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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd NOV 7

1887

29611 = 1887
C. C. Painter

Leaves letter from
James E. Rhoads
rel. to allotting lands
to the Onida Indian
of Wisconsin

Wagner

File

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INDIA OFFICE.

1887

Inclos No. 2

Provy Lawr. Anna., Louo. 8. 1887.

Professor C.C. Painter.

My Dear Friend

To day there called upon me two delegates of the portion of the Oneida tribe of the Six Nations, living on a reservation, a few miles from the town of Green Bay, Wisconsin. I visited them in 1875, and know these men, of whom the names are Henry K. Leoker and George Doctaler. Several years since I had prepared a Bill for dividing their lands in severalty (1875) which was laid aside by the Department and not acted upon. Their Reserve contains 65,520 acres, of which two thirds is good, cultivable land; the remainder is low marshy and it will be difficult to reclaim it, or farm it. The tribe num-

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less 1600 members but have admitted
4000 more of them affiliated with them
but not entitled by their essays Wright
wrote land to share their reserve with
them. This makes the allotment of good
land to each about 21 acres, and this is
land healthy as it is for homes, should be
equitably divided among them, the re-
mainder being also allotted wisely, due
regard being had to the value of the land
upon some parts of it. They are a
healthy vigorous people, fairly industrious,
orderly, and many of them Christians.
In every way they deserve well of the
people of the U.S. The lots now occupied
vary in size from one or a few acres,
to 300 acres in one instance. These
few large farms have good houses, some
of them of bricks; and other farm build-
ings, good fences &c. Such land is
worth, off the reserve, from \$30000

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An acre. Those holding these larger
farms, have tilled them, or bought them,
or have inherited them from their fathers.
In an allotment they will have to buy
with portions of their farms and
lengths should appropriate, say
\$10,000 to be applied to paying them
for their losses, and adding the
power Ovaidas to make a start.
This Band of Ovaidas state that
they have no money in the hands of
the Government. An annuity of \$1000
is paid them for their yearly taid
during the earlier years of this
country. They have six day schools,
on their Reserve, and a few of their
children are admitted to a Boarding
School designed for the Micmacs.
The Deputies ~~talked~~ talked of a Board-
ing School for them, but has not start-
ed one.

There are two missions, Episcopal and Methodist, on the Resene, each of which contains a school.

Thomas Jennings is their Agent. The Special Agt sent by the Dept. to visit them was named Parsons. He made them some promise of "generous" treatment by the U.S. & they are looking for a large sum of money only to be disappointed. Two thirds of their people ~~are~~ have voted for allotments, but are now drawing back in many instances.

Their Agt. has been advised them to present a petition to the Dept. for funds to re-survey their lands and to purchase implements &c. When you go to Washington I wish you would examine into the whole matter & see that a good Commissioner is sent to them, to allot their lands, & that justice is done them.

Very respectfully,

James M. Howard