

22735

RECEIVED
FED. AUG 29

1887

Miss Parson,

Brown Bay A.

Aug. 24. 1887,

Encl. Newspaper
clip re. to the pro-
posed allotment of
lands to the Ojibwa
Indians, and also in
the statement made
therein.

Yds

17/53

NOT A MAJORITY.

22735

United States Indian Service,

Whitefield Agency,

Green Bay Agency, Reshwa, Wis. August 24th, 1887.

Hitch in the Proposed Allotment in Severalty of Oneida Lands. GREEN BAY, Aug. 23.—[Special.]—The announcement made last week that the Oneida Indians had concluded to have their lands allotted in severalty seems to have been premature. Chief Cornelius Hostater, in an interview to-day, says that only a small minority of the tribe was notified of the council held with Indian Agent Jennings and the special agent from Washington last week, and that the vote in favor of an allotment at that time, while being a majority of those present, was in reality only a very small minority of the whole tribe. A council was held last night, at which the

Indian Affairs
Wm. H. C.

Sir:

I advised you several days ago that the Oneidas had voted by a large majority to take lands in severalty, though there was considerable opposition to the proposition. I enclose you a special dispatch from Green Bay, Wis. to the Oshkosh, Wis. Times, in which the allegation is made that only a small minority of the tribe was notified of the Council held by me, that "Chief" Hostater says the action taken by the Council held by me has been condemned & that a general Council will be held August 29th when a large majority of the tribe will "protest" against taking lands in severalty. For the purpose of relieving you from any anxiety on the subject permit me to say that this alleged "Chief" Cornelius Hostater is not a man of any prominence in the tribe & is not recognized as having any authority to speak for the Oneidas,

United States Indian Service,

Agency,

, 188 .

that ample notice was given to all the meida of the Council held by me, that not less than 200 adult Indians were present at the Council, being at least $\frac{4}{5}$ of all the meida adults, that a large majority of all the adult males of the tribe voted to take land in severalty, after a two day's discussion of the question, that the Council house was not large enough to hold all the Indians & we had to adjourn to the school house to accommodate the large assemblage, that no coercion or intimidation was used on my part and that the Indians voted freely & fully after a thorough discussion of the question. After the vote was taken I waited for objections before announcing the result, asked if any one desired a re-count, or objected that there was not a decisive majority of all the tribe in favor of allotments - no objection or question was raised (and the opponents of the measure had plenty of good letters & shrewd politicians) and I declared

United States Indian Service,

..... Agency,

....., 188 .

the result after full deliberation & to the satisfaction of all.
 The newspaper report is not true. The tribe has voted to
 take land in severalty and there is no reason why the lands
 should not be allotted at once. The Indians are civilized
 so far as they can be under the present system & allotments will
 be of great benefit to the tribe. Yours respectfully

William Parson,
 U.S. Special Indian Agent.

It will take me several days yet to get the census properly written
 out & to complete my report

I agree that the above statement
 is correct

Thos Jennings
 U.S. Indian Agent