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Estimates for the Indians of the Southern Superintendency. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting estimates for appropriations for the support of the Indians of the Southern Superintendency for the 1st and 2d quarters of 1865, and the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866.

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ESTIMATES FOR THE INDIANS OF THE SOUTHERN SUPER-
INTENDENCY.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Estimates for appropriations for the support of the Indians of the Southern Superintendency for the 1st and 2d quarters of 1865, and the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866.

FEBRUARY 10, 1865.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 10, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to submit, and to solicit the favorable consideration of Congress thereon, the estimates of the superintendent of the southern superintendency for the 1st and 2d quarters of 1865, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866.

It is known to Congress that, by its direction, the refugee Indians were returned to their own country, anticipating that they could be maintained there at less expense than in Kansas, where they were fugitives. The lateness of the season when the appropriations were made, and the insurmountable delays attending their removal, rendered it impossible for the Indians to make sufficient crops to sustain themselves the current year. Something will have to be supplied them for that purpose, and clothing for them is indispensable.

An effort is now being made to disband all or a portion of the Indian troops. If this is done, and the country is protected, much less will be required to aid them; again, if, by any means, the Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Seminoles can be induced to lay down their arms, of which there is hope, the condition of the Indians will be improved. I am persuaded that it will be wise to make the appropriation asked. It is quite possible that—with it in the control of the department—it may be made available in bringing about peace with these Indians now in hostility.

If, by any means, it can be done with the appropriation now asked, it will be economy. There is neither credit nor honor in fighting Indians.

The whole matter is submitted to the wisdom of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. USHER, *Secretary.*

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

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 19, 1865.*

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to submit for your consideration my estimate for funds necessary for subsistence, clothing, and current expenses, for the second quarter of 1865.

You will observe that in my estimate for the first quarter of the present year there is the sum of \$32,000 for seed, agricultural implements, &c., but none for clothing, while for the second quarter I have estimated for clothing at \$10 per head, which in view of the present high prices is very low, particularly as nearly all the Indians will want raiment to a more or less extent.

The estimate for subsistence is also very low, amounting in the aggregate to \$207,025, while to furnish them with even *one half* the army ration at the cost of provisions now, and transportation of the same, would have swelled the amount three or four fold. In making this low estimate, I have indulged in the hope, that with the necessary military protection, the Indians will be able to procure a large part, or perhaps all the meat they may require, in their own country. Should, however, this hopeful expectation not be realized, a much larger sum than that estimated for will be required, or very great suffering, to the extent of actual starvation, will be the consequence.

When it is considered that the country of the Indians in question has been alternately devastated by the enemy and occupied by our own troops, with the necessities of actual hostilities upon them, it will be readily conceded that they stand in the greatest need for all aid that a provident government can afford.

I would further remark in this connexion with my annual estimate for the year 1865-6, that should the funds asked for in my estimate for the first quarter of 1865 be furnished *at once*, so that the Indians can be supplied with seeds and farming implements to enable them to put in a crop in time, and should they have military protection while they cultivate the same, (what they have not yet had,) all that part of the annual estimate for subsistence, after August or September, may be dispensed with, otherwise it will only be sufficient to prevent actual starvation, as they will be (without the protection named) cooped up within range of guns of Fort Gibson, as they are at this time.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. G. COFFIN,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. W. P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Estimate of funds required by W. G. Coffin, superintendent of Indian affairs southern superintendency, for the first quarter ending March 31, 1865.

Agencies.	For what objects required.	Amount.	Total.
Southern superintendency	For subsistence of 15,700 destitute refugee Indians in the Indian Territory and Kansas from the 1st day of January to the 31st March, 1865, both inclusive, 90 days, at the rate of 15 cents per day each of 14,100 souls in the Indian Territory, and 1,600 souls in Kansas, at 10 cents each.....		\$204,750 00
	For contingencies—1,000 bushels seed corn, at \$12 per bushel, \$12,000; seeds and agricultural implements, \$20,000		32,000 00
	<i>Current expenses.</i>		
	For salary of Superintendent Coffin, \$500; same of temporary clerk, \$375; same of messenger and porter in superintendent's office, \$150; same of one interpreter to superintendent, \$100.	\$1,125 00	
	For salary of Doctor D. B. Swallow, 4th quarter 1864, \$300; same of special agents, Mitchell and Harlan, at \$300 each, \$600	900 00	
	For salary of Commissary E. E. Coffin, \$300; travelling expenses of Superintendent Coffin, \$100; same of special agents, Mitchell and Harlan, \$225	625 00	
	For keeping and feeding superintendent's team, \$50; presents to Indians, \$40; office rent, stationery, fuel, &c., \$200	290 00	
			2,940 00
Cherokee agency	For salary of agent, \$375; same of one interpreter, \$100; contingent expenses, \$75; presents to Indians, \$25; transportation, \$250		825 00
Wichita agency	For salary of agent, \$375; same of one interpreter, \$100; contingent expenses, \$75; presents to Indians, \$25		575 00
Creek agency	For salary of agent, \$375; same of one interpreter, \$100; contingent expenses, \$75; transportation, \$200		750 00
Choctaw and Chickasaw agency.	For salary of agent, \$375; same of one interpreter, \$100; contingent expenses, \$75; presents to Indians, \$25; transportation, \$100		675 00
Seminole agency	For salary of agent, \$375; same of one interpreter, \$100; presents to Indians, \$25; contingent expenses, \$75		575 00
Neosho agency	For salary of agent, \$375; same of four interpreters, \$250; same of blacksmith, \$150; repairs of agency building or rent, \$25	800 00	
	For contingencies, \$75; presents and provisions while visiting superintendent on business, \$50.	125 00	925 00
	Amounting in all to		244,015 00

Respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

W. G. COFFIN,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS, SOUTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY,
Leavenworth, Kansas, December 27, 1864.

