

University of Oklahoma College of Law

University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

2-12-1864

Indian affairs in New Mexico. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, recommending an appropriation asked for by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the Indian service in New Mexico.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc No. 38, 30th Cong., 1st Sess. (1864)

This House Executive Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu.

INDIAN AFFAIRS IN NEW MEXICO.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RECOMMENDING

An appropriation asked for by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the Indian service in New Mexico.

FEBRUARY 12, 1864.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

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

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of the 2d instant, and accompanying papers, representing the necessity that exists for an appropriation to meet the necessary expenses of the Indian service in New Mexico for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

Concurring with the Commissioner in the views he expresses in relation to the subject, I recommend, for the reasons stated by that officer, that an appropriation of \$25,000 be made for the objects contemplated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. USHER, *Secretary.*

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, February 2, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith copy of instructions from this office, under date of September 14th last, to Superintendent Steck, and advice relative to the amount of appropriations at the disposal of this office for the Indian service in New Mexico; also copy of letter and estimate of funds submitted by Superintendent Steck, under date of the 21st instant, required to meet the wants of the service for the fiscal half year ending June 30, 1864.

I regret that an examination into the affairs of the New Mexico superintendency should disclose the fact that the whole appropriation for the fiscal year

ending June, 1864, should have been exhausted either in payments made or debts created by Superintendent Collins, previous to his removal, in 1863, leaving his successor no means to provide for the necessities of his superintendency for the balance of the fiscal year. Under these circumstances I have been compelled to suspend payment upon the drafts and debts created by late Superintendent Collins, until funds are provided for this deficiency. I am clearly of the opinion that the appropriation for New Mexico for the present fiscal year was insufficient for the actual wants of the service; and while this is not perhaps a sufficient excuse for late Superintendent Collins exceeding the appropriation applicable to that portion of the year during which he was in office, yet, as I cannot but see that his expenditures were economical and proper if the funds had been at his disposal, I am not disposed to repudiate the indebtedness altogether, but do, on the other hand, recommend that an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars be solicited of Congress to pay these deficiencies, and to enable Superintendent Steck to properly provide for the Indians under his charge for the balance of this fiscal year. Superintendent Steck's estimate exceeds this amount, as will be seen by the accompanying papers, but I think I can so use an appropriation of \$25,000 as will carry us through the year.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. DOLE, *Commissioner.*

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Office Indian Affairs, September 14, 1863.

SIR: Your letter of the 26th of July last, enclosing your estimate of funds for the second and third quarter, 1863, has been received, and a requisition has this day been drawn in your favor for \$17,000, to be placed to your credit, as follows:

Pay of superintendents and agents.....	\$6,000 00
Pay of interpreters.....	1,750 00
Pay of clerk.....	750 00
Incidental expenses.....	8,500 00
	17,000 00

You will perceive that you have been allowed the full amount called for for salaries; but, owing to the fact that Congress has provided for incidental expenses only one-half of what has usually been allowed, it is impossible to furnish you with the amount called for under that head.

Said amount of \$8,500 is to be divided as follows:

Superintendency.....	\$1,750 00
Utah agency.....	1,500 00
Abiquia.....	1,750 00
Pueblo.....	300 00
Fort Stanton.....	2,000 00
Navajo.....	1,000 00
Southern Apache.....	200 00
	8,500 00

The funds appropriated by Congress for incidental expenses of New Mexico are understood to embrace the agencies in that part of the Territory of Arizona which was formerly part of New Mexico, and a part of the appropriation must necessarily be diverted for the service in Arizona. No larger amount for incidental expenses than that now sent can be supplied you for the first and second quarters 1864, and your attention is called to the fact in time, in order that you may see the necessity of economizing in every particular, in order to be able to get through with the funds placed at the disposal of this office by Congress for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1864, under that head.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

MICHAEL STECK, Esq.,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 21, 1863.*

SIR: By a letter dated September 14, 1863, from Acting Commissioner Charles E. Mix, I was informed that only \$8,500 would be furnished for the incidental expenses of Indian service in New Mexico for the six months ending December 31, 1863, and a like sum would be allowed for the first six months of the year 1864, ending June 30. This sum is entirely too small to meet the demands of the service. When I entered upon my duties as superintendent, contracts had been made by my predecessor, contemplating an expenditure of \$50,000 annually. These contracts were not annulled until after the reception of the letter above referred to, as I was not aware until then that the appropriation for incidental expenses had been reduced, and that of this reduced amount a large sum had been applied to the Indian service in Arizona. The amount of provisions received upon the contracts above referred to, freight upon goods, and other expenses incidental to the service, during the six months ending December 31, involved the expenditure of \$15,500 up to that date. Deducting this amount from the sum allowed for the fiscal year—\$17,000—would leave in my hands one thousand five hundred dollars to defray the expenses incident to the service during the six months ending June 30, 1864. This sum will scarcely meet the incidental expenses of the service, leaving necessary provisions for Indians and farming operations unprovided for. As no progress can be made towards carrying out the policy of the Indian Bureau without means to defray the necessary expenses, I would respectfully submit the enclosed estimate as the amount actually needed in addition to the sum already furnished. A successful commencement has already been made at the Apache reservation towards settling these Indians, but unless additional means can be furnished to carry on the work our efforts to accomplish this desirable object must be a failure.

Earnestly hoping these views will receive the approbation of the honorable Commissioner,

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
M. STECK,

Superintendent Indian Affairs, New Mexico.

Hon. WM. P. DOLE,
Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

Estimate of amount of funds needed in the superintendency in the Territory of New Mexico, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, viz :

For farming operations, implements, labor, oxen, and wagons...	\$1,000 00
For provisions to feed Indians while planting.....	20,000 00
For farming operations for the Utah Indians on the San Juan..	500 00
For provisions for Utahs.....	5,000 00
For provisions for captured and peaceable Navajo Indians....	5,000 00
Total.....	<u>31,500 00</u>

Respectfully submitted, by your humble servant,

M. STECK,

Superintendent Indian Affairs, New Mexico.

Hon. WM. P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.