

To the Secretary of the
Commission on the Census
"Districts of importance."
Calculation of percentages
pertaining exclusively
expressed.

Octt. 3rd 1883.

Chambersville, Pennsylvania,

September 3d 1837.

Sir;

On reviewing my letter of the 20th August to the Department, I find that the views I then communicated, that I wish to investigate the complaints of individual Indians as have not had remonstrances against them because they were omitted in the census; and of such as were "floated," without recogⁿt, from their improvements, I wish to state distinctly, that it is not my intention to make such a specific investigation, because the object of my appointment was to make general inquiries into the condition of the present state of treating the Indians, and because these details can be performed more efficiently, in Mr. Bright's district of his appointment, and will probably remain till the expiration of the 15 years. In Col. Shultz' district, there is no Indian agent, and in other places I believe, who feels himself charged with the duty of making the necessary investigations, and Mr. Bright has declined investigating with complaint from last summer. Hence it will be necessary, that either the existing agent, or some other person be instructed to have and exert the care of Indians over Shultz' district, remaining during the five years; it must be acknowledged, I think, to the Government, to submit this duty to him in both districts, or from his removal, responsibility both with the Indians and whites, he will be up to the Indians here and there about every thing known. Of my Indians here being "floated" from their improvements, and have at a previous period in the act of the last session by taking the land of government, and claim, I apprehend, is inevitable, and it will be seen that the best authority the department can give them is to scatter according at any time before a sale of the very land. The case of the lands of families who were omitted in the census will, of course, have to be left before Congress.

With regard to the numerous complaints that are made at the meeting against frequently disregarded local provisions of the best kind, requiring that the people of the town should take their measures in a body, the Department can, at most, be satisfied by directing that they be sent to furnish maps exhibiting the location and connecting them with the record of locations or sections.

On my suggestion that an agent or agents should be appointed by the Government to value the reservations held under leasehold, with a view to the detection of frauds in the hundred of them, I beg leave now to add some considerations.

The combination of circumstances attending the public lands are complicated by them at the minimum price, has greatly been regarded as an evil of the first magnitude, leading to a state of affairs in the part of the country where it happens, at war with the prosperity and reputation of that locality which it is desirable should be preserved among our people. The means of preventing such combinations do not readily suggest themselves, and are in such want of present knowledge. But a similar combination has taken place among the hundred of such reservations, and it has disgraced the same results; namely, - that the lands, though the best in the County, have been obtained at an average, but little, if any, exceeding the minimum; and that these resurrections, who have settled on the lands after having designated no resurrections, - and who have cultivated them, and kept them for the production of the necessities of life, and, also, have thus invested themselves with a species of merit, always considerate in a country like ours, have been pre-empted from securing the houses, that have been offered in value by their labor. And this has been effected by those who are nothing and nothing else, which were fail to interest an Indian, and by those degreding alternatives to which the unenriched alone resort, due at prices much below, not only the fair value of the land, but also, what the settlers were willing to give.

If then the Government can reduce its obligation that the Indians shall bear the fair value of their reservations, and at the same time afford the poorest class of the community who have settled thereon, an opportunity to connect with the

at present in possession of the Indians, and something like
to sell them, I must be allowed to copy the opinion that it is
against law, and against the best interest of the country, to do
it. It would be done, without injustice, in all the steps of enquiry - and
it embraces much of the best land in this country - in
which a Court of Equity would, or the Government at
present, prefer to secure a specific compensation at
the suit of the Indians; and in this class of cases,
wherein the Court would order a trial, absent me
itself, to stand as a witness only for the money actu-
ally paid by the Indians. I refer the Department, as
to the first step of course, to Johnson's Chancery Report
232. 2 Lc. 20; and as to the second step to John's
Ch. R. 482. To return to Apfel, that the Government
might thus sit on solid grounds, that I respectfully ask
if any doubt is entertained, that the suit be referred to
the Attorney General for his opinion. If

What makes me the more urgent in recommending
this course, is the probability, and indeed certainty,
that in many cases, the money specified in the bills
entitled by the Indians, has been taken back by the Indians
on one pretence or another; and the great difficulty
of tracing out the exact amount of this fact
by concrete and impartial inquiry. Taking this fact into consider-
ation, and there remains not the shadow of a doubt but
that the Indians have been cheated out of their
minimumprix of the public lands.

