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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to the petition of the Iowa Indians to have certain funds diverted

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IOWA INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

The petition of the Iowa Indians to have certain funds diverted.

FEBRUARY 5, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 5, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of the 1st instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and copies of the papers therein referred to, relative to the petition of the Iowa Indians, praying that the sum of \$3,500 provided for in the 10th article of the treaty of March 6, 1861, with the Sacs, Foxes and Iowas, (Statutes at Large, volume 12, page 1174,) and to be expended by the Secretary of the Interior in the construction of a toll-bridge across the Great Nemaha river, at or near Roy's ferry, for the use of the Iowa Indians, may be applied to the purchase of oxen, agricultural implements, &c., for the use of said Indians in farming operations the coming spring.

There being no authority of law for the diversion of the funds as requested by the Indians, the attention of Congress is respectfully invited to the consideration of the subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., February 1, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter from Superintendent Denman, dated the 22d ultimo, transmitting one from Agent Norris, who forwards a petition from the chiefs of the Iowas, praying that a part of the \$3,500 to be used under the 10th article treaty of 1863 by the Secretary of the Interior in erecting a toll-bridge across the Great Nemaha river may be expended in the purchase of twelve yoke of oxen, eight wagons, eight ploughs, and five sets of harness for the use of the tribe in their farming operations the coming spring, and that the balance be expended for supplies for the shops belonging to them.

The funds to which these Indians refer are provided for in the 10th article, treaty of March 6, 1861, with the Sacs, Foxes and Iowas, as amended by the Senate, (Statutes at Large, volume 12, page 1174,) which stipulates that the sum of \$3,500 may be expended by the Secretary of the Interior out of the proceeds of the sales of lands, for the the purpose of erecting a toll bridge across the Great Nemaha river, at or near Roy's ferry, for the use of the Iowa Indians.

It is represented in said petition that the sum authorized to be so expended is not sufficient to erect a good substantial bridge at the place indicated in the treaty, and that the money, if so expended, would be of no practical benefit or utility to the tribe. Superintendent Denman is of the opinion that it would be far better for the Iowas to expend the money in question in the manner suggested in the said petition than in the construction of a bridge.

I have no doubt but that it would be more advantageous to these Indians to expend said sum in the purchase of the articles named in the petition, but, as it is expressly stated in the Senate amendment of said treaty that it may be used in erecting a bridge, without any authority to divert it to any other object, and, as the second section act of July 26, 1866, (pamphlet copy of Laws, first session thirty-ninth Congress, page 280,) provides "that no funds belonging to any Indian tribe with which treaty relations exist shall be applied in any manner not authorized by such treaty, or by express provisions of law," &c., I am of the opinion that it will be necessary for Congress to pass an act authorizing the diversion of said sum of \$3,500 before the request of the Indians can be complied with.

If you concur in this view of the case, and think it advisable to comply with the wishes of the Indians, I respectfully suggest that the matter be laid before Congress, with the request that early action be had in the premises, in order that the required oxen and implements may be purchased in time to commence farming operations the coming spring.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR, *Commissioner.*

Hon. O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary of the Interior.*

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, *January 22, 1868.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a petition of the chiefs of the Iowa tribe, asking that certain money provided for in a treaty concluded with the Iowas in 1863, and designed for the construction of a bridge across the Great Nemaha river, at or near Roy's ferry, for the use and benefit of the said tribe, be diverted for the purpose of purchasing for them twelve yoke of oxen, eight wagons, eight ploughs, and five sets of double harness, to be used in farming operations the coming spring, and the remainder of said fund to be used in supplying the blacksmith and wagon shops belonging to the tribe with materials and tools to work with. I also enclose an estimate made by Agent Norris of the cost of the articles referred to, amounting to \$3,500. Also a communication from Agent Norris suggesting that in case the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs should grant the request of the Indians and authorize the expenditure of the money in the manner indicated, that the cattle, wagons, ploughs and harness be purchased by the Commissioner or myself.

I have searched diligently for the treaty referred to in the petition of the chiefs, but have not been able to find it.

I think, however, if the money is appropriated and applicable, that it would

be far better for the Iowas to expend it in the manner suggested in the petition of the chiefs than in the construction of a bridge.

