

Office Supr Ind Affairs
Oklahoma May 28th 1866

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge & the receipt of your letter of the 2^d. Uto directing me to inform myself as to the necessity or propriety of selling the land reserved by the United States at the site of the Agency house in the Shawnee Country, and the present value of the same, and in reply thereto, I have to state that on the 15th. inst, I visited the said land & find that it is located on the Missouri line, about two miles from Westport & 3 1/2 from Kansas City, contains about 157 acres - 80 acres prairie, the balance brush wood and some timber - Most of the good timber has been cut off, no improvements, I found two men on it putting up temporary improvements, one on one side & one on the other, each hoping to secure title to it under the Homestead law. One of these men is a Missourian who lives just across the line in Missouri; the other a white man who married a Shawnee Indian; These men had been told that this piece of land belonged

to the United States, and not to the
Indians, and hence their desire
to secure it. I explained to them that
they had no right to be on the land,
and ordered them to leave or they
would be treated as trespassers.

But my orders were disregarded and
they have not moved off.

In my opinion the land is worth
from \$10- to \$15- per acre. I can
see no particular necessity for selling
the land at this time, and believe
that the question of sale would
not have been agitated, were it not
for the fact that some interested
party or parties expect to get posses-
sion of the land at a mere nominal
price.

Should the Department see proper
to sell it now I recommend that
sealed proposals be invited for
the purchase of the same duly ad-
vertized.

I have also to request that
I may be furnished with instructions
as to what course I shall adopt with
the parties now on the land.

Very Respectfully
(over)

Genl. A. L. Sumner
Hos. Murphy
Capt. Geo. Hoffman

Genl. A. L. Cooley
Commissioner
Washington
D.C.