

CHAP. 317.—An act to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians in the Indian Territory, and for other purposes.

March 1, 1889.

Whereas it is provided by section eight of the act of March third, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, entitled "An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, and for other purposes," "that the President is hereby authorized to open negotiations with the Creeks, Seminoles, and Cherokees for the purpose of opening to settlement under the homestead laws the unassigned lands in said Indian Territory ceded by them respectively, to the United States by the several treaties of August eleventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, March twenty-first, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and July nineteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six; and for that purpose the sum of five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; his action hereunder to be reported to Congress;" and

Agreement with
Creek Indians.
Preamble.
Vol. 23, p. 384.

Vol. 14, pp. 735, 755,
799.

Whereas William F. Vilas, Secretary of the Interior, by and under the direction of the President of the United States, on the part of the United States, and the Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians, represented by Pleasant Porter, David M. Hodge, and Esparhecher, delegates and representatives thereto duly authorized and empowered by the principal chief and national council of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, did, on the nineteenth day of January, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, enter into and conclude articles of cession and agreement, which said cession and agreement is in words as follows:

Articles of cession and agreement made and concluded at the city of Washington on the nineteenth day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, by and between the United States of America, represented by William F. Vilas, Secretary of the Interior, by and under direction of the President of the United States, and the Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians, represented by Pleasant Porter, David M. Hodge, and Esparhecher, delegates and representatives thereunto duly authorized and empowered by the principal chief and national council of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation;

Articles of agree-
ment.

Whereas by a treaty of cession made and concluded by and between the said parties on the fourteenth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, in compliance with the desire of the United States to locate other Indians and freedmen thereon, ceded and conveyed to the United States, to be sold to and used as homes for such other civilized Indians as the United States might choose to settle thereon, the west half of their entire domain, to be divided by a line running north and south, which should be surveyed as provided in the eighth article of the said treaty; the eastern half of the lands of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation to be retained by them as a home;

And whereas but a portion of said lands so ceded for such use has been sold to Indians or assigned to their use, and the United States now desire that all of said ceded lands may be entirely freed from any limitation in respect to the use and enjoyment thereof and all claims of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation to such lands may be surrendered and extinguished as well as all other claims of whatsoever nature to any territory except the aforesaid eastern half of their domain;

Now, therefore, these articles of cession and agreement by and between the said contracting parties, witness:

Cession of lands by
Creek Nation.

I. That said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, in consideration of the sum of money hereinafter mentioned, hereby absolutely cedes and grants to the United States, without reservation or condition, full and complete title to the entire western half of the domain of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation lying west of the division line surveyed and established under the said treaty of eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and also grants and releases to the United States all and every claim, estate, right, or interest of any and every description in or to any and all land and territory whatever, except so much of the said former domain of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation as lies east of the said line of division, surveyed and established as aforesaid, and is now held and occupied as the home of said nation.

Payment by United
States.

II. In consideration whereof, and of the covenant herein otherwise contained, the United States agree to pay to the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation the sum of two million two hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and ten cents, whereof two hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and ten cents shall be paid to the national treasurer of said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, or to such other person as shall be duly authorized to receive the same, at such times and in such sums after the due ratification of this agreement (as hereinafter provided) as shall be directed and required by the national council of said nation, and the remaining sum of two million dollars shall be set apart and remain in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the said nation, and shall bear interest at the rate of five per centum per annum from and after the first day of July, 1889, to be paid to the treasurer of said nation and to be judiciously applied under the direction of the legislative council thereof, to the support of their government, the maintenance of schools and educational establishments, and such other objects as may be designed to promote the welfare and happiness of the people of the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, subject to the discretionary direction of the Congress of the United States: *Provided*, That the Congress of the United States may at any time pay over to the said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation the whole, or, from time to time, any part of said principal sum, or of any principal sum belonging to said nation held in the Treasury of the United States, and thereupon terminate the obligation of the United States in respect thereto and in respect to any further interest upon so much of said principal as shall be so paid and discharged.

Promotion of edu-
cation.

III. It is stipulated and agreed that henceforth especial effort shall be made by the Creek Nation to promote the education of the youth thereof and extend their useful knowledge and skill in the arts of civilization; and the said nation agrees that it will devote not less than fifty thousand dollars, annually, of its income, derived hereunder, to the establishment and maintenance of schools and other means calculated to advance the end; and of this annual sum at least ten thousand dollars shall be applied to the education of orphan children of said nation.

Ratification.

IV. These articles of cession and agreement shall be of no force or obligation upon either party until they shall be ratified and confirmed, first, by act of the national council of said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, and secondly, by the Congress of the United States, nor unless such ratification shall be on both sides made and completed before the first day of July, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine.

Former treaties.

V. No treaty or agreement heretofore made and now subsisting is hereby affected, except so far as the provisions hereof supersede and control the same.

In testimony whereof, we, the said William F. Vilas, Secretary of the Interior, on the part of the United States, and the said Pleasant Porter, David M. Hodge, and Esparhecher, delegates of the

Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, have hereunto set our hands and seals, at the place and on the day first above written, in duplicate,

[SEAL.]

WILLIAM F. VILAS,
Secretary of the Interior.

[SEAL.]
[SEAL.]
[SEAL.]

PLEASANT PORTER,
DAVID M. HODGE,
ESPARHECHER, his x mark.

In presence of:

JOHN P. HUME,
ROBERT V. BELT.

Whereas the Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians has accepted, ratified, and confirmed said articles of cession and agreement by act of its national council, approved by the principal chief of said nation on the thirty-first day of January, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, wherein it is provided that the grant and cession of land and territory therein made shall take effect when the same shall be ratified and confirmed by the Congress of the United States of America, Therefore,

Acceptance by Creek Nation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That said articles of cession and agreement are hereby accepted, ratified, and confirmed.

Confirmation of cession.

SEC. 2. That the lands acquired by the United States under said agreement shall be a part of the public domain, but they shall only be disposed of in accordance with the laws regulating homestead entries, and to the persons qualified to make such homestead entries, not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres to one qualified claimant. And the provisions of section twenty-three hundred and one of the Revised Statutes of the United States shall not apply to any lands acquired under said agreement. Any person who may enter upon any part of said lands in said agreement mentioned prior to the time that the same are opened to settlement by act of Congress shall not be permitted to occupy or to make entry of such lands or lay any claim thereto.

Lands acquired to be subject to homestead entry.
Post, p. 1005.

R. S. Sec. 2501, p. 421

SEC. 3. That for the purpose of carrying out the terms of said articles of cession and agreement the sum of two million two hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and ten cents is hereby appropriated.

Appropriation.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to pay, out of the appropriation hereby made, the sum of two hundred and eighty thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven dollars and ten cents, to the national treasurer of said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation, or to such person as shall be duly authorized to receive the same, at such time and in such sums as shall be directed and required by the national council of said nation, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby further authorized and directed to place the remaining sum of two million dollars in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of said Muscogee (or Creek) Nation of Indians, to be held for, and as provided in said articles of cession and agreement, and to bear interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, from and after the first day of July, anno Domini eighteen hundred and eighty-nine; said interest to be paid to the treasurer of said nation annually.

Payment to the treasurer of the Creek Nation.

Balance to credit of Creek Nation.

Interest.

Approved, March 1, 1889.