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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting estimates of appropriations to supply deficiencies for certain Indian tribes

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DEFICIENCY IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR INDIAN TRIBES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Estimates of appropriations to supply deficiencies for certain Indian tribes.

JANUARY 22, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 22, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter of the 20th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, submitting an "estimate of appropriations required for supplying deficiencies in the appropriations made for the Sioux Indians of Dakota, Arickarees, Gros Ventres and Mandans, Crows, and Yanctons, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, and for subsistence purchased for the Poncas," amounting to one hundred and thirteen thousand five hundred and seventy-one dollars and eight cents, (\$113,571 08.)

Copies of the papers accompanying the communication from the Indian Bureau are also herewith transmitted in relation to the subject, to which the favorable consideration of Congress is respectfully invited.

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,
January 20, 1868.

SIR: In September last a copy of a telegram from Commissioner Taylor, dated the 13th of that month, copy herewith, was received at this office, by reference from your department, setting forth that, at a meeting of the Indian peace commissioners, it was recommended that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs be authorized to expend, for immediate relief of the Yancton Sioux, the nine bands of Sioux at Forts Thompson, Sully and Rice, and the Arickarees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans, at Fort Berthold, the unexpended appropriations applicable; that such advice was the result of personal knowledge of the prospective destitution of those tribes, and from reliable information, received by

the commission at the points visited by it, and requesting instructions and to be advised what amounts could be used for respective tribes. In office report of September 14, 1867, a statement was made of the funds then on hand appropriated for said tribes, and of the objects for which the same were applicable; and from the copy of a telegram from the honorable acting Secretary of the Interior to Commissioner Taylor, transmitted to this office on the 16th of September, it appears that the amounts that could be applied were telegraphed to the honorable Commissioner, who, on the 17th of the same month, entered into a contract with J. W. Bosler for furnishing certain stores for the Indians in question, and also for the Poncas.

The necessity for supplying these Indians with subsistence was caused principally by the destruction of their crops of corn, &c., by the grasshoppers.

This fact is set forth in letters (copies herewith) from Agents Conger and Potter, and from Special Agent Campbell, transmitted to this office by Governor Faulk on the 28th of August and on the 9th and 10th of September, 1867.

Some of the members of the Indian peace commission visited a portion of the tribes on the upper Missouri river last summer and fall, and it was upon their representations of the prospective destitution and wants of the Indians, and also upon their recommendation, that Commissioner Taylor acted in contracting with Mr. Bosler for the required supplies.

The contract has been fully complied with on the part of Mr. Bosler, and he has been paid for the subsistence furnished to the extent of the funds on hand on the 21st ultimo—the date of the settlement of his accounts—that could be applied from moneys appropriated for fulfilling treaty stipulations with the respective tribes hereinbefore named. The subsistence furnished by Mr. Bosler for these Indians amounts to \$91,748 44, as follows:

For the Yancton Sioux.....	\$17,929 99
For the nine bands of Sioux.....	41,803 49
For the Arickarees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans.....	20,114 70
For the Poncas.....	11,900 26
	<hr/>
Total.....	91,748 44
Of which amount there has been paid the following sums, viz:	
On account of the Yanctons, (funds remitted Governor Faulk).....	\$17,929 99
On account of the nine bands of Sioux.....	41,712 09
On account of the Arickarees, Gros Ventres and Mandans.....	16,186 02
	<hr/>
	75,828 10
	<hr/>
Balance due under contract.....	15,920 34
	<hr/> <hr/>

