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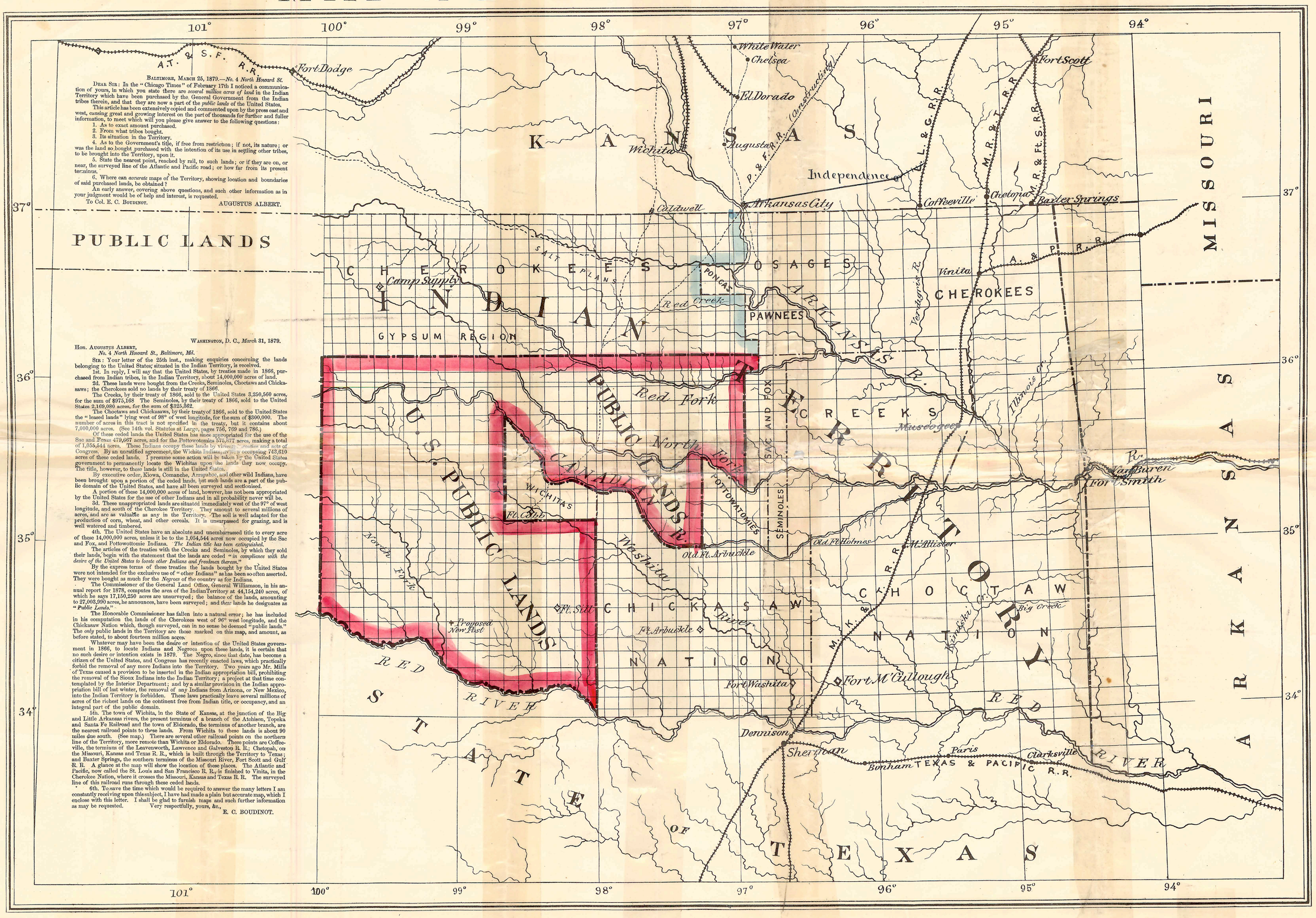
MAP OF INDIAN TERRITORY.



BALTIMORE, MARCH 25, 1879.—*No. 4 North Howard St.*

DEAR SIR: In the "Chicago Times" of February 17th I noticed a communication of yours, in which you state there are *several million acres of land* in the Indian Territory which have been purchased by the General Government from the Indian tribes therein, and that they are now a part of the *public lands* of the United States.

This article has been extensively copied and commented upon by the press east and west, causing great and growing interest on the part of thousands for further and fuller information, to meet which will you please give answer to the following questions:

1. As to exact amount purchased.
2. From what tribes bought.
3. Its situation in the Territory.
4. As to the Government's title, if free from restriction; if not, its nature; or was the land so bought purchased with the intention of its use in settling other tribes, to be brought into the Territory, upon it.
5. State the nearest point, reached by rail, to such lands; or if they are on, or near, the surveyed line of the Atlantic and Pacific road; or how far from its present terminus.
6. Where can *accurate* maps of the Territory, showing location and boundaries of said purchased lands, be obtained?

An early answer, covering above questions, and such other information as in your judgment would be of help and interest, is requested.

