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Appropriations for Sissiton and Wahpeton Indians.  
Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to  
an appropriation to carry out treaty stipulations  
with the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Dakota  
Indians

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APPROPRIATIONS FOR SISSITON AND WAHPETON INDIANS.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

*An appropriation to carry out treaty stipulations with the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Dakota Indians.*

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MARCH 4, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., March 4, 1868.*

SIR: By the sixth article, Senate amendment, of the treaty with the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Dakota or Sioux Indians, concluded February 19, 1867, (pamphlet laws, first session fortieth Congress,) "it is agreed that Congress will, at its own discretion, from time to time make such appropriations as may be deemed requisite to enable said Indians to return to an agricultural life, under the system in operation on the Sioux reservation in 1862."

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of the 28th ultimo from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying papers, representing the necessity for an appropriation to carry into effect the stipulations of the treaty referred to.

The attention of Congress is respectfully and earnestly invited to an early consideration of the subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., February 28, 1868.*

SIR: Referring to office report of the 22d of May last, relative to purchasing agricultural implements, stock, tools, seeds, &c., to enable the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux to commence farming operations last summer, and also to the purchase of subsistence until they could raise a crop, I have the honor to state that under instructions from this office, issued in accordance with directions from your department, dated the 25th of May, 1867, Agent Thompson contracted with certain parties (copies of contracts herewith) for

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the required and necessary articles, amounting in the aggregate to \$7,457 25, the same to be paid when an appropriation was made applicable.

The reasons why the purchases were made upon the terms stated in said contracts are fully set forth in said office report, and the funds to pay for the articles so furnished should be placed at the disposal of your department at the earliest day practicable.

By the sixth article, Senate amendment, treaty of February 19, 1867, (pamphlet copy of Laws, first session, fortieth Congress, page 5 of treaties,) with said bands, "it is agreed, that Congress will, at its own discretion, from time to time, make such appropriations as may be deemed requisite to enable said Indians to return to an agricultural life, under the system in operation on the Sioux reservation in 1862," &c. No stipulated sum is designated in the treaty for the purpose, the entire matter being left to the discretion of Congress.

In view of this peculiar provision of the treaty, I do not see as it is necessary to estimate for any particular sum to be used for the benefit of said Indians, but simply to invite the attention of Congress to the matter, and to state the action already had in starting these two bands in farming operations. I enclose, however, for proper consideration, a copy of a letter from Agent Thompson, dated the 24th of September, 1867, submitting an estimate of funds by him deemed necessary to carry out the spirit and intention of said treaty, amounting to \$132,340.

The funds considered necessary by Congress to enable these Indians to return to an agricultural life, and intended to be expended during the coming spring and summer, as well as to pay for the articles furnished under said contracts, should be placed at the disposal of your department at the earliest day practicable. I, therefore, respectfully suggest that the attention of Congress be invited to the matter, with the request that early action be had in the premises, in order that the indebtedness already incurred may be liquidated without delay, and the necessary steps be taken to furnish the articles required by said Indians, in time to enable them to commence farming operations early in the spring.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR, *Commissioner.*

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., May 22, 1867.*

SIR: By the terms of the treaty of February 19, 1867, with the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux, as amended by the Senate, it is agreed on the part of the United States, in consideration of the destitution of said bands, resulting from the confiscation of their annuities and improvements, that Congress will, in its own discretion, from time to time make such appropriations as may be deemed requisite to enable said Indians to return to an agricultural life under the system in operation on the Sioux reservation in 1862, &c.

The treaty, with the amendments thereto, not having been ratified until after the adjournment of Congress, no appropriation has been made to carry out any of its provisions or objects; but, as it is intended by the treaty that the Indians shall rely solely upon their agricultural and mechanical labor for subsistence, some steps should be taken at once to furnish them with the necessary farming implements, tools, &c., to enable them to commence operations on their new reservations this spring. They have nothing themselves with which to commence, except probably a few ponies, and if it is intended that they shall do anything toward subsisting themselves the present year, it will be necessary to render

them some assistance in the way of cattle to break land, farming implements, tools, seeds, &c.

