

2. Letter of Governor William Willkes to the Secretary of the
Interior calling attention to certain unsettled
matters between the U.S. and the Government of the
Imperial Austria. to date. Probably in 1870. Six letters -
Six pages.

To the Hon. C. Delmon Ste. of Indiana
No. 116
The undersigned Chiefs representing the Wyandott
Tribe of Indians residing in this Indian Territory, duly or-
-ganized and recognized by the Interior Department, would res-
-pectfully call the attention of the Department to certain unsettled
matters between the U.S. Gov't and the Wyandott tribe - matters
of deep interest to our people.

The Department is aware that a treaty was concluded at Washing-
-ton City between the U.S. on the one part, and Simon, Quapaw
Ottawa, and others and Wyandott, dated Feb. 23, 1867, in which vari-
-ous ^{valuable} stipulations are made in the interest of our people, closing
up all unsettled business of a pecuniary nature between the U.S.
and the Wyandott ^{people}, as enumerated in the Schedule appended, marked
24. We would say, that for some cause unknown to us, these
stipulations intended for our benefit and behoof have not
been fulfilled. This failure on the part of the Gov't has been pro-
-ductive of much embarrassment, sacrifice of property &
and in some instances actual suffering in removing to, and
settling in, this Territory. Settling in a new country it is
well known, always attended with considerable outlays of money.
It is true one advance step has been made towards in the di-
rection of a compliance with some of its provisions, and
even this was at the earnest solicitation of our ^{friends} ^{of our people}, by an
appropriation of \$11703, and \$500. The first was money
belonging to individuals, who had been taxed illegally by the State of
Kansas. This money was paid out to our people per capita.
By this arrangement ^{such of} our people ^{as} were illegally taxed //

The Com. appointed by the Department as provided in the Senate Amendment, failed in its duty in "ascertaining the amount of deprivations" named in the Schedule as "Item 7."

In this: ^{Com} ~~the parties~~ examined and reported only the Claims of such Wyandots, as, at that time, resided in Kansas, omitting that portion settled in the Indian Territory. Then ^{omitted} Claims of the latter when aggregated amount to \$

By the 15th Article of this treaty it is provided: ~~that~~ ^{are} "Whereas" many sales of land, belonging to this [incompetent per-
-ple] have heretofore been made, contrary to the spirit and intent of the treaty of 1855, it is agreed that a thorough exam-
-ination and report shall be made under the direction of the Secy of Interior, in order to ascertain the facts in all such cases, and upon a full examination upon such report, and hearing the parties interested, the said Secy may confirm the sales, or require an additional amount to be paid, or de-
-clare said sales intirely void, as the several cases may require" In pursuance of this provision the Dep't appointed ^{two} special Comrs for this "Thorough examination". This Com failed in its duties. The examination was partial & partee and more in the interest of illegal ^{and fraudulent} purchasers than of the aggrieved parties. Much of the testimony in favor of the injured parties must have been suppressed or totally ignored: for it does seem that upon the evi-
-dence taken in some of the most flagitious frauds, it is im-
possible that these ^{sales} ~~cases~~ could be confirmed. Monstrous injus-
-tice has been done ^{to our people} in the action of this Special Com by its failure and dereliction in duty. As far relief to our people is con-
cerned

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Concerned, this ~~com~~ ^{board} ~~might~~ ^{actually} have remained at home
Time and space will permit ~~of~~ ^{of} enlarging or going into
detail, but will briefly sum up: We act in the name of these
injured people that the report of this Special Commission, with
the decision had thereon be set aside, and the Case reopened
for the following reasons:

First: One member of the com was an interested party, being an
illegal purchaser himself, and the Attorney of other purchasers.

Second: No opportunity was afforded for a "hearing the parties in-
terested" at least not to the Wyandotts, to appear in person or by
Attorney.

Third: Of the final action of the Department on the report the par-
ties interested were ^{never} officially informed: Relying chiefly upon
rumor, and the action, and conduct of these purchasers, who were
jubilant over their ill gotten gain. The report and subsequent
action of the Dept is not even reported by the Com of Indian Affairs in
his Annual report for that year.

Fourth. To give the aggrieved parties an ^{other} opportunity of
obtaining redress by making good their charge, against
this Special Com.

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Wyandoll Nation

