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Appropriation for the Sioux and Winnebago Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, recommending an appropriation for the Sioux and Winnebago Indians of the Upper Missouri, removed from the State of Missouri

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APPROPRIATION FOR THE SIOUX AND WINNEBAGO INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RECOMMENDING

An appropriation for the Sioux and Winnebago Indians of the Upper Missouri, removed from the State of Missouri.

APRIL 14, 1864.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., April 12, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 30th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, enclosing copies of estimates of the superintendent of Indian affairs for the northern superintendency, of the amounts which will be required to defray liabilities incurred for the subsistence of the Sioux and Winnebagoes removed from Minnesota to Dacotah up to 1st of May proximo, to subsist them from that date to the end of the current fiscal year, and to provide for them during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865, and respectfully recommend that the appropriations be made as estimated.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. P. USHER,
Secretary of the Interior.

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, *March 26, 1864.*

SIR: On the 14th instant I sent you an estimate of the funds required to pay the indebtedness and to subsist the Sioux and Winnebago Indians until the 1st day of July next. I now desire to call your attention to the necessities of those two tribes after the 1st of July or during the next fiscal year. There is a large quantity of land broken for them, which will require to be cross-ploughed, planted, and fenced. Their buildings are not yet completed; and, in order to

fairly establish them in their new homes, and put them in position to raise their own subsistence, and be benefited by the expenditures already made on their reservation, it will require a further sum of money, which is as follows, to wit :

For the Sioux and Winnebagoes jointly :

For logs already under contract	\$6, 300
For running the mills	5, 000

For the Winnebagoes :

For agricultural purposes, (ploughing, planting seed, and fencing)	\$8, 000
For mechanical purposes, (iron, nails, glass, tools, and materials for fencing and building)	6, 000
For subsistence during the year, besides what they will probably raise themselves	45, 000

For the Sioux :

For agricultural purposes	\$7, 000
For mechanical purposes	5, 000
For subsistence	25, 000

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CLARK W. THOMPSON,

Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14, 1864.

SIR : Under your instructions of September 28, 1863, I have had delivered, and being delivered, at their agency, provisions for the Sioux and Winnebago Indians for their subsistence until the first day of May next. These provisions were, under your instructions, purchased partly on credit. The time has expired in which they were to be paid for, and I have not received the balance of the estimate, \$53,763 40, which amount is required to meet my engagements. I wish respectfully to call your attention to this subject, and ask that a requisition may be drawn in my favor for that amount.

In this connexion, I would further state that there is no provision made for subsisting those Indians for the months of May and June, (the balance of the fiscal year.) This must be provided, to avoid anticipating the regular appropriations. I estimate as follows, to wit: 3,200 Indians, sixty-one days, at fifteen cents each per day, \$29,280.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CLARK W. THOMPSON,

Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Office Indian Affairs, March 30, 1864.

SIR : I enclose herewith copies of two communications from Clark W. Thompson, esq., superintendent of Indian affairs for the northern superintendency, dated, respectively, 14th and 25th instant, and submitting estimates

of the amounts which will be required to defray liabilities incurred for the subsistence of the Sioux and Winnebagoes removed from Minnesota to Dacotah up to the 1st of May proximo, to subsist them from that date to the end of the current fiscal year, and to provide for them during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865. At the time of the passage of the law requiring these Indians to be removed, it was doubtless anticipated by Congress that the sale of their lands would provide means from which their wants and necessities could be supplied; but owing to the unsettled state of the country formerly occupied by the Sioux, the General Land Office has not deemed it expedient to attempt the survey of their former reserves, and there has consequently been nothing realized from this source. The lands of the Winnebago diminished reserve are also unsold.

The unparalleled drought which prevailed throughout the northwest, and especially in Dacotah, cut off the Indians from such supplies as are usually obtained from their agricultural efforts. They have been deprived of arms, and consequently cannot go upon the hunt; and from these two causes it has resulted that the expense of their subsistence has greatly exceeded what would otherwise have been required.

Whatever expense may be incurred can, however, ultimately be reimbursed to the United States from the sources already indicated; but before these sources can be made available, there must of necessity be made provision for supplying their urgent necessities; otherwise great suffering will occur among them.

Under these circumstances, I respectfully submit the enclosed estimates, and request that you will lay the same before Congress, and ask that body to make the appropriations as estimated; those designed for the Sioux to be refunded to the treasury from the proceeds of their forfeited lands, and those designed for the Winnebagoes to be taken from the general funds of the tribe, now in the possession of the government, to be replaced from the proceeds of the sales of their diminished reserve.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. DOLE,
Commissioner.

Hon. J. P. USHER,
Secretary of the Interior.