In a recent conversation with Senator Henderson, in regard to this matter, he advised the purchase of the necessary implements, stock, seeds, &c., to enable these Indians to commence operations this spring, the same to be paid for when Congress makes the necessary appropriations, he having no doubt but that funds would be appropriated for that purpose at the next session of Congress. I think most, if not all, of the articles required, could be purchased on these terms, and such as could not be obtained in that way can be paid for, at least to a limited amount, from the "proceeds of the Sioux reservations in Minnesota and Dakota," which, in my opinion, by a liberal construction of the act of March 3, 1863, (see Statutes at Large, vol. 12, pp. 819-20,) is applicable to this object to a certain extent.

A sufficient quantity of goods, for the present, has already been purchased for them; also, some oxen, which were intended for beef, and a few yokes and chains. There are still on hand about seventy oxen, which can probably be used for breaking land, &c., and, with a few farming implements and tools, operations could be commenced at once, by which they would be able to raise a considerable quantity of produce the present year.

I enclose a list of articles which, I think, will be necessary for them to commence and carry on farming the present year; and, if you coincide with my views, that something should be done to start these Indians at once, and assist them to become, in a measure, self-sustaining, I would respectfully suggest that I be authorized to have the articles designated in said list, or such other articles as you may deem better suited to the objects intended, purchased without delay, with the understanding that the same, or a part of them, are to be paid for when Congress makes the necessary appropriation therefor.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,  
*Commissioner.*

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

*List of articles required to enable the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux to commence farming operations the present spring.*

15 lumber wagons, at \$150, probable cost .....	\$2,250
25 ox yokes, with bows, staples, and rings, at \$5, probable cost .....	125
15 A No. 1 12-inch ploughs, circular cutter, at \$30, probable cost.....	450
5 dozen 3-tined hay forks, at \$10, probable cost.....	50
200 substantial corn hoes with riveted eyes, at \$2, probable cost.....	400
2 Wood's mowers, at \$175, probable cost.....	350
2 horse rakes, at \$75, probable cost.....	150
300 bushels of seed potatoes, at \$2 80, probable cost .....	840
50 bushels of seed corn, at \$3, probable cost .....	150
Assorted garden seeds.....	50
Needles, thread, buttons, hooks and lines .....	50
Saws, axes, hammers, nails, &c .....	500
6 dozen steel spades, at \$25, probable cost .....	150
5 dozen shovels, at \$25, probable cost .....	125
20 cable-link road chains with hooks, at \$5, probable cost.....	100
2,000 pounds hard soap, at \$12 per 100 pounds, probable cost.....	240
20 barrels of salt, at \$11 75, probable cost .....	235
700 sacks, 100 pounds each, flour, at \$8, probable cost .....	5,600
50 barrels of pork, at \$35, probable cost .....	1,750
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>13,565</b>

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, D. C., May 25, 1867.

SIR: I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, recommending that certain implements, seeds, &c., as enumerated in the list sent up in said letter, be purchased to enable the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians to "commence and carry on farming the present year," the amount of the cost of said purchase to be paid for when Congress shall make the appropriation therefor.

Your recommendation is hereby approved.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. OTTO,  
*Acting Secretary.*

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

SAINT PAUL, September 24, 1867.

SIR: I enclose herewith an estimate, as directed by telegraph despatch to me of the 17th instant, from your department, for the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians under their treaty, for the year of 1868, except what may be necessary for the survey of the Lake Traverse reservation, which should be done.

