

Headquarters Army of the United States  
Washington, D.C. Jan'y 4th, 1869

To the Caughnawaga Indians :--

Your letter was duly handed to me by your delegate, and on January 2nd I submitted its contents to the United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He was unable himself to do anything in the matter but promised that he would himself see the United States Secretary of the Treasury, to whom is committed the customs regulations and the collection of duties on imports and try to get him to issue an order to his agent and collectors to exempt Indians from the payment of customs duties upon articles of their own manufacture. If the Secretary of the Treasury cannot do it the only power which can relieve the Indians lies with Congress, and in that event the Indians would be required to submit the matter by a petition to Congress. The Indian Department is of the opinion that the Indians should not be required to pay duties, and if no relief can be afforded them by the collecting officer of the Government, the Indian Department will aid in getting Congress to pass a special law exempting them.

Your letter to me asked that I might use my influence with Gen. Grant, President elect, to grant your request. Whatever Gen. Grant's opinions and sympathies may be, as President he is the Executor of the laws, and if the law requires you to pay duties he cannot prevent it, but if necessary he will give you his aid in asking Congress to hereafter exempt you from the payment of duties so long as you may maintain your tribal organization.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) ELY S. PARKER,

Iroquois Chief and Bal. Brig. Gen'l U. S. Army



TREASURY DEPARTMENT.  
Washington, D. C., March 15th, 1873.)

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., transmitting a letter from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with a communication from certain parties therein named, asking, in behalf of the Iroquois and other Indians in Canada, that they be relieved from all taxes or duties in their trade and intercourse with the people of the United States

In reply I have to state, that in Section 105 of the Act of March, 1799, it is provided that no duty shall be levied or license collected on the property, goods and effects, of whatever nature, of Indians, passing or repassing the boundary line aforesaid of the United States, unless the same shall be goods in bales or other large packages unusual amount Indians, which shall not be considered as goods belonging bona fide to Indians, nor being exempted from duty aforesaid.

This provision of law was enacted to carry out the provision of Article 3 of the Treaty of Commerce between the United States and Great Britain, ratified 19th November, 1794, it being almost in the precise language of the treaty.

A copy of this letter will be sent by this department to petitioners for their information.

I am respectfully,

To (Signed) WM. A. RICHARDSON,  
HON. C. DELANO, Acting Secretary.  
Secretary of the Interior.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

To the COLLECTOR CUSTOMS at \_\_\_\_\_

The Bearer, Jos. Gaicroniote, belongs to the Iroquois Tribe of Caughnawaga Indians and has articles manufactured by himself and his family, which are free of duty.

(Signed) Joseph Sky, Chief  
Caughnawaga, April 10, 1889. AND SON John Sky.