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Support of Indians

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SUPPORT OF INDIANS.

FEBRUARY 22, 1869.—Ordered to be printed, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. B. F. BUTLER, from the Committee on Appropriations, made the following

R E P O R T .

The Committee on Appropriations, to whom has been referred the communication of Brevet Major General Wm. S. Harney, of February 4, 1869, asking of Congress an appropriation to supply a deficiency of \$485,784 21, for feeding the Indians on the northern reservation; and also the report of General John B. Sanborn, commissioner and vice-president of the late Indian peace commission, asking for an appropriation to supply a deficiency of \$23,000 to pay for balance of the expenses of the Indian commissioners already incurred, and the continued service of employes as interpreters; and, also, for an appropriation of \$365,000 to feed the Indians on the southern reservations this year; and, also, an appropriation to carry out the treaties of the peace commission in the northern reservation for the next fiscal year, as made by Brigadier General Harney, for \$2,461,325; and, also, to transfer the sum of \$1,747,975 57, being a portion of the amount expended by the War Department in feeding and taking care of the Indians in the southern reservations, beg leave to report:

That your committee have considered all these appropriations, both for deficiencies and appropriations for the next fiscal year, together, in order that the whole subject might be at once presented to the House for its consideration, because the action desired in the several propositions submitted is the inauguration of a new policy in regard to the Indian tribes, involving a very large amount of money, and a change of system which it is necessary to view as well in relation to the past expenditures as to appropriations for the future.

Congress, by act of July 20, 1867, authorized a peace commission, consisting, in addition to three officers of the army, of Hon. Mr. Henderson, of the United States Senate, Brigadier General J. B. Sanborn, Colonel N. G. Taylor, and Colonel L. P. Tappan, to proceed to the Indian country to set apart reservations and to place the Indians there, and to make treaties with them looking to their establishment in the habits of civilized life. The commission has entered upon its duties and prosecuted them with vigor to October last, when the commission dissolved upon the breaking out of the war with the Indians, apparently because it was unseemly that the Lieutenant General commanding the armies of the United States prosecuting a war against the Indians should be a member of the peace commission to make peace with them. The commission applied to Congress to appropriate money to put in force its action, and there was appropriated for that purpose the sum of \$500,000, which,

according to the report of General Sanborn made to your committee, has been expended as follows:

Amount furnished to General Harney, to be expended on Indians of the northern reservations.....	\$200, 000
To General Hazen, to be expended in the southern reservation.....	100, 000
To General Augur, to be expended on the Shoshone and Snake reservations.....	50, 000
Amount returned to the Indian bureau to pay for subsistence in supplies furnished in anticipation of the appropriation..	150, 000
	<hr/>
	500, 000
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In addition there has been spent \$23,000 for employes as interpreters, in excess of the amount heretofore appropriated by Congress and placed in the hands of General Sherman.

In addition there has been taken from the appropriation for the War Department a sum of nearly \$2,000,000, which has been expended in feeding and caring for Indians on the southern reservations, and the appropriation of that amount (the money being already expended) is asked only as a transfer appropriation from the War to the Interior Department, in order that this item of expense may not stand charged to the War Department on the books of the treasury.

In addition to this General Harney has expended \$485,784 21 in excess of the \$200,000 placed in his hands by law with which to do his work. The treaties provide in substance that agencies are to be established on the several reservations, warehouses and buildings are to be erected, and mills at each agency; that the Indians are to be supplied with a good American milch cow and a yoke of working oxen; that an engineer, a miller, a farmer, a blacksmith, a physician, and teacher are to be furnished them; that suitable agricultural tools and implements are to be supplied, and one suit of clothing for each Indian, great and small, of both sexes, to be given them, and that they are to be fed until they are self-sustaining; and it is further provided that those who become the best agriculturists are to receive certain premiums, apparently for good conduct in supporting themselves.