Please forward me a copy of the treaty *of 1863 with the Iowas, if there is such a treaty in existence.

Your obedient servant,

H. B. DENMAN,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

GREAT NEMAHA AGENCY,
Nohart, Nebraska, January 8, 1868.

SIR: Enclosed I hand you a letter from the chiefs of the Iowa tribe to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, asking to be supplied with cattle, wagons, &c., next spring; also asking that certain money be applied to that purpose. I also enclose with their letter a list of the articles wanted by them, with the probable cost here.

Should the Commissioner conclude to grant their request I would most respectfully ask that the cattle, wagons, ploughs, and harness be furnished this tribe either by yourself or the honorable Commissioner, believing, in that case, they would reach the Indians much earlier in the spring.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. NORRIS,
United States Indian Agent.

Colonel H. B. DENMAN,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Omaha, Nebraska.

GREAT NEMAHA AGENCY,
Nohart, Nebraska, January 8, 1868.

OUR GREAT FATHER: We, the undersigned, chiefs of the Iowa tribe of Indians, would call your attention to the fact that, under the tenth article of the treaty of 1863, as amended by the United States Senate, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to expend a sum, not to exceed \$3,500, to erect a bridge across the Great Nemaha river, at or near Wolf village, for the use and benefit of the Sacs and Foxes of Missouri, and a like sum of \$3,500 for the purpose of erecting a bridge at or near Roy's ferry, for the use and benefit of the Iowas, said money to be paid out of the proceeds of the sales of the Sacs and Foxes' (of Missouri) and Iowas' trust lands.

Now, we would most respectfully represent to you that there has been expended, for the use and benefit of the Sacs and Foxes of Missouri, the said sum of \$3,500, in the manner and for the purposes aforesaid, and the Iowas have never had a bridge built for them, as provided in said treaty; and we would further represent that the sum authorized to be so expended is not sufficient to erect a good, substantial bridge across the Nemaha river at the place indicated in the treaty, and, further, that the money so expended would be of no practical benefit or utility to our tribe.

We would, therefore, ask that a part of the said \$3,500 be expended to procure twelve yoke of oxen, eight wagons, eight ploughs, and five sets of harness, for the use of our tribe in their farming operations the coming spring, and the balance remaining after paying for the cattle, wagons, ploughs, and harness, be

expended in supplying the blacksmith and wagon-shops belonging to our tribe with material and tools to work with, feeling confident that the money expended for the articles above named would be of permanent and lasting benefit to our tribe.

We anxiously await your decision in the matter.

NAG-A-RASH, his × mark.
 TO-HEE, his × mark.
 MAH-HU, his × mark.
 TAR-A-KEE, his × mark,
Chiefs of the Iowa Tribe.

In presence of

FRANCIS DUPRIES,
Special Interpreter.
 C. H. NORRIS,
United States Indian Agent.
 JOHN N. GERE.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington.

Estimate for cattle, wagons, ploughs, and harness, also for iron, lumber, tools, &c., needed for the Iowa tribe of Indians for the year 1868, with the probable cost of the articles.

Twelve yoke of oxen, at \$140.....	\$1, 680 00
Eight wooden-axle wagons, at \$105.....	840 00
Four two-horse ploughs, at \$20.....	80 00
Four two-horse cultivators, at \$25.....	100 00
Five sets double harness, at \$30.....	150 00
Two thousand pounds of assorted iron.....	250 00
Twelve files.....	12 00
Fifty pounds cast-steel.....	15 00
Twelve hand-saw files.....	3 00
Twelve wood-rasps, (large).....	14 00
One hand-axe.....	2 00
One spoke-shave and auger.....	2 00
One keg of red lead.....	10 00
Ten gallons linseed oil.....	15 00
Four paint brushes.....	6 00
Four kegs white lead.....	20 00
Four thousand feet of wagon lumber, at \$40 per 1,000.....	160 00
Ten kegs of nails, at \$8 per keg.....	80 00
Three thousand feet of cotton-wood lumber, at \$17 50 per 1,000..	52 50
Twenty-four cans axle-grease.....	6 00
Two hatchets, at \$1 25 each.....	2 50
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	3, 500 00
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Respectfully submitted:

C. H. NORRIS,
United States Indian Agent.