The estimate, therefore, I am not able to make, for the reason that I have not been able to obtain a map of Dakota Territory designating the lakes by name, and other points on the boundary lines. I have made inquiry of the surveyor general of Minnesota as to the cost of the work, and he informs me the outside lines would probably be done for about fifteen dollars per mile; the township lines would cost ten dollars, and the subdivisions eight dollars per mile or thereabout.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. THOMPSON,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

*Estimated sum that should be expended on Lake Traverse reservation during 1868 for the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians in Dakota Territory.*

For agency buildings, office, and stable, to be constructed of stone .....	\$8,500
For twenty-horse-power steam saw-mill, with shingle machine attached, and built with a view to running two sets of millstones in the future.....	8,000
For 4 school-houses for teachers, and school-room in each.....	4,500
For blacksmith and wheelwright shops, \$500 each .....	1,000
For residence of physician and office.....	1,500
For 30 houses for Indians to live in, \$700 each .....	21,000
For 2 limekilns, \$250 each .....	500
For salary of agent.....	1,500
For salary of physician .....	1,500
For pay to engineer and machinist .....	1,000
For pay to assistant or clerk.....	900
For pay to farmer .....	600
For pay to 2 laborers, \$480 each .....	960
For pay to teachers.....	2,000
For pay to interpreter.....	600
For advanced scholars to prepare for teachers to manual-labor schools, as per recommendation of the Rev. Mr. Riggs and Dr. Williamson .....	1,000
For 2 pair of good working horses and harness .....	1 000

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For 75 yoke of good working oxen, at \$150 .....	\$11,250
For 75 substantial lumber wagons, at \$110 .....	8,250
For 75 ox yokes, with bows, staples, and rings, at \$5 .....	385
For 75 good milch cows, at \$50 .....	3,750
For 40 A No. 1 Molin 12-inch ploughs, with extra shares and circular colters, at \$30. ....	1,200
For 15 dozen 3-tined hay forks, at \$10 .....	150
For 10 dozen steel spades, at \$25 .....	250
For 5 dozen Irish shovels, at \$25 .....	125
For 300 substantial corn hoes with riveted eyes, at \$2 .....	600
For 4 Wood's mowers, at \$175 .....	700
For 4 horse hay rakes, at \$75 .....	300
For 75 cable-link road chains with hooks, at \$5 .....	375
For 400 bushels of seed potatoes, at \$2 50 .....	1,000
For 75 bushels of seed corn, at \$3 .....	225
For assorted garden seeds .....	100
For pay for breaking 200 acres to plant, at \$6 per acre .....	1,200
For purchasing clothing for men, women, and children .....	15,000
For needles, thread, buttons, hooks, lines, &c .....	150
For iron and steel for blacksmith shop .....	1,500
For saws, axes, hammers, nails, and other variety of hardware .....	1,500
For groceries, tobacco, and ammunition .....	5,000
For 1,000 sacks of, 100 pounds each, superfine flour, at \$7 .....	7,000
For 75 barrels of mess pork, at \$35 .....	2,625
For 10,000 pounds of pemican, at 12 cents .....	1,200
For 3,000 pounds of hard soap, at 12 cents .....	360
For 30 barrels of salt, at \$12 .....	360
For 500 bushels of oats, at \$1 25 .....	625
For 200 bushels of corn, at \$2 50 .....	500
For medicines and stationery .....	600
This amount is estimated for about seventeen hundred (1,700) Indians now on or living near this reservation, and a large number are now proposing to come in. One chief with thirty-five lodges is now only awaiting assurance of clothing and subsistence. At least ten thousand dollars should be appropriated for contingent, extraordinary, and travelling expenses, to be used under the direction of the commissioner .....	10,000
Whole amount for Indians on Lake Traverse reservation .....	132,340

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, *Washington, D. C.*

Articles of agreement made and entered into this 12th day of September, A. D. 1867, by and between Benjamin Thompson, agent for the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians, on the part of the United States, party of the first part, and John Farrington, of the city of Saint Paul, and State of Minnesota, party of the second part, witnesseth, that whereas the party of the first part having publicly advertised for sealed proposals for furnishing supplies, provisions, and implements, for the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians in Dakota Territory, which proposals were received on the 24th day of August, A. D. 1867, at the office of R. F. Crowell, esq.; and whereas the furnishing of the lumber, wagons, ploughs, salt, cross-cut and hand-saws, axes and handles, hammers and nails, for said Sioux Indians, was awarded to the party of the second part, he being the lowest responsible bidder for the same, being subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs: Therefore the said party of the second part, in consideration of the covenants hereinafter mentioned, hereby agrees with said party of the first part to furnish and deliver at the agency of the Sissiton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians, near Lake Traverse, as follows, before the first day of October next, viz:

