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Different Indian Tribes of Kansas – To carry into effect treaties, &c. Message from the President of the United States, suggesting a modification of existing laws in reference to treaties with the Indian tribes of Kansas Territory, &c

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 45, 33d Cong., 2nd Sess. (1855)

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DIFFERENT INDIAN TRIBES OF KANSAS—TO CARRY
INTO EFFECT TREATIES, &c.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

SUGGESTING

*A modification of existing laws in reference to treaties with the Indian tribes
of Kansas Territory, &c.*

JANUARY 30, 1855.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States :

I transmit to Congress, herewith, a communication of this date from the Secretary of the Interior, with accompanying papers, and recommend that the appropriations therein asked for be made.

I avail myself of the occasion to suggest a modification of existing laws, with a view to enable me more effectually to carry into execution the treaties with the different Indian tribes in Kansas Territory.

With an earnest desire to promote the early settlement of the ceded lands, as well as those held in trust and to be sold for the benefit of the Indians, I shall exercise all the power entrusted to me, to maintain strictly, and in good faith, our treaty obligations.

I respectfully recommend that provision be made by law requiring the lands which are to be sold on account of the Indians by the government to be appraised and classified; a minimum price to be fixed, for a less sum than which no sales shall be made without further provision of law, and authorizing the sale of the lands in such quantities, and at such times and places as the obligations of the government, the rights of the Indian tribes, and the public interest, with reference to speedy settlement, may render expedient.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, January 29, 1855.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 25, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you, herewith, a copy of a communication addressed to me on the 24th instant, by the Commis-

sioner of the General Land Office, representing that there will be a large deficiency in the appropriation made by act of 4th August last, to meet the "expenses of the collection of revenue from lands" during the present fiscal year, owing to the "unprecedented increase in the sales of public lands."

To supply this deficiency, I respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to make the following appropriation, to wit:

To meet any deficiency which may arise in the appropriation of the 4th August, 1854, for collecting revenue from the public lands, owing to the great increase in the sales thereof—

For salaries and commissions of registers of land offices and receivers of public moneys	\$110,000
For expenses of depositing public moneys by receivers of public moneys	41,000
For incidental expenses of the several land offices	11,000

The Commissioner also suggests, that for similar reasons an increase will probably be required in the appropriations for like objects during the *next* fiscal year. I therefore recommend, in accordance with his suggestion, that the amount asked for in the annual estimates submitted at the commencement of the session for "salaries and commissions," be increased from \$253,400 to \$318,000, and the sum asked for "expenses of depositing" be increased from \$37,650 to \$100,000.

I also have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me on the 16th instant, by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, asking an increase in the amount heretofore estimated for by him for surveying in Kansas and Nebraska, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856, and to recommend that said amount be increased from \$60,000 to \$107,000. And to enable the President of the United States to carry out in good faith the recent treaties with the Ottos and Missourias, the Omahas, Delawares, Iowas, Sacs and Foxes of Missouri, the Kickapoos and the united tribes of Kaskaskias and Peorias, Piankeshaws and Weas, Shawnees and Miamies, the Commissioner recommends an appropriation of \$20,000 in addition to the appropriations heretofore made for the execution of the various surveys required by those treaties.

This recommendation meets my hearty concurrence, and I therefore commend it to your special and favorable consideration.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

R. McCLELLAND,

Secretary.

To the PRESIDENT.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *January 16, 1855.*

SIR: In the estimate from this office for surveying in Kansas and Nebraska during the ensuing fiscal year, which I had the honor to submit to you with my letter of the 4th ultimo, the sum of \$60,000 was presented for such object in both of those Territories. That estimate was made in the absence of any advice from the surveyor general on that subject. I learn from a communication received from him, dated

9th instant, that the further sum of \$47,000 would be required for the expenses of the service in both Territories during the next fiscal year.

This increase seems to be necessary, in consequence of the field of operations for the ensuing year being larger than had been anticipated at this office in the absence of the surveyor general's report. I therefore have respectfully to request that the additional sum, as aforesaid, may be urged on the consideration of Congress, to cover the deficiency in the existing estimate.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON, *Commissioner.*

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,

Secretary of the Interior.

P. S.—From the report of the surveyor general, (copy enclosed,) it will be perceived that the proposed extension of his field of operations is intended to connect the lines of the public surveys with those of the Indian reservations specified in the several treaties ceding that country, and therefore almost indispensable.

And, with a view to enable the President to execute in good faith the recent treaties with the Ottobas and Missourias, Omahas, Delawares, Ioways, Sacs and Foxes of Missouri, Kickapoos, and the united tribes of Kaskaskias and Peorias, Piankeshaws, and Weas, Shawnees, and Miamies, I would earnestly recommend that an appropriation of \$20,000 be asked for, in addition to the appropriations heretofore made for the execution of the various and special surveys required by those several treaties.

With great respect,

JOHN WILSON, *Commissioner.*

WASHINGTON CITY,

January 9, 1855.

