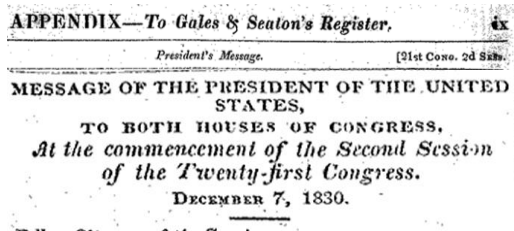


SOURCE SET 2 - INDIAN TERRITORY RESETTLEMENT

SOURCE 2A



<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llrd&fileName=010/llrd010.db&recNum=438>

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llrd&fileName=010/llrd010.db&recNum=439>

SOURCE 2B

The condition of affairs in Indian Territory and California. A report by Prof. C.C. Painter, agent of the Indian rights association.

Painter, C. C. (Charles Cornelius)

Philadelphia, Indian rights association, 1888.

{Begin page no. 11}

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/calbk.052>

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Observe

- What type of text is this (letter, newspaper article, report, advertisement, legal document, etc.)?
- When was this text created? Is place relevant to this text? How?
- What does the text describe or explain?

Reflect

- Why do you think the author chose to include these specific details of description or explanation? What information might have been left out of the text?
- Does the text show clear bias? If so, towards what or whom? What evidence supports your conclusion?
- What do you think the author might have wanted the audience to think or feel?
- What do you feel when reading this text?
- What did you learn from examining this text? Does any new information you learned contradict or support your prior knowledge about the topic of this text?

Compare & Contrast

- How does President Jackson's view of Native American resettlement compare to what C.C. Painter reports?

SOURCE 2A EXCERPT 1

It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the benevolent policy of the Government, steadily pursued for nearly thirty years, in relation to the removal of the Indians beyond the white settlements, is approaching to a happy consummation. Two important tribes have accepted the provision made for their removal at the last session of Congress; and it is believed that their example will induce the remaining tribes, also, to seek the same obvious advantages.

The consequences of a speedy removal will be important to the United States, to individual States, and to the Indians themselves. The pecuniary advantages which it promises to the Government are the least of its recommendations. It puts an end to all possible danger of collision between the authorities of the General and State Governments, on account of the Indians. It will place a dense and civilized population in large tracts of country now occupied by a few savage hunters. By opening the whole territory between Tennessee on the north, and Louisiana on the south, to the settlement of the whites, it will incalculably strengthen the southwestern frontier, and render the adjacent States strong enough to repel future invasion without remote aid. It will relieve the whole State of Mississippi, and the western part of Alabama, of Indian occupancy, and enable those States to advance rapidly in population, wealth, and power. It will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States; enable them to pursue happiness in their own way, and under their own rude institutions; will retard the progress of decay, which is lessening their numbers; and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the Government, and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits, and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community. These consequences, some of them so certain, and the rest so probable, make the complete execution of the plan sanctioned by Congress at their last session an object of much solicitude.

SOURCE 2A EXCERPT 2, PAGE 1

mined to avail themselves of the liberal offers presented by the act of Congress, and have agreed to remove beyond the Mississippi river. Treaties have been made with them, which, in due season, will be submitted for consideration. In negotiating these treaties, they were made to understand their true condition; and they have preferred maintaining their independence in the Western forests to submitting to the laws of the States in which they now reside. These treaties being probably the last which will ever be made with them, are characterized by great liberality on the part of the Government. They give the Indians a liberal sum in consideration of their removal, and comfortable subsistence on their arrival at their new homes. If it be their real interest to maintain a separate existence, they will there be at liberty to do so without the inconveniences and vexations to which they would unavoidably have been subject in Alabama and Mississippi.

Humanity has often wept over the fate of the aborigines of this country; and philanthropy has been long busily employed in devising means to avert it. But its progress has never for a moment been arrested; and one by one have many powerful tribes disappeared from the earth. To follow to the tomb the last of his race, and to tread on the graves of extinct nations, excites melancholy reflections. But true philanthropy reconciles the mind to these vicissitudes, as it does to the extinction of one generation to make room for another. In the monuments and fortresses of an unknown people, spread over the extensive regions of the West, we behold the memorials of a once powerful race, which was exterminated, or has disappeared, to make room for the existing savage tribes. Nor is there any thing in this, which, upon a comprehensive view of the general interests of the human race, is to be regretted. Philanthropy could not wish to see this continent restored to the condition in which it was found by our forefathers. What good man would prefer a country covered with forests, and ranged by a few thousand savages, to our extensive republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms; embellished with all the improvements which art can devise, or industry execute; occupied by more than twelve millions of happy people, and filled with all the blessings of liberty, civilization, and religion!