Nothing has been paid on account of the Poncas, for the reason that there are but a few hundred dollars on hand of their annuity funds, and, by the terms of the contract, the subsistence furnished for them was to be paid for when an appropriation was made applicable. The funds already used were appropriated for the respective tribes, to fulfil treaty stipulations, and were applicable to the purchase and transportation of provisions or other useful articles. The emergency which necessitated the purchase of the large quantity of provisions required to prevent actual suffering and starvation among these Indians could not have been foreseen, nor could it have been prevented. The corn crops, up to the time of their destruction by the grasshoppers, were looking well, and

there was a fair prospect of an abundant yield and plentiful supply of food for the winter; the pest came, and, in a few days, the condition and prospects of the Indians were entirely changed. It was absolutely necessary to meet the emergency, and to do it at once, or the weather would have prevented the forwarding of any stores until another spring. To do this, the funds already appropriated had to be used, and it has now left the Indians without any money to their credit to assist them in planting a new crop the coming spring, and to meet the necessary expenses of the service, in connection with their agencies, up to the end of the present fiscal year. In my opinion, the full amount so used should be appropriated by Congress and placed to the credit of said tribes, respectively.

There was also an indebtedness, incurred by or under the direction of the Indian peace commission, on account of the Crows, amounting to \$21,822 64. Of this amount there has been paid the sum of \$18,778 55, leaving a balance still due of \$3,044 09, for the payment of which there are no funds on hand applicable, nor is there any money to their credit with which their wants can be supplied to the end of the present fiscal year. The Crows have always been friendly to the whites in their vicinity, and every endeavor on the part of the government should be made to keep them so. No portion of the funds appropriated for them the present fiscal year has been used to advance their agricultural operations or to purchase stock, &c., provisions for which were made in the appropriation act of March 2, 1867; and in order that this may be done the coming spring, as well as to meet the actual wants of the service up to the 30th of June next, in connection with this tribe, the full amount of the indebtedness created by or under the direction of the said commission should be again placed to the credit of these Indians.

In view of the facts and circumstances hereinbefore stated, and in order that immediate steps may be taken to have the funds appropriated in time to purchase and forward, the first opportunity, the necessary agricultural implements, tools, seed, subsistence, while planting, &c., required by and absolutely necessary for these Indians, to enable them to put in a crop the coming spring, I have had prepared, and enclose herewith, an estimate of appropriations required to supply deficiencies in the appropriations made for the Sioux of Dakota, the Yancton Sioux, the Arickarees, Gros Ventres and Mandans, and the Crows, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, and also of an appropriation to pay for the subsistence purchased for the Poncas, and respectfully request, if you concur in the views and opinions herein expressed, that copies of the same be transmitted to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, with such favorable remarks and recommendations as, in your judgment, may be deemed advisable, and as will tend to speedy action on the part of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

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

4 DEFICIENCY IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR INDIAN TRIBES.

Estimate of appropriations required for supplying deficiencies in the appropriations made for the Sioux of Dakota, Arickarees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans, Crows and Yanctons, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, and for subsistence purchased for the Poncas.

SIoux OF DAKATO, BLACKFEET BAND.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the second of twenty instalments, to be paid in such articles as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868..... \$2, 820 25

MINNECONJOU BAND.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the second of twenty instalments, to be paid in such articles as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868..... 4, 462 89

LOWER BRULÉ BAND.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the second of twenty instalments, to be paid in such articles as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868..... 3, 246 47

TWO KETTLES BAND.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the second of twenty instalments, to be paid in such articles as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868..... 664 40

ONK-PAH-PAH BAND.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the second of twenty instalments, to be paid in such articles as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868..... 3, 523 81

SANS ARCS BAND.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the second of twenty instalments, to be paid in such articles as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868..... 3, 766 51

YANCTONAI BAND.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the second of twenty instalments, to be paid in such articles as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868..... 3, 861 36

UPPER YANCTONAI BAND.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the second of twenty instalments, to be paid in such articles as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868..... 2, 721 26

O'GALLALLA BAND.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the second of twenty instalments, to be paid in such articles as the Secretary of the Interior may direct, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868.....	\$5, 110 96
	<hr/>
	30, 177 91
For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for expenses of transporting and delivering articles furnished for the nine bands of Sioux aforesaid, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868.....	11, 625 58

ARICKAREES, GROS VENTRES AND MANDANS.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for first of payments to be made during the pleasure of Congress, to be expended in such goods, provisions, and other articles as the President may from time to time determine, &c., for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868.....	20, 114 70
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CROWS.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the first of payments to be made during the pleasure of Congress, to be expended for such useful goods, provisions, and other articles as the President, from time to time, may determine, &c., for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868.....	21, 822 64
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YANCTON TRIBE OF SIOUX.