To Col. E. C. BOUDINOT. AUGUSTUS ALBERT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March* 31, 1879.

HON. AUGUSTUS ALBERT,
No. 4 North Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

SIR: Your letter of the 25th inst., making enquiries concerning the lands belonging to the United States, situated in the Indian Territory, is received.

1st. In reply, I will say that the United States, by treaties made in 1866, purchased from Indian tribes, in the Indian Territory, about 14,000,000 acres of land.

2d. These lands were bought from the Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws and Chickasaws; the Cherokees sold no lands by their treaty of 1866.

The Creeks, by their treaty of 1866, sold to the United States 3,250,560 acres, for the sum of $975,168 The Seminoles, by their treaty of 1866, sold to the United States 2,169,080 acres, for the sum of $325,362.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws, by their treaty of 1866, sold to the United States the "leased lands" lying west of 98° of west longitude, for the sum of $300,000. The number of acres in this tract is not specified in the treaty, but it contains about 7,000,000 acres. (See 14th vol. Statutes at Large, pages 756, 759 and 786.)

Of these ceded lands the United States has since appropriated for the use of the Sac and Foxes 479,667 acres, and for the Pottowotomies 575,877 acres, making a total of 1,055,544 acres. These Indians occupy these lands by virtue of treaties and acts of Congress. By an unratified agreement, the Wichita Indians, now occupying 745,610 acres of these ceded lands. I presume some action will be taken by the United States government to permanently locate the Wichitas upon the lands they now occupy. The title, however, to these lands is still in the United States.

By executive order, Kiowa, Comanche, Arrapaho, and other wild Indians, have been brought upon a portion of the ceded lands, but such lands are a part of the public domain of the United States, and have all been surveyed and sectionised.

A portion of these 14,000,000 acres of land, however, has not been appropriated by the United States for the use of other Indians and in all probability never will be.

3d. These unappropriated lands are situated immediately west of the 97° of west longitude, and south of the Cherokee Territory. They amount to several millions of acres, and are as valuable as any in the Territory. The soil is well adapted for the production of corn, wheat, and other cereals. It is unsurpassed for grazing, and is well watered and timbered.

4th. The United States have an absolute and unembarrassed title to every acre of these 14,000,000 acres, unless it be to the 1,054,544 acres now occupied by the Sac and Fox, and Pottowotomie Indians. *The Indian title has been extinguished.*

The articles of the treaties with the Creeks and Seminoles, by which they sold their lands, begin with the statement that the lands are ceded "*in compliance with the desire of the United States to locate other Indians and freedmen thereon.*"

By the express terms of these treaties the lands bought by the United States were not intended for the exclusive use of "other Indians" as has been so often asserted. They were bought as much for the *Negroes* of the country as for Indians.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office, General Williamson, in his annual report for 1878, computes the area of the Indian Territory at 44,154,240 acres, of which he says 17,150,250 acres are unsurveyed; the balance of the lands, amounting to 27,003,990 acres, he announces, have been surveyed; and *these* lands he designates as "*Public Lands.*"

The Honorable Commissioner has fallen into a natural error; he has included in his computation the lands of the Cherokees west of 96° west longitude, and the Chickasaw Nation which, though surveyed, can in no sense be deemed "public lands." The *only* public lands in the Territory are those marked on this map, and amount, as before stated, to about fourteen million acres.

Whatever may have been the desire or intention of the United States government in 1866, to locate Indians and Negroes upon these lands, it is certain that no such desire or intention exists in 1879. The Negro, since that date, has become a citizen of the United States, and Congress has recently enacted laws, which practically forbid the removal of any more Indians into the Territory. Two years ago Mr. Mills of Texas caused a provision to be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill, prohibiting the removal of the Sioux Indians into the Indian Territory; a project at that time contemplated by the Interior Department; and by a similar provision in the Indian appropriation bill of last winter, the removal of any Indians from Arizona, or New Mexico, into the Indian Territory is forbidden. These laws practically leave several millions of acres of the richest lands on the continent free from Indian title, or occupancy, and an integral part of the public domain.

5th. The town of Wichita, in the State of Kansas, at the junction of the Big and Little Arkansas rivers, the present terminus of a branch of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and the town of Eldorado, the terminus of another branch, are the nearest railroad points to these lands. From Wichita to these lands is about 90 miles due south. (See map.) There are several other railroad points on the northern line of the Territory, more remote than Wichita or Eldorado. These points are Coffeeville, the terminus of the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston R. R.; Chetopah, on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas R. R., which is built through the Territory to Texas; and Baxter Springs, the southern terminus of the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf R. R. A glance at the map will show the location of these places. The Atlantic and Pacific, now called the St. Louis and San Francisco R. R., is finished to Vinita, in the Cherokee Nation, where it crosses the Missouri, Kansas and Texas R. R. The surveyed line of this railroad runs through these ceded lands.

6th. To save the time which would be required to answer the many letters I am constantly receiving upon this subject, I have had made a plain but accurate map, which I enclose with this letter. I shall be glad to furnish maps and such further information as may be requested. Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

E. C. BOUDINOT.