
PRAIRIE BAND OF POTTAWATOMIE INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A draught of a bill providing for the investment of certain funds belonging to the Prairie band of Pottawatomie Indians.

JANUARY 27, 1875.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 23, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, copy of a letter from Hon. Edward P. Smith, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 21st instant, inclosing draught of a bill providing for the investment of certain funds belonging to the Prairie band of Pottawatomie Indians.

I concur with the Commissioner in regard to the investment of the funds belonging to the above-named Indians, and would respectfully request that the subject may receive the favorable action of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 21, 1875.

SIR: I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. A. F. Navarre, delegate of the Prairie band of Pottawatomie Indians, dated the 18th instant, requesting, on behalf of said band, that all but fifteen thousand dollars of the funds due them arising from the sale of Pottawatomie lands to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad Company be permanently invested in United States bonds for the benefit of said Prairie band, the interest accruing thereon to be paid to them semi-annually; also, that fifteen thousand dollars of said funds be immediately paid to the Indians

to relieve them from destitution and want caused by the destruction of their crops the past year by drought and grasshoppers.

The funds referred to amount to \$118,634, being the proportion due the Prairie band of the proceeds of the Pottawatomie lands sold as above, after deducting the amount necessary to re-imburse the United States for money appropriated and advanced to said Indians, by the act of May 29, 1872, to carry out the provisions of the fourth article of the treaty of November 15, 1861.

In compliance with the request of Mr. Navarre, I have caused to be prepared a draught of a bill providing for the investment of said funds, after reserving fifteen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be used and expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, to relieve the immediate and pressing necessities of said Indians, and respectfully recommend that the same, after receiving the approval of the Department, be transmitted to Congress for the necessary action of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWD. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

A BILL providing for the investment of certain funds belonging to the Prairie band of Pottawatomie Indians, now in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and hereby is, directed and authorized to invest in United States stocks the amount due the Prairie band of Pottawatomies of the proceeds of surplus lands, sold under the 5th article of the treaty of November 15, 1861, with the Pottawatomie Indians, said funds, after investment, to become a permanent fund, and such portion thereof as may be deemed advisable by the Secretary of the Interior shall be added to the fund known as "Trust fund, interest due Pottawatomies, education," and the remainder to the fund known as "Trust fund, interest due Pottawatomies, mills:" *Provided,* That the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, of the amount above referred to, may, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, be used and expended to relieve the immediate and pressing wants of said Indians.