

The committee to whom was referred the letter of the commissioners authorised to form treaties with the Indian tribes, having conferred with the said commissioners upon the subject of their letter, and the resolutions of 18th of March, directing a treaty to be held at Post St. Vincent, on the [blank] day of June next, report ...

The **COMMITTEE** to whom was referred the **LETTER** of the **COMMISSIONERS** authorised to form **TREATIES** with the **INDIAN TRIBES**, having conferred with the said Commissioners upon the subject of their Letter, and the Resolutions of 18th of March, directing a **TREATY** to be held at Post **ST. VINCENT**, on the day of June next, **REPORT**,

THAT from the statement of the commissioners, effectually to carry the said treaty into execution, there will be necessary for the purchase of goods, in addition to those on hand, and the sum voted by the resolutions of the 18th March last, 3000 dollars, for the support of the commissioners and others necessarily attending the treaty, 2000 dollars; and for the pay of the officers, messengers, interpreters and artificers, 2000 dollars; that a sum will still be wanting, to pay for the transportation of the goods to the post at which the treaty will be held, but that the amount cannot be precisely ascertained, and must therefore be left with the board of treasury.

That it is also necessary a power should exist to controul all circumstances which might arise to prevent or disturb the treaty. That this power should be vested in the

Library of Congress

commissioners, and extend to the confinement of persons and seizure of property, during the treaty, as circumstances may require.

When they consider the very important interests which the states have in the western country, and the duties which have already devolved on them respecting it; your committee take the liberty to suggest to Congress, the propriety of turning the attention of the commissioners during their residence there, to the following objects. As a friendly commercial intercourse between the citizens of the United States, and the several tribes of Indians, must always be advantageous to both parties, the committee propose, that as the commissioners from their being on the ground, will possess the necessary knowledge for the purpose, that they be empowered to make such temporary regulations respecting the said trade, as they shall think expedient, to be in force until repealed, and report the same to Congress.

By the act of cession from the state of Virginia, it is stipulated, "That the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents, and other neighbouring villages, who have professed themselves citizens of Virginia, shall have their possessions and titles confirmed to them, and be protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberties." To carry this into effect, it is necessary that the origin and extent of their rights be fully ascertained; and for this purpose the committee propose, that the commissioners be instructed to obtain from them, authentic documents thereof, and report the same to the board of treasury. The state of Virginia having also relinquished her right of jurisdiction, and no government being as yet established over the said inhabitants and settlers, upon the principles of the resolutions of the 23d of April, 1784, they are of course free from any express engagement or allegiance to the union whatever. The committee considering it as highly improper, that any body of men should inhabit any part of the territory within the United States without acknowledging its authority; suggest that the commissioners be instructed to administer to the said inhabitants an oath of allegiance or fidelity, in the following form.

Library of Congress

“I, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will be true and faithful to the United States of America; that I renounce all allegiance and dependance upon any foreign prince of potentate whatsoever; and that I will, as becomes a good citizen, as far as in me lies, protect and defend the said United States from all attacks and invasions from other powers.”

That they advise and assist them in forming a temporary government upon the principles of said resolutions.

The committee being informed from good authority, that many people have crossed the Ohio, and settled upon the lands of the United States, are of opinion that unless this is immediately discountenanced and measures taken effectually to prevent it in future, but little dependence may be put on those lands as a fund for the payment of the public debt, for this purpose they propose that the following proclamation be issued and published in the papers of every state, and that copies be furnished to the commissioners for the purpose of publication in said country.

“**WHEREAS** it hath been presented to the United States in Congress assembled, that several disorderly persons have crossed the river Ohio, and settled upon their unappropriated lands. And whereas it is their intention as soon as it shall be surveyed, to open offices for the sale of a considerable part thereof, in such proportion and under such other regulation as may suit the convenience of all the citizens of the said states, and others who may wish to become purchasers of the same; and as such conduct tends to defeat the object which they have in view, is in direct opposition to the ordinances and resolutions of Congress, and highly disrespectful of the federal authority, they have therefore thought fit, and do hereby issue this their proclamation, strictly forbidding all such unwarrantable intrusions, and enjoining all those who have settled thereon, to depart with their families and effects without loss of time, as they shall answer the same at their peril;”
whereupon

Library of Congress

1. **RESOLVED**, That the commissioner instructed to hold a treaty under the resolutions of the 18th of March last, with the western tribes of Indians, at post St. Vincent, on the day of June, next, for the purpose of obtaining from them a cession of lands, be and they are hereby authorised to avail themselves of the disposition of the Indians, and the funds committed to their charge to make such cession as extensive and liberal as possible.
2. That the board of treasury take order for the purchase of goods in addition to those on hand at fort M'Intosh, and those ordered to be purchased by the resolutions of the 18th of March last, for the purpose of carrying the said treaty fully into effect, to an amount not exceeding 3000 dollars.
3. That they take order for the purchase of provisions and other stores for the support of the commissioners, and others necessarily attending the treaty, to an amount not exceeding 2000 dollars.
4. That they take order to answer upon the draft of the commissioners of the treaty, for the pay of the officers, messengers, interpreters and artificers, in a sum not exceeding 2000 dollars.
5. That the board of treasury take order for contracting upon the best terms they can, for the transportation of the said goods, to the place at which the treaty may be held, or such other places as the commissioners may think proper.
6. That the commissioners be, and are hereby authorised to make rules and regulations for the management of the treaty, and the government of all those who attend it, to license, or prohibit the sale of goods, liquors, and arrest the person, and seize the property of those who violate such regulation.
7. That they are hereby authorised to form rules and regulations for the government of the trade, between the citizens of the United States and the Indians, which shall have

Library of Congress

effect until repealed; provide that no monopoly is created thereby, and report the same to Congress

8. That they endeavour to obtain from the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskies, St. Vincents, and the neighbouring villages, a statement of their rights to lands within the said country, with the origin and extent thereof, and report the same to the board of treasury. That they also administer to them the following oath of allegiance.

(Insert the oath.) 9. That they prohibit the settlement of the persons, not properly authorised for that purpose, upon the unappropriated lands of the United States, under the penalty of their displeasure, and that they cause to be circulated in the said country, the following proclamation.

(Insert the proclamation.) That the instructions heretofore given to the commissioners authorized to form treaties with the Indian tribes in the northern and middle departments, not hereby repealed, continue in full force; and that the secretary at war, be, and he is hereby directed to order the troops in the service of the United States, to be in readiness to march at such time, and to such place or places, as the said commissioners or any two of them shall direct.