15 12-inch ploughs, at \$20 each .....	\$300 00
15 lumber-wagons, at \$95 each .....	1,425 00
2 cross-cut saws, at \$7 each .....	14 00
3 hand-saws, at \$3 75 each .....	11 25
12 axes and handles, at \$2 50 each .....	30 00

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6 hammers, at \$1 25 each .....	\$7 50
5 kegs nails, at \$11 50 each .....	57 50
	<hr/>
Amounting to .....	1, 845 25
And before the first day of December 20 barrels of salt, at \$10 95 per barrel .....	219 00
	<hr/>
Making total amount .....	2, 064 25
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The said wagons, ploughs, saws, axes, hammers, and nails, to be subject to the approval and inspection of the said party of the first part, or such person or persons as he may select for that purpose; and the said party of the first part hereby agrees that the payment shall be made unto the said party of the second part, his administrators, or assigns, on the delivery of said wagons, ploughs, saws, axes, hammers, nails, and salt, to the agent of said Indians, and as soon as the money shall be received after an appropriation has been made for the payment thereof.

BENJAMIN THOMPSON, [L. s.]  
*United States Indian Agent.*  
 JOHN FARRINGTON. [L. s.]

Signed and sealed in the presence of—  
 R. F. CROWELL.  
 L. G. LORANGER.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, *County of Ramsey, ss :*

Know all men by these presents, that I, John Farrington, of Saint Paul, Ramsey county, Minnesota, as principal, and we, Amherst H. Wilder, and John L. Merriam, of the same place, as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto the United States in the sum of five thousand dollars, lawful money of the United States, to be paid unto the said United States, for which payment, well and truly to be made, we jointly and severally bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, and dated this twelfth day of September, A. D. 1867.

The condition of this obligation is such, that whereas the said John Farrington has entered into a contract with Benjamin Thompson, as agent of the Sissiton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians, of Dakota Territory, (bearing even date herewith,) to furnish at Lake Traverse certain implements, viz., wagons, ploughs, saws, axes and handles, hammers, nails, and also salt: Now, therefore, if the aforesaid John Farrington shall well and faithfully perform the above referred to contract, according to the covenants and agreements thereof, then this obligation shall be void; otherwise of force.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, on this twelfth day of September, A. D. 1867.

JOHN FARRINGTON. [L. s.]  
 AMHERST H. WILDER. [L. s.]  
 JOHN L. MERRIAM. [L. s.]

Sealed, signed, and delivered, in presence of—  
 L. G. LORANGER.  
 R. F. CROWELL.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, *County of Ramsey, ss :*

Be it known that on this twelfth day of September, A. D. 1867, came before me, personally, John Farrington, Amherst H. Wilder, and John Farrington, (?) to me well known to be the same person who executed the foregoing bond, and acknowledged the same to be his own free act and deed.

R. F. CROWELL,  
*Notary Public, Minnesota.*



STATE OF MINNESOTA, *County of Ramsey, ss :*

Amherst H. Wilder and John L. Merriam, upon oath, doth say, each for himself, that he is one of the sureties above named; that he is a resident and freeholder of and in the State of Minnesota, and worth the amount of five thousand dollars, specified in the foregoing bond, above his debts and liabilities, and exclusive of his property which is exempt from execution.

AMHERST H. WILDER.  
JOHN L. MERRIAM.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of September, A. D. 1867.

R. F. CROWELL,  
*Notary Public, Minnesota.*

DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA,  
*Saint Paul, September 12, 1867.*

I am satisfied with the sufficiency and responsibility of the sureties to the within bond.

