from appropriations made by Congress, and their compensation otherwise than the fixed salary of $500 each per annum, is based on the amount of business done at the local office, providing that both salary and commissions shall not exceed $3,000 each. The only exception to this rule is made by the Act of August 5th, 1882, which provides that the expenses incident to the sale of the Osage lands shall be paid by the receivers of public moneys from the proceeds of the sale. You admit that these filing fees arise from the sale of the Osage lands. Is it not therefore unreasonable to deprive the Indians of the amount of the fees, and at the same time charge them with a proportion of the salaries and commissions of these officers?

In paragraph second of page four of your letter, you add:

"It is urged by you that the Government makes a profit by the sale of said lands, and that the two dollars on each sale of 160 acres amounts to more than enough to pay the maximum salaries of the officers making the sales. This may be true, yet the Indians cannot complain if they get all they are entitled to under their cession."

The point we make is, the Indians do not get all they are entitled to under their cession. They did not part with their lands to the United States for a money consideration. The United States acts merely as a trustee or agent for the sale of these lands to others, and the treaty expressly stipulates these lands are to be sold for the *benefit of the Indians.* The Government has no rights, therefore, either in law or equity to make one dollar out of the Indians.

The filing fees up to June 30th, 1884, amount to $92,700, and the expenses of selling the land, per the report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, amounts to $132,676.45.

Are the several appropriations to be reimbursed by this large sum, $132,676.45, and at the same time does the United States propose to make $92,700 clear profit by selling the Indian lands? If the United States had agreed by its