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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting communication from Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to the suffering condition of the Quapaw Indians, and recommendations relative thereto

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QUAPAW INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Communication from Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to the suffering condition of the Quapaw Indians, and recommendations relative thereto.

JANUARY 27, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, D. C., January 27, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, of the 24th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and copy of a letter from Sub-agent George Mitchell, in charge of the Quapaw Indians, in relation to the suffering condition of said Indians, and recommending that Congress pass an act authorizing the diversion of the sum of \$1,200 from the appropriation made for the pay of "farmer" for said tribe, to be used in purchasing subsistence, clothing, and such other articles as may be deemed necessary for their relief; and that any funds hereafter appropriated "for farmer" under the third article of the treaty of May 13, 1833, (Statutes at Large, vol. 7, p. 425,) with the Quapaws, may be used in the same manner.

I respectfully invite the favorable consideration of Congress to 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 OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, D. C., January 24, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a letter from Sub-agent Mitchell, in charge of the Quapaws, dated the 8th instant, stating that said Indians are in a suffering condition from want of clothing and food; giving the reasons why they are so situated, and requesting that something be done, imme-

diately, to save them from dreadful suffering. He also refers to an annual appropriation of \$600 for pay of farmer, which might be used, if authority were given, to relieve their wants to some extent.

In office report of February 8, 1867, the condition and necessity of these Indians were fully set forth, and a recommendation made that Congress be asked to amend the Indian appropriation bill, then under consideration, so as to authorize the expenditure of the funds appropriated for pay of farmer in purchasing subsistence and clothing, and such other useful articles as, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, might be deemed necessary. Congress, however, did not authorize the diversion, and the Indians have, in the mean time, struggled along without any help from the government, except for educational and blacksmithing purposes.

There is now in the hands of Agent Snow \$900, and on the books of this office \$300, making in all the sum of \$1,200, appropriated for pay of farmer. This money is not needed for the object for which it was appropriated, for the reason that these Indians are so well acquainted with farming that they do not require assistance in that branch of industry.

In view of these facts and circumstances, and in order that speedy relief may be afforded to the destitute Quapaws, I respectfully request that Congress be asked to pass an act authorizing the diversion of said sum of \$1,200, and allowing the same to be used in purchasing subsistence, clothing, and such other useful articles as you may deem necessary, to relieve said destitute Indians; and further, that any funds hereafter appropriated "for farmer" under the third article of the treaty of May 13, 1833, (Statutes at Large, vol. 7, p. 425,) may be used in the same manner.

The sum asked to be diverted will not be sufficient to relieve the present wants of these Indians, but it is thought the residue can be made up from funds now at the disposal of the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

N. G. TAYLOR, *Commissioner.*

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

NEOSHO SUB-AGENCY,
SENECA AND SHAWNEE RESERVATION,
January 8, 1868.

SIR: I would most respectfully represent to you that the Quapaws under my charge, and numbering two hundred and sixty-five souls, are in a suffering condition from want of sufficient clothing for the winter season, and from want of food.

This occurs from the fact that, when they returned to their reservation at the close of the late war, they found their homes burned, their fences destroyed, and their stock driven off. Thus they were compelled, empty-handed, to commence anew the battle of life; and although they have struggled manfully in the midst of such an array of discouraging circumstances, they are yet in the most pressing need of wherewithal to save them from freezing, and from starvation.

I would most earnestly urge upon the department, through you, that something be done immediately to save these people from dreadful suffering. I would state, in this connection, that the farmers' fund belonging to this tribe is yet unexpended, there being at the present no farmer. This amounts to \$600, and might, if authority were given by the department, relieve to some extent their wants. It would require, to make them at all comfortable through the winter, about ten dollars (\$10) per capita.

I have availed myself of your presence at this sub-agency to bring these facts, through you, to the department at Washington, as the matter can in this way be sooner reached than through Superintendent Murphy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE MITCHELL,
Sub-Indian Agent.

Colonel JAMES WORTHAM,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Southern Superintendency.

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with the recommendation that matters referred to receive the early attention of the Indian Office.

JAMES WORTHAM,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Southern Superintendency.