For this amount to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the ninth of ten instalments, to be paid to them, or expended for their benefit, commencing with the year in which they shall remove to, and settle and reside upon their reservation, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868.....	17, 929 99
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PONCAS.

For this amount to pay for subsistence furnished to the Ponca Indians, by direction of the Indian peace commission, under a contract made with J. W. Bosler.....	11, 900 26
	<hr/>
	113, 571 08
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YANCTON AGENCY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,

August 20, 1867.

SIR: I write to apprise you that my worst fears in regard to the ravages of the grasshoppers have been realized. They commenced to appear here about three days ago, since which time they have increased in volume until to-day they completely cover the whole face of the earth through this section, eating up and destroying every green thing as they go. Our corn, which, three days ago, was a sight to gladden the heart of any man, so luxuriant and rich it was, promising plenty and to spare for my poor Indians for all the coming winter, is now a total loss. My Indians are sad and entirely disheartened. We had just

struggled through with our scanty supply of provisions until our corn was large enough to eat, and as the happy moment had arrived this dreadful scourge has overtaken us, and our only provisions are snatched from our mouths. We must have help immediately, or God only knows what will become of us. I beg of you to make known our deplorable condition to the Indian department with all haste, so that if relief is possible we may have it at once. I would respectfully suggest that it will require one thousand sacks of flour, estimated to cost, delivered here, \$7 per sack, \$7,000, and fifty head of beef cattle, estimated to cost here \$75 per head, \$3,750, or their equivalent in pork or bacon, to maintain these Indians until they go out on their fall hunt, and after that it will require not less than \$5,000 to provide for the old and infirm, who cannot go on to the plains during the winter.

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

P. H. CONGER,
United States Yancton Agent.

Hon. A. J. FAULK,

Governor and ex officio Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

P. S.—After writing this letter I learned that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs was on his way up the Missouri, and would be here. I therefore did not send the letter at the date it was written. But the steamboat with the Indian commission on board has passed up, and Colonel Taylor did not come; consequently I mail this letter to-day, August 26, 1867.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Yancton, D. T., August 28, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from Major P. H. Conger, United States Yancton Indian agent, dated 20th instant, in which he announces that the ravages of the grasshoppers have been realized at that agency, and most respectfully suggests the amount of flour and cattle that it will require to maintain his Indians until they go out on their fall hunt.

Governor Faulk is now absent with the peace commissioners, and I most respectfully recommend the matter to your favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

J. L. KELLY,
Clerk office Governor and ex officio Sup't Indian Affairs.

Hon. CHARLES E. MIX,

Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

[Telegram.]

OMAHA, NEBRASKA,
September 13, 1867.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,

Secretary of the Interior:

At a meeting of Indian peace commissioners this day, it was recommended that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs be authorized to expend, for the immediate relief of Sioux at Yancton agency, nine bands of Sioux at Forts Thompson, Sully, and Rice, and Arickarees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans at Berthold, unexpended appropriations applicable.

Please instruct me by telegraph here, stating amounts that can be used for these tribes respectively. This advice is the result of personal knowledge of

the prospective destitution of these tribes, and from reliable information received by the commission at the points visited.

We leave for North Platte to-morrow, fourteenth, at six p. m., and desire to act on the information before our departure.

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs and Pres't Indian Peace Commission.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Yancton, D. T., September 9, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit a letter from Major J. A. Potter, United States Ponca Indian agent.

Governor Faulk is absent with the peace commissioners, and as I am fully satisfied of the damage done to the Ponca corn crop, I respectfully recommend the enclosed letter of Agent Potter to the favorable consideration of the honorable Commissioner. Without the aid of the government they cannot get through the coming winter.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

J. L. KELLY,
Clerk office Governor and ex officio Superintendent of Indian Affairs.
Hon. CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

PONCA AGENCY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
August 26, 1867.

