(copy)

(32)

Office U. S. Neosho Agency
January 14th, 1858

Sir:

I have to inform you that two gentlemen representing themselves as commissioners for the Leavenworth and Fort Gibson Rail Road Company, by the names of J. B. Chapman and M. M. Hann held a council with some chiefs of two of the Osage Bands of Indians and purchased from them a strip of country ten miles wide, and running down the Neosho River, making the west bank of said stream the Eastern boundary of the ten miles, and extending from their northern boundary to the Southern. I learn that they agreed to allow them one dollar and a quarter an acre for the land, and that the company is to pay the Indians six per cent from the time it was signed, which was on the 7th inst, up to the time the Rail Road is completed and then the Osages are to take the whole amount in stock and be treated as other stockholders, that is, a dividend is to be struck at the close of every six months, which is to be paid them as an annuity. I predict that the youngest Indian now living will never see that annuity. In this matter of dividend and holding of stock, I apprehend they do not understand

and they are no doubt deceived. — I learn also from my Interpreter that those who have improvements on the ten miles, are to have a reservation of 320 acres and that the Company is to have that annuity in other portions of the Osage lands.

All this was done by minority of the Chiefs and not in presence of the Agent. With my understanding of the intercourse law, it is all a violation of law, unless it may be there has been some recent law passed empowering Rail Road companies to make treaties with Indian tribes without receiving any instructions further from the Government, and if that be so I have never been furnished with said law. If any Company may have the right to call Indians together and purchase lands from them, in a very short time, all the valuable Indian lands will be wore by large Companies and the farming and industrious working man will have to pay ten prices for it or it must lay vacant; for these Companies only wish these large tracts of lands along the streams where there is a plenty of timber and the best of the lands in Kansas. If that Contract should be sanctioned by the Senate, my prediction is that, the Government has bought the last Cheap