

LAW OFFICE OF SAMUEL J. CRAWFORD,
1416 F Street N. W.,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 9th, 1889.*

The Honorable

SECOND COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY.

SIR: We are informed that an account between the United States and the Osage Indian Nation, involving the recovery of the fees received by the Receivers of Public Moneys from declaratory statements made in entering the lands of the Osages in the State of Kansas, is before you. This account was stated by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, at our request, as the Attorneys for the Osages, acting by authority conferred in a contract dated August 10th, 1885.

The question as to the ownership of the fees received from the declaratory statements filed on Osage Indian lands under sections 2238 and 2283, R. S., have been fully discussed in three briefs on this subject, filed with the First Comptroller of the Treasury, dated March 17th, 20th, and 30th, 1886. (Copies herewith.) That officer decided adversely to the claim of the Osages March 25th, 1886. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to state that every point made in this decision by the First Comptroller, was refuted in the motion for reconsideration, dated March 30th, 1886. We succeeded in obtaining a later decision upon the case by the Second Comptroller, which was dated December 6th, 1886, the Supreme Court of the United States having decided that the latter officer was the proper person to decide in matters relating to Indian affairs, in the Brindle case. (110 U. S. Reports, 694.) It was supposed that the last decision finally ended the matter, and, accordingly, application was made as stated December 22d, 1888, to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, for the statement of an account between the United States and