SOURCE 2A EXCERPT 2, PAGE 2

The present policy of the Government is but a continuation of the same progressive change, by a milder process. The tribes which occupied the countries now constituting the Eastern States were annihilated, or have melted away, to make room for the whites. The waves of population and civilization are rolling to the Westward; and we now propose to acquire the countries occupied by the red men of the South and West, by a fair exchange, and, at the expense of the U. States, to send them to a land where their existence may be prolonged, and perhaps made perpetual. Doubtless it will be painful to leave the graves of their fathers; but what do they more than our ancestors did, or than our children are now doing? To better their condition in an unknown land, our forefathers left all that was dear in earthly objects. Our children, by thousands, yearly leave the land of their birth, to seek new homes in distant regions. Does humanity weep at these painful separations from every thing, animate and inanimate, with which the young heart has become entwined? Far from it. It is rather a source of joy that our country affords scope where our young population may range unconstrained in body or in mind, developing the power and faculties of man in their highest perfection. These remove hundreds, and almost thousands of miles, at their own expense, purchase the lands they occupy, and support themselves at their new home from the moment of their arrival. Can it be cruel in this Government, when, by events which it cannot control, the Indian is made discontented in his ancient home, to purchase his lands, to give him a new and extensive terri-

SOURCE 2A EXCERPT 2, PAGE 3

tory, to pay the expense of his removal, and support him a year in his new abode? How many thousands of our own people would gladly embrace the opportunity of removing to the west on such conditions! If the offers made to the Indians were extended to them, they would be hailed with gratitude and joy.

And is it supposed that the wandering savage has a stronger attachment to his home, than the settled, civilized Christian? Is it more afflicting to him to leave the graves of his fathers, than it is to our brothers and children? Rightly considered, the policy of the General Government towards the red man is not only liberal but generous. He is unwilling to submit to the laws of the States, and mingle with their population. To save him from this alternative, or perhaps utter annihilation, the General Government kindly offers him a new home, and proposes to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement.

In the consummation of a policy originating at an early period, and steadily pursued by every administration within the present century—so just to the States, and so generous to the Indians, the Executive feels it has a right to expect the co-operation of Congress, and of all good and disinterested men. The States, moreover, have a right to demand it. It was substantially a part of the compact which made them members of our confederacy.

SOURCE 2B EXCERPT

OKLAHOMA. Owing to the impassable condition of the streams, my plan for visiting the Sac and Fox people, and the Shawnees and Pottawatomies, had to be abandoned. From Pawnee I went down through the Oklahoma country to Oklahoma station, (on the A. T. and Sante Fe Branch Road, which now connects through to Galveston, Texas) where stages connect for Darlington and Ft. Reno. This gave opportunity to see the character of this famous, much-coveted country. It is better timbered and watered than any other portion of the Indian Territory I have seen, and grass is abundant; but I do not believe the soil is so good as either east or west of it. It would not better the Wichitas, and the other Indians whom it is proposed to remove into it, so far as the quality of the land is concerned. It is not, as many seem to suppose, the original site of the Garden of Eden, but is far too good a country to be suffered to lie unused when so many of our citizens are seeking homes.

I was asked, both by the President and Mr. Lamar, to give an opinion as to the advisability of removing the Indians west of Oklahoma into this district, so that the reservations now occupied by them might be opened to settlement. After an extended tour and inspection of their reservations, and inquiries into their condition and prospects, I reported that in my estimation it would be unjust, cruel and disastrous to do so.

The theory on which this is proposed is that no treaty stands in the way of their removal, or of the opening of their reservations, since they are on executive order reservations, while there are treaty and other difficulties in the way of throwing open Oklahoma to white settlement.

These reasons are valid in appearance only, but not in reality, while there are very real and urgent reasons why it should not be done. A treaty was made with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, for instance, giving them a reservation north of the one now occupied, but we had no right to give them this land, it being in part embraced in the Cherokee outlet, and the Indians did not understand that it was the land for which they were treating, but supposed they were getting the land which is now occupied by them. They refused to move upon it, and we had no right to remove them to it. After correspondence, the President set apart, by "Executive order," their present reservation, in lieu of that given them by the treaty. Of course he had no power to annul, by Executive order, their treaty rights, among which was the right of any individual Indian, head of a family, to have allotted to him 320 acres of land to be secured by a patent. If the President could rightfully give them this land in lieu of the other, their possession of it carried with it all the rights they had on the other tract.

The Wichitas are said to be on a reservation by unratified treaty, and since the treaty has never been ratified by the Senate there could be no legal obstacle to their being removed. The fact is, these Indians claim always to have been the owners of this land, not only of what they occupy, but of a large body occupied in part by the Kiowas and Comanches, Delawares and Caddoes, and also that which was procured from the Quapaws for the Chickasaws, we treating with those Kansas Indians for land owned by them. Their title to it has never been extinguished. So there are virtual legal and treaty obligations in the way of this removal, fully as sacred as those which prevent us from opening Oklahoma, and certainly the moral obligations are even greater.

