

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

JANUARY 18, 1821.

MR. THOMAS, from the Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition of the chiefs in behalf of the Choctaw nation of Indians, praying that a tract of land, reserved by said nation in the treaty of November, 1805, may be confirmed to Silas Dinsmore; to whom they have granted it, submitted the following

REPORT :

That, whatever may be the merits of Silas Dinsmore's claim on the said Indians, (of which no evidence has been exhibited,) it would be impolitic for Congress to legislate on this subject; that it has been the policy of the United States, in all their treaties and transactions with the Indians, to protect them, as far as practicable, from imposition, as regards the disposition of their lands, by contract or otherwise, to individuals. The intrusion of white people on Indian lands has always produced evils of a very serious nature; and, in order to guard against it, every attempt to procure such lands, by individuals, either directly or indirectly, by settlement, survey, contract, or treaty, unauthorized by the government, is, by the fifth and twelfth sections of an act of Congress, passed on the 30th day of March, 1802, declared to be a misdemeanor, and punished by a fine, not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment, not exceeding twelve months. The propriety of this policy cannot be doubted; and it would be an extraordinary case which should induce Congress to recognise a claim to land derived from a violation of a positive law; the committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted.

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
ON THE 12TH MARCH 1901

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. in relation to the subject of the land office, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the appropriate authorities for their consideration.

The land office has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. in relation to the subject of the land office, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the appropriate authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
The Secretary to the Land Office.