

1858 at the head of the Indian Department, and that it was his opinion, the Senecas now residing in the State of New York have no legal claim whatever to any land there, and this information was promptly ^{forwarded} to the authorities at Cattaraugus. It appears however that the operators in this scheme, affecting to have no confidence in the information given them, still continued their exertions, to the great annoyance of the Seneca government, to induce the people to believe, they were owners of land in Kansas, and many of them were kept in a state of unsettledness: whereupon at a general council of the Nation the following Resolutions were adopted and forwarded to the Committee with an earnest request, that they might be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs: and in accordance with the desire of the Indians this was done, and the decision of the department thereon ^{has been} furnished to the Committee, and has been forwarded to the President of the Seneca Nation:-

At the Annual Council of the Seneca Nations of Indians held at the Council House, on the Cattaraugus Reservation, in the State of New York on the 2^d day of June 1858

Resolved, That this Council is strongly opposed to any commissioner being appointed on the part of the United States for the purpose of negotiating any treaty with the Seneca Nation respecting any proposed sale of their lands in the State of New York or elsewhere.

Resolved That in the opinion of this Council the people of the Seneca Nation are quite unanimously opposed to the appointment of a Commissioner for such purpose, and we earnestly remonstrate against the same.

Resolved, That we regard the persons engaged in the business of circulating petitions among our people asking for a reopening of negotiations, with the view of making the Senecas on the Cattaraugus and Allegany Reservations parties thereto, as enemies to the well-being of our nation, and that such movement is intended for the getting up an emigration in order to draw off our people from their present comfortable homes.

Resolved That copies of these Resolutions be forwarded to the President of the United States and to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington, and that our friend of Baltimore ^(P. E. Thomas) be our agent to present the same.

State of New York Cattaraugus Reservation, S. S.
J. Harrison Halfstow Clerk of the Seneca Nation of Indians do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolutions passed by the Councilors of said Nation and entered in the Book of Records and that the same were unanimously adopted.

Harrison Halfstow

Clerk of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

In addition to these proceedings of the Seneca Council, the following letter was also received from the President of the Senecas:

Seneca Nation of Indians Executive Department
Allegany Reservation September 10th 1858

Respected Friends

I think it behoves me as the Seneca Nation's elect to draw information from the Department at Washington, which may be a benefit to the deluded portion of the Seneca people, in regard to the Kansas land claim, therefore I would respectfully petition to the Secretary of the Interior, through you, as our accredited Representative, to inform the President of the Seneca Nation, and the people of the same, whether one or both of the treaties of 1838 and 1842 give a good valid title to the New York Indians of the Kansas lands, over and above the stipulated term of five years of the above said treaties and if the above said supposed claims be negatived I wish it said in a most simple and explicit manner, the reason and wherefore, and when the decision is made have it forwarded to me as soon as possible.

It is most deplorable to see these defrauded class of people, spend their precious time away in holding meetings, councils and conventions besides they are about to send a delegation to Washington on the expense of the poor families.

I think when the decision is made, and accomplished by the Secretary of the Interior, the deluded people will throw off the false expectation of a rich harvest.

Yours, with respect

Edward Purse
President of the Seneca Nation of Indians