SOURCE 2B EXCERPT, PAGE 2

These people, especially the Wichitas, have taken deep root in these lands, have built them homes, and opened up farms. This is being done with most encouraging rapidity by the Cheyennes, Arapahoes and Comanches. It would be a cruel outrage to force them to remove; it would be a disastrous step backward to induce them to go. The lands to which they would remove are not so good as those now occupied; they are bitterly opposed to the plan and it ought not to be attempted. Oklahoma ought to be opened up. It is not needed by the Indians, it cannot be kept empty and ought not to be so kept; but if treaty and moral obligations must be violated, it is better to do so with reference to vacant lands than with reference to established homes. Steps ought to be taken at once to gain the consent of the Seminoles and Creeks to throw this land open to settlement, and it could doubtless be done if a fair price above the thirty cents per acre which we paid for it, for the settlement of Indians upon it, was offered for it.

We know from good authority that an empty house, though swept and furnished, cannot be guarded against demoniacal possession. The only way to keep it clean is to occupy it. But we ought to have learned something from past experience in regard to the removal of Indians from their homes to satisfy the convenience or the greed of the white man. Much and bitter complaint has been made that the President has failed to appoint a Commission, which he was authorized to do, to treat with the Indians of the territory for a surrender of their treaty rights in regard to land. The appointment of such a Commission, simply to treat with them for their consent, is seemingly a very innocent and proper thing to do, but it is very much like the act of March 1st, 1883, empowering the President to consolidate agencies and tribes, at his discretion, “with the consent of the tribes to be affected thereby, expressed in the usual way,” which J. P. Dunn, Jr., interprets to mean “The President is authorized and empowered to drive the Indians from their native homes, and place them on unhealthy and uncongenial reservations, whenever sufficient political influence has been brought to bear upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or the Secretary of the Interior, by men who desire the lands of any tribe, to induce a recommendation for their removal. Provided, that before any tribe shall be removed the members thereof shall be bullied, cajoled or defrauded into consenting to the removal.” Mr. Dunn reminds us that the Modoc war was caused by attempting to force these Indians to stay on a reservation with the hostile Klamaths, who would give them no peace, nor allow them to raise food. The Sioux war of 1876 resulted from an enforcement of an order for that nation to abandon the Powder River country, which we had guaranteed them as a hunting ground, and to limit them to their reservation, where there was no game.

The Nez Perce war of 1877 was caused by an attempt to force Joseph's band of Lower Nez Perces to abandon their own home, their title to which had never been extinguished, and go upon the Lapwai Reserve.

SOURCE 2B EXCERPT, PAGE 3

All our troubles with the Chiracahua Apaches since 1876 have come from our attempts to remove them from their native mountains to an unhealthy and intolerable place for mountain Indians, to live with a band unfriendly to them. The wars with Victorio's Apaches resulted from the discontinuance of their reservation, and an order for their removal to San Carlos. The war with the northern Cheyennes came from an attempt to make them stay in the Indian Territory, which proved unhealthy for them. The shame and disgrace of the Ponca removal is yet fresh in mind, and a war, which would have marked the path hewn by them from the Indian Territory back to their old home in Nebraska, would have been a legitimate outcome of this outrage had Standing Bear's band been stronger.

The Hualapais, removed to the Colorado River, escaped extermination, so unhealthy was the new home, only by fleeing from it in a body. The list might be indefinitely extended, but those who make our laws touching Indian affairs, and those entrusted with their administration, seem incapable of learning anything from the history of the past.

The present Commissioner of Indian Affairs returns, in his last report, to his recommendations in regard to the removal of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, Wichitas and associated tribes, so that the clamor about Oklahoma may be hushed, and politicians, urged forward by their constituents who want these lands, are unwearied in their efforts to have this outrage committed. The friends of the Indian ought to take tenable ground in their opposition to this, lest in mistaken efforts to maintain, pro forma, the exact proportions of the treaty, or other rights of these people, they shall lose all. We may as well settle it first as last, and better now than later, that such an immense territory as now lies vacant and worse than useless under the shadow of old treaties, can never, as a matter of fact, be held for such time as the Indian, left to himself, may be able to utilize it and cause it to contribute what it is capable of doing to meet the world's cry for food. But a successful appeal may be hopefully made to the American people as against essential and absolute injustice and cruel wrong, and this appeal should be promptly and distinctly made.

It is already apparent that the time of the land-grabber is short, and that what he does to rob the Indian of his land must be done quickly, before the severalty law gives it to him by an inalienable title. Efforts in this direction will be earnest and unremitting; the vigilance and efforts of the Indians' friends must not be less so.