior to August 2, 1886, are not required to make first payment until August 2, 1888, but the interest must be paid annually on August 2. Thus it will be observed that no principal is due until June 29, 1888, or August 2, 1888.

No steps have been taken to enforce payments (interest) due, or to recover possession of lands sold, payments for which have failed according to the terms of the statute.

The inclosures received are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

S. M. STOCKSLAGER,
Acting Commissioner.

HON. WM. F. VILAS,
Secretary of the Interior.