H. L. MOSS,  
*United States District Attorney.*

Articles of agreement made and entered into this 12th day of September, A. D. 1867, by and between Benjamin Thompson, agent for the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians, on the part of the United States, party of the first part, and John L. Merriam, of the city of St. Paul, and State of Minnesota, party of the second part, witnesseth, that whereas the party of the first part having publicly advertised for sealed proposals for furnishing supplies, provisions, and implements for the Sissiton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians in Dakota Territory, which proposals were received on the 24th day of August, A. D. 1867, at the office of R. F. Crowell, esq.; and whereas the furnishing and transportation of the mess pork, superfine flour, and soap for said Sioux Indians, was awarded to the party of the second part, he being the lowest responsible bidder, the same being subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs :

Therefore the said party of the second part, in consideration of the covenants hereinafter mentioned, hereby agrees with said party of the first part to furnish and deliver at the agency of the Sissiton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians, near Lake Traverse, as follows, on or before the first day of October next, viz :

100 sacks of flour, at \$5 24 per sack, or 50 bbls. of flour, at \$10 48 per bbl.	\$524
And before the first of December the remaining 600 sacks of flour, at \$5 24 per sack, or 300 barrels of flour, at \$10 48 per barrel	3, 144
Also, 2,000 pounds hard soap, at 10½ cents per pound	210
And 50 barrels mess pork, at \$30 50 per barrel	1, 515
Making total amount of	5, 393

The said flour, soap, and pork to be subject to the approval and inspection of the said party of the first part, or such person or persons as he may select, for that purpose, and the said party of the first part hereby agrees that the payment shall be made unto the said party of the second part, his administrators or assigns, on the delivery of said flour, soap, and pork to the agent of said Indians, and as soon as the money shall be received, after an appropriation has been made for the payment thereof.

BENJAMIN THOMPSON, [SEAL.]  
*United States Indian Agent.*  
JOHN L. MERRIAM. [SEAL.]

Signed and sealed in the presence of—

R. F. CROWELL.  
L. G. LORANGER.



STATE OF MINNESOTA, *County of Ramsey, ss :*

Know all men by these presents, that I, John L. Merriam, of St. Paul, Ramsey county, Minnesota, as principal, and we, Amherst H. Wilder and John Farrington, of the same place, as sureties, are held and firmly bound unto the United States in the sum of ten thousand dollars, lawful money of the United States, to be paid unto the said United States, for which payments, well and truly to be made, we jointly and severally bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals and dated this twelfth day of September, A. D. 1867.

The condition of this obligation is such that whereas the said John L. Merriam has entered into a contract with Benjamin Thompson as agent for the Sissiton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians, of Dakota Territory, (bearing even date herewith,) to furnish at Lake Traverse a certain amount of mess pork, superfine flour, and hard soap: Now, therefore, if the said John L. Merriam shall well and faithfully perform the above referred to contract, according to the covenants and agreements thereof, then this obligation shall be void, otherwise of force.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals on this twelfth day of September, A. D. 1867.

JOHN L. MERRIAM. [SEAL.]  
 AMHERST H. WILDER. [SEAL.]  
 JOHN FARRINGTON. [SEAL.]

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of—

L. G. LORANGER.  
 R. F. CROWELL.

STATE OF MINNESOTA, *County of Ramsey, ss :*

Be it known, that on this twelfth day of September, A. D. 1867, came before me personally, John L. Merriam, Amherst H. Wilder, and John Farrington, to me well known to be the same persons who executed the foregoing bond, and acknowledged the same to be his own free act and deed.

R. F. CROWELL,  
*Notary Public, Minnesota.*

STATE OF MINNESOTA, *Ramsey county, ss :*

Amherst H. Wilder and John Farrington upon oath doth say each for himself, that he is one of the sureties above named, that he is a resident and freeholder of and in the State of Minnesota, and worth the amount of ten thousand dollars, specified in the foregoing bond, above his debts and liabilities, and exclusive of his property which is exempt from execution.

AMHERST H. WILDER.  
 JOHN FARRINGTON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 12th September, 1867.

R. F. CROWELL,  
*Notary Public, Minnesota.*

DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA :

I am satisfied with the sufficiency and responsibility of the sureties to the within bond.

H. L. MOSS,  
*United States Attorney.*

ST. PAUL, *September 12, 1867.*