Besides all this, the Indians have an interest
to no power at the hands of the Government, because they have
known, and yet given them powerful influence in op-
erations to the measure wanted to, from time to time, for a
long adjustment of the existing difficulties. It is notorious
that they have defeated every attempt that has been made
to purchase the associations for the Government, and
they foster the prejudices of the Indians against

emigrations, and retain them here to their own gain
and the welfare of the people, by promising that if they
will but sell to them, they - the Indians shall live on the land
for life, or as long as they please. This species of concurrence
and consent exist in regard the Indians completely, too.
They think they are making a demonstration indeed, of their
care, enjoyment both the land and the land itself.
Since the Indians are more opposed to emigration than
any of those who have sold their land, a fact, other-
wise, wholly unaccountable. What power can men exert,
whose whole capital and stock in trade is nothing but
an easy, compliant consciousness, which others at no mean-
sure time is necessary to break up in a beginning?

Great restlessness

Apx. abt. chapt.

R. J. Steele Jr.

R. J. Since meeting the other, I have made an estimate
of the contract entitling the Agents Bright & Dewart, and
fixe the average price going to be between \$0 & \$30 and per
acre.

John Lewis Capt. Reg. of War
Washington,

Locations.

1. The U. S. are to allow 90 principal Chiefs to select one section each. Has this been allowed?
2. The President was to cause a census of the heads of Creek families to be taken. Was this done? Were any omitted in this census who were heads of families? Were any included who were not heads of families?
3. The U. S. were to allow ~~each~~ head of a Creek family to select a half section of land ~~each~~ ^{in his improvement}. Was ~~the~~ ^{the} head of a family ~~not~~ allowed to select ~~their~~ ^{his} half sections so as to include their improvements, ~~which~~ could be done? ~~And~~ ^{if} ~~the~~ ~~head~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~family~~, were the people of the some towns, who could not make their selections so as to include their improvements, allowed to ^{make} ~~not~~ their lands in a single body?
4. Were the 20 sections selected for the benefit of the orphan children of the Creeks, as the treaty provides? Was a lot of those who were orphans ~~selected~~ ^{selected} of the treaty, one mile? Or furnished the President?
5. Of 29 sections were to be located, and patented to individual Creeks, as the tribe should assign them to? And were these sections ~~ever~~ ^{ever} located? Was the tribe ~~responsible~~ ^{responsible} for the sections to any persons, and to whom? Was a list sent forward to the President of those to whose these sections have been assigned?

Sales.

Circumstances before the certification of the contract.

1. Has any Indian's signature to a conveyance been pressed when he was drunk? What other fraudulent means have been used to procure the reserves signature to the conveyance?
2. Has any land been sold by Indians who were not owners of it.
3. Is there any case in which the fair value of the land was not given for it? If there ~~is~~ any such case, was the sale made freely and willingly by the reserve, and without fraud or misrepresentation on part of the purchaser?
4. After the certification of the Conveyance, has the sum of money expressed in the deed, or any part of it, been taken back by the purchaser? If there is any such case, on what pretence was it done?
 1. Was it taken back in payment of debts due from the reserves?
 2. Was it taken back on deposit, to be repaid on demand?
 3. Was it taken back on pledge as security for any purpose?
 4. Was it borrowed?
5. Was it paid in paper before the agent, and then taken back on a promise to be repaid in silver?
6. Was it taken back for property sold to the Indian by the purchaser? If so, has he had too high a price for the property?
7. Is there any case when the purchaser of the land has forcibly taken back the money?
8. Is there any case when he has taken it from him while drunk?