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STATE OF NEW-YORK,

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION.

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STATE OF NEW-YORK.

No. 51.

IN SENATE,

February 28, 1838.

REPORT

Of the committee on Indian affairs, on the petition of
Henry Powles, Adam Swamp, Daniel Bread and Ja-
cob Cornelius.

Mr Loomis, from the committee on Indian affairs, to whom was re-
ferred the petition of Henry Powles, Adam Swamp, Daniel Bread and
Jacob Cornelius, chiefs of that portion of the Oneida tribe of Indians now
residing at Duck creek, in the territory of Wisconsin,

REPORTS:

The petition referred to sets forth, that the said Indians, having dis-
posed of all their lands in the State of New-York and removed to the
territory of Wisconsin, now own and occupy 65,000 acres of land, on
which they intend permanently to reside: that they have found, from
experience, that the annuity which they now receive from the State of
New-York affords them little substantial relief: that they are struggling
to obtain a livelihood by the cultivation of the soil, at their new home,
and that in commencing their improvements they have necessarily con-
tracted debts, which the small amount of their annuity is insufficient to
enable them to discharge: that they are desirous to erect buildings, and
make further improvements, beyond their present means, which they
believe will materially promote the welfare and prosperity of such por-
tion of the said tribe. They therefore pray that a law may be passed
authorizing the appointment, on the part of this State, of a commis-
sioner or agent, who shall be empowered to receive, on behalf of the
said Indians, the principal of the fund invested, from which their annui-

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ties accrue, so far as they may be entitled to the same, and to pay out the said moneys, with the consent of the chiefs and head men of the said Indians: first, in discharging the just debts of the said Indians; and secondly, in apportioning the remainder among that portion of the said tribe entitled thereto, residing at the place aforesaid, in the said territory of Wisconsin, in such manner as shall be equitable and just.

Your committee have availed themselves of all the means of information on this subject within their reach, and have become satisfied that the facts set forth in the petition are true. It then becomes an important question whether the interests and welfare of the petitioners will be promoted by the payment of the principal of the fund, as proposed, and the consequent extinguishment of their annuities from this State.

The amount of the fund from which the annuities now paid to the petitioners is derived is, as near as your committee can readily ascertain, about \$55,648. The number of the said Indians, as estimated in 1837, when their annuity was last paid, was five hundred and ninety-nine.

Upon a deliberate consideration of all the circumstances appertaining to the question, and particularly the difficulties incident to the establishment of a new settlement in a new country, the distance of the present residence of the petitioners from this State, and the necessity of more extended means for early improvements upon their lands than is afforded by their annuity, in order to insure their success in their agricultural efforts, your committee are inclined to view this application favorably; and, therefore, ask leave to present a bill.

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Of the Regents of the

Hon. JNO. TRACY,

*President of the S*SIR—I transmit herewith the
University, to the Legislature.

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[Senate No. 52.]