Estimate of funds required by W. G. Coffin, superintendent of Indian affairs, southern superintendency, for the 2d quarter of 1865, ending June 30, 1865.

Agencies.	For what objects required.	Amount.	Total.
	<i>Subsistence.</i>		
Southern superintendency.....	For subsisting 15,700 destitute refugee Indians, in the Indian Territory and Kansas, from the 1st day of April to the 30th of June, 1865, both inclusive, 91 days, at the rate of 15 cents per day each, of 14,100 in the Indian Territory, and 1,600 souls in Kansas, at 10 cents each.....		\$207, 025 00
	<i>Clothing.</i>		
	Clothing for the same Indians, 15,700, at \$10 each.....		157, 000 00
	<i>Current expenses.</i>		
	For salary of Superintendent Coffin, \$500; temporary clerk, \$375; messenger and porter in superintendent's office, \$150; 1 interpreter to superintendent, \$100.....	\$1, 125 00	
	For salary of Special Agents Mitchell and Harlan, \$300 each.....	600 00	
	For salary of Commissary E. E. Coffin, \$300; travelling expenses of Superintendent Coffin, \$200; travelling expenses of Special Agents Mitchell and Harlan, \$225.....	725 00	
	Keeping and feeding superintendent's team, \$50; presents to Indians, \$40; office rent, stationery, fuel, &c., \$200.....	290 00	
Cherokee agency.....	For salary of agent, \$375; salary of one interpreter, \$100; contingent expenses, \$75; presents to Indians, \$25; transportation, \$250.....		2, 740 00
Wichita agency.....	For salary of agent, \$375; salary of one interpreter, \$100; contingent expenses, \$75; presents to Indians, \$25.....		825 00
Creek agency.....	For salary of agent, \$375; salary of one interpreter, \$100; contingent expenses, \$75; transportation, \$200.....		575 00
Choctaw and Chickasaw agency.....	For salary of agent, \$375; salary of one interpreter, \$100; contingent expenses, \$75; presents to Indians, \$25; transportation, \$100.....		750 00
Seminole agency.....	For salary of agent, \$375; salary of one interpreter, \$100; presents to Indians, \$25; contingent expenses, \$75.....		675 00
Neosho agency.....	For salary of agent, \$375; salaries of four interpreters, \$250; salary of blacksmith, \$150; repairs of agency buildings or rent, \$25.....	800 00	
	For contingencies, \$75; presents and provisions while visiting superintendent on official business, \$50.....	125 00	925 00
	Amounting in all to.....		371, 090 00

Respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

W. G. COFFIN,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 19, 1865.

Estimate of funds required for the Indian service in the Southern Superintendency for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1865.

Agencies.	For what objects required.	Amount.	Total.
Southern superintendency	For subsistence of 16,000 destitute Indians in the Indian Territory and Kansas, commencing 1st day of July, 1865, and ending 30th day of June, 1866, 365 days, at 10 cents each per day.....	\$584,000 00	
	For clothing, blankets, shoes, of the most destitute of said Indians.....	200,000 00	
	For agricultural implements, seeds, &c., \$15,000; transportation of supplies, clothing, &c., \$15,000.	30,000 00	
	<i>Current expenses.</i>		
	For salary of superintendent, \$2,000; salary of temporary clerk to superintendent, \$1,500; salary of two special agents at \$1,200 each, \$2,400	5,900 00	
	For salary of two commissaries at \$1,200 each, \$2,400; salary of messenger and porter in superintendent's office, \$150.....	2,550 00	
	For pay of one interpreter to superintendent, \$400; travelling expenses of Superintendent Coffin and two special agents, \$750.....	1,150 00	
	For presents to Indians, \$160; office rent, stationery, and fuel, \$600; keeping and feeding superintendent's team, \$200.....	960 00	
			\$824,500 00
Cherokee agency	For salary of agent, \$1,500; same of one interpreter, \$400; contingencies, \$300; presents to Indians, \$100.....		2,300 00
Creek agency	For salary of agent, \$1,500; same of one interpreter, \$300; contingencies, \$300; presents to Indians, \$100.....		2,200 00
Seminole agency.....	For salary of agent, \$1,500; same of one interpreter, \$400; contingencies, \$300; presents to Indians, \$100.....		2,300 00
Choctaw and Chickasaw agency.....	do..... do..... do.....		2,300 00
Wichita agency.....	do..... do..... do.....		2,300 00
Noosho agency	For salary of agent, \$1,500; same of four interpreters, \$1,000; same of one blacksmith, \$600; contingencies, \$300.....	3,400 00	
	For repairs of agency buildings or rent, \$100; presents and provisions to Indians while visiting agent, \$200.....	300 00	
			3,700 00
Total.....			839,660 00

Respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

W. G. COFFIN,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS, SOUTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY,
Leavenworth, Kansas, September 24, 1864.