

DeSoto Kansas
June 15th 1867

Sir

Your letter of the 5th ult. regarding an investigation of the destitution of certain Shawnee Indians was duly received and the duty has been performed. I find that there are about seventy five of the Black Rob band and about the same number of the Absentees who are really needing assistance and also about fifty of the so-called Shawnees who are absolutely suffering for food to live upon. I would here state that some of the Absentees have recently joined the Black Rob band, ^(or are living in the B R settlements) and in my judgment should be sent to Mr Shanslin's Agency.

The Absentees and members of the Black Rob settlement are without property of any kind which could be converted into means for their

support. Some of the B B, who have made
selections of lands. (should said selections be
Approved) could sell sufficient to sustain
themselves and most of the destitute. Scarcely
Indians own at least one half of the lands
assigned them. Now if the rules of the Dept
governing the sales of their lands could be
modified so as to allow them to dispose of
say three fourths of their lands as was originally
the case then would be no necessity for any
assistance furnished them by the Department.

I am of the opinion Substantance
should be furnished ~~for~~ such destitute persons
for the time being, and I would respectfully
recommend that such as may become able by
sale of lands or otherwise be required to refund
to the Government the cost of annuities they may
have received.

I also Enclose letters from Parker Fish
Malcolm Rogers and others in reference to the

above matter. and my own investigation
convince me that Fish has overestimated the
number of the Black Bobs and Absentees^{who} are
actually suffering.

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Resd Thos Murphy
Capt Ind Affairs
Atchison Kansas

I Am Sir
Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt Servt
W D Layton
U S Ind Agent