SIR: It becomes my duty to inform you that the crops at this agency, comprising over five hundred acres of corn, pumpkins, and beans, all of which a short time ago bid fair to yield sufficient to amply supply this tribe with food for the greater part of the year, have been entirely destroyed by grasshoppers; this leaves the tribe without any visible means of support, except their small annuity of a fraction over five dollars per head, and what small game they can kill. They cannot go upon the prairie like most other Indians and supply themselves with buffalo meat and robes, as the country where they would have to go for that purpose is overrun with the Sioux, who are hostile to them. They cannot at best support themselves with their annuity and by the hunt more than eight months in the year. The remainder of the year they will either have to starve or receive aid from the government; this, it seems to me, is the best possible light in which I can view their situation. This tribe, at the last census, numbered 980 persons; to feed them for four months would require 120 rations for each person, which, at ten cents for each ration, would amount to \$11,760. Should the department decide to aid this tribe, I presume the first question would be, how to procure the greatest amount of food for the least amount of money. I will suggest a plan which it seems to me will produce that result. My plan is this: to purchase corn or wheat at the nearest point to this agency, where it can be obtained; then to purchase, say, fifteen yoke of work-cattle; these, with what cattle the Poncas now have, would make teams capable to haul 400 bushels of corn or wheat at a trip; in this way all of the grain required could be delivered by the Indians under the superintendency of their farmer, or some other competent person, and all of the freight saved within the tribe. The cattle, when purchased, would be worth as much when through with the hauling as when they were bought, if properly cared for, and will be needed for carrying

on the work through the winter and spring. I hope that this or some better plan will be adopted to prevent this tribe from suffering during the coming winter.

I have the honor to be your humble servant,

J. A. POTTER,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. A. J. FAULK,

*Governor and ex officio Superintendent Indian Affairs,
Yancton, Dakota Territory.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Dakota Territory, September 10, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of special agent General Charles T. Campbell, relative to the Upper Missouri Sioux agency, dated September 9, 1867, together with his estimate of supplies.

My own estimate for the agencies in this superintendency will be matured and forwarded to you, agreeably to your recent telegram, as soon as I can hear from the regular agents. In the mean time the opinion of Agent Campbell is worthy of respectful consideration.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

A. J. FAULK,
Governor and ex officio Superintendent Indian Affairs.

MISSOURI RIVER, NEAR SIOUX CITY,
September 9, 1867.

SIR: Considering the present situation of the friendly Indians belonging to the nine bands of Sioux, I deem it necessary, and, in conformity with my duty and instructions from your department, I must again urge upon you the necessity of immediate supplies for the temporary subsistence of these friendly Indians, located at Crow creek and in the neighborhood of Fort Sully. I stated in my last report that owing to the want of farming utensils and cattle to use them in proper season, there would be little done toward promoting their only object and the means of their subsistence during the summer and the coming winter, namely, planting corn. Owing to this truth being evident and the devastation of the grasshopper, they will in twenty days from this time consume the product of their entire labor. My suggestions to the department, contained in my two following reports of February and June, also in a special report made at Washington, have not been entertained. The consequences are that where corn was planted and where it should have been planted by these Indians is now grown up with weeds, for the simple reason that they had not the tools or the ground ready, and where it was ready, and they had planted to sustain life, they were obliged to drop the hoe and go to the hunt.

Major Hanson, the local agent, has gone to Fort Rice to distribute the annuities to the respective bands that come there to receive them. He cannot return to Crow creek in less than thirty days. I advised him before he left Fort Sully to make a proper estimate for subsistence for these Indians, and make a statement of their present wants and situation and hand it to the superintendent of Indian affairs of Dakota Territory.

The superintendent informs me that he has not done so; hence it becomes my duty to forward the following estimate through the superintendent of Indian affairs of Dakota Territory for your consideration.

I am, sir, most respectfully yours,

C. T. CAMPBELL,
United States Special Agent.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.