SIR: Acting under the discretion given me in your first instructions upon the subject, I examined Kansas and Nebraska with the view to such a location of the guide meridian line as would best avoid the difficulty presented by the Indian reservations, and best subserve the interest of the settlers. After a thorough examination, I concluded to urge upon your consideration the range line between ranges 8 and 9 east, for the reasons that, in its whole extent, it nowhere interfered with Indian lands, and left on its east side, in both Kansas and Nebraska, most of the lands which will be occupied by settlers during the present year. With this view, I had the accompanying map, exhibiting the position and relations of the proposed guide meridian, prepared for your inspection. Your late instructions, directing the location of the guide meridian on the line between ranges 12 and 13 east, is only made applicable to Kansas, and seems to be fixed only with a view to the surveys in that Territory, or south of the base line. As it is presumed to be the design of the department to extend the same line north through Nebraska, I have made the following estimate of the sums re-

quired to carry out what appears to me to be your design in both Territories for the coming year :

For base line, 108 miles, at \$12.....	\$1,296
Meridian line, S., 120 miles, at \$12.....	1,440
Meridian line, N., 144 miles, at \$12.....	1,728
Standard lines, S., 282 miles, at \$8.....	2,256
Standard lines, N., 60 miles, at \$8.....	480
Township lines, S., 2,424 miles, at \$7.....	16,968
Township lines, N., 538 miles, at \$7.....	3,766
Subdivisional lines, S., embracing 220 townships, at \$300 per township.....	66,000
Subdivisional lines, N., 56 townships, at \$300.....	16,800
	<hr/>
	110,734
Add 5 per cent. for errors in length of lines, meanderings, &c.....	5,536
	<hr/>
	<u>116,270</u>

This estimate embraces about 12 townships in Pottowatomie lands, which, at \$300 per township, would amount to \$3,600, and deducted from the above sum, would leave the sum necessary to complete the surveys on this plan of.....\$112,670
 Amount appropriated by last Congress, and unexpected..... 50,000
 Amount necessary to be appropriated..... 62,670

This plan proposes the survey of 208 townships in Kansas, and but 56 in Nebraska, and the expenditure of \$87,397 in Kansas, and but \$23,912 in Nebraska. And as this plan contemplates the survey of but a small portion of the lands at present occupied in Nebraska, and, as no lands can be surveyed west of the guide meridian until the principal meridian is established, I most respectfully suggest that the guide meridian be run on the line dividing ranges 8 and 9, as laid down on the map submitted to your inspection, and that an appropriation be asked for sufficient to complete the survey of all lands east of that line, in Nebraska, and all east of the line between ranges 12 and 13 east, and north of the fourth standard line, as before estimated in Kansas.

This plan would require in Kansas, as before estimated....	\$87,397
Additional standard lines, 96 miles, at \$8.....	768
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Total estimate for Kansas.....	<u>88,165</u>

IN NEBRASKA.

Meridian line, north, 180 miles, at \$12.....	\$2,160
Standard lines, 204 miles, at \$8.....	1,632
Township lines, 1,596 miles, at \$7.....	10,172
Subdivisional lines, 161 townships, at \$300 per township....	48,300
	<hr/>
	62,264

Brought forward.....	\$62,264
Add 5 per cent. on this sum, as before.....	3,113
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Total estimate for Nebraska.....	65,377
Total estimate for Kansas.....	88,165
Base line common to both Territories.....	1,296
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Total estimate on this plan.....	154,838
Amount appropriated at late session.....	50,000
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Amount necessary to be appropriated.....	104,838
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To complete the surveys east of the principal meridian will require the expenditure of a sum in the neighborhood of \$300,000; as the wants of the country will probably require the survey of all east of the true meridian during this year and the year following, the last estimate will make a very fair division for the two years.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. CALHOUN,

Surveyor General, Kansas and Nebraska.

Hon. JOHN WILSON,

Commissioner General Land Office.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *January 24, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor to state that, from an exhibit of the condition of the appropriation of 4th August, 1854, to meet expenses of collecting the revenue from sales of public lands for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1855, it is apparent that the estimates of this office will fall far short of the amount actually required to meet those expenses.

The estimate referred to was prepared and submitted in my letter of 19th October, 1853, and was then believed to be sufficient for the purposes to which it was to be applied.

The unprecedented increase of the sales of public lands, however, within the last few months has increased the commissions of the district land officers, as well as the expenses of depositing and incidental expenses, to such an amount as to render absolutely necessary a further appropriation by Congress for this purpose.

I therefore have the honor to request that the committee of Ways and Means of the House and of Finance of the Senate be requested to introduce an amendment to the Indian appropriation bill, as follows:

To meet any deficiency which may arise in the appropriation of 4th August, 1854, for collecting revenue from the public lands, owing to the great increase in the sales thereof:

For salaries and commissions, one hundred and ten thousand dollars;

Expenses of depositing, forty-one thousand dollars;

Incidental expenses, eleven thousand dollars; and also, in view of a similar increase, that the items in the estimate submitted 7th October, 1854, be increased as follows, for the service of the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1856:

For salaries and commissions, instead of \$253,400, the sum of \$318,000 be asked; and for expenses of depositing, instead of \$37,650, the sum of \$100,000 be requested.

The amount for incidental expenses will be sufficient as it now stands in the last mentioned estimate.

With great respect,

JOHN WILSON, *Commissioner.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF INTERIOR.