

nine, and ratified by the present Congress; and if said Cherokee Nation shall accept, and by act of its legislative authority, duly passed, ratify the same, the said lands shall thereupon become a part of the public domain for the purpose of such disposition as is herein provided, and the President is authorized, as soon thereafter as he may deem advisable, by proclamation to open said lands to settlement in the same manner and to the same effect as in this act provided concerning the lands acquired from said Creek Indians, but until said lands are opened for settlement by proclamation of the President, no person shall be permitted to enter upon and occupy the same, and no person violating this provision shall be permitted to enter any of said lands or acquire any right thereto."

I.

On behalf of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes of Indians, who own lands west of the said ninety-sixth degree, we respectfully submit for your consideration, and such action as you may deem proper, the following brief statement of the law and the facts:

Prior to October 14, 1865, the said Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians, from time immemorial, owned and occupied a tract of country bounded as follows—

"Beginning at the junction of the north and south forks of the Platte river; thence up the north fork to the top of the principal range of the Rocky Mountains, or to the Red Buttes; thence southwardly along the summit of the Rocky Mountains to the headwaters of the Arkansas river; thence down the Arkansas river, to the Cimarron crossing of the same; thence to the place of beginning." (14 Stat. 704.)