The system and its cost will perhaps be best illustrated by a short sketch of the operations of General Harney. About the 10th of August he was furnished with \$200,000 of the money appropriated by Congress, and sent to the upper Missouri, among the various tribes or bands of the Sioux Indians, amounting, as is believed, to some 22,000, when they can all be found and brought in. General Harney brought together, on the reservation which had been agreed on by the commission, the Indians, as fast as he could, and commenced feeding them, giving them, as is provided, a pound of meat and a pound of flour to each man, woman, and child per day. To this must be added, over and above that ration, a half soldier's ration of sugar and coffee. General Harney varies the ration, however, by giving, instead of beef, a portion of bacon, and beef enough to make up the pound of meat. From the best information that your committee have from General Harney, and examining as well as they can the cost of this ration, they believe that it has cost about 30 cents a day each. General Harney has got together on the reservation about 9,000 Indians of the several Sioux tribes, and expects to have 11,000 between now and the 1st of April. He reports that he believes he has rations enough already sent up to last till the 1st day of May. At the rate at which he

has fed them it is evident that he will have almost \$205,000 deficit for the months of May and June for the expenditure of the present fiscal year, in addition to the \$485,784 21 which he has already incurred, and the \$200,000 already given him, making in all about \$900,000 expended for feeding and caring for say 9,000 Indians for say eight months, from September 1, 1868, to May 1, 1869. He has, to some extent, purchased the mills and agricultural implements and blacksmith tools which it is proposed to put upon his reservation.

The first and very embarrassing inquiry which presents itself is, how can this expenditure of General Harney beyond the \$200,000 be considered a deficiency? It is frankly admitted by him that it was wholly unauthorized by law, and he pleads in extenuation that it was done from the necessity of the case, and to keep the Indians quietly on their reservations, and to keep the other tribes from making war upon the United States, and that by his expedient he has held the Indians at peace; and he avers that unless money is appropriated to carry out the provisions of the treaty as fast as practicable war will be renewed by the Indians.

No one can doubt the good faith of General Harney in what he has done, and his intention to act uprightly, if any one can be said so to do who attempts to expend public money without authorization of law. Your committee do not doubt the purity of purpose or of the action of General Harney, however much they might hesitate as to the economy with which the work has been done, or his success in making business contracts, or carrying on this work in a practical manner.

As for example, the committee would call attention to the fact, that by General Harney's contract five and a half cents per pound for transportation has been paid for carrying every pound of provisions, agricultural implements, saw and grist-mills, iron or steel on to the reservation. General Harney's justification for paying this price is, that the water was low and transportation difficult. It would have been natural to suppose that the agricultural implements and heavy articles might have been left till spring, when the water was high, especially as General Harney thinks that the estimate reported to the committee for \$750,000 for one yoke of oxen and a cow to each family may be dispensed with for the year 1870. It will be difficult to justify carrying up the Missouri river, in low stage of water, at five and a half cents per pound, breaking-up ploughs in the fall of 1868, when the oxen to draw them were not to be estimated for till the year 1871. But admitting, as the committee do most fully, good faith and integrity of purpose, the question still returns to us, what is to be done in case of expenditure without authority of law of public money? Shall Congress, by voting an appropriation to pay it, sanction this expenditure? Again, a cognate inquiry arises, shall a future appropriation be voted which is to be expended by the same person for the same objects, who has incurred such an unauthorized expenditure? Into whose hands shall the money required to carry out these treaties be given? Again, it must be remembered that some of these treaties are not ratified, and may never be. Again, it must be also remembered that we have treaties with all these tribes, made years ago, duly ratified and now existing, under which in your appropriation bill already passed you have given many thousand dollars, all those treaties called for. It will be seen the subject is covered with various difficulties. General Harney cannot support the Indians on the northern reservation short of 25 cents per ration, according to his estimate, as the committee believe, though it is just to say General Harney believes he can do so for 20 cents a ration, and he requires for the coming year, for rations alone, the sum of \$1,303,050, while at the southern superintendency General Sanborn

estimates that 10 cents per ration only will be required. But the committee also call the attention of the House to the fact that for feeding, during the summer months of the past year, a claim is made by Mr. Blackburn for 30 cents per ration, which we have already considered and passed upon; and we cannot fail to remember that the enormous sum of \$2,000,000 has already been expended by the War Department without warrant of law or appropriation, so far as is known to the committee, and we have no return of what that feeding has cost per ration.

Your committee have now stated the facts, so far as they have come to their knowledge, both as to the deficiency and as to the appropriation for the coming year, and pray judgment of the House what action shall be taken thereon. They hardly feel themselves ready, with the limited investigation they have been able to give to this subject, it having for the first time come to their knowledge since the first day of February, to make a recommendation to the House that will be satisfactory to themselves; the difficulties surrounding it are so great, the amounts asked for are so large, the estimates are so contradictory, and the evidence so unsatisfactory, that they are unable to make any recommendation in which the committee feel any considerable degree of confidence.

To the Hon. Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives :

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to inform you that the \$500,000 appropriated and placed at the disposal of Lieutenant General Sherman, in July last, to aid in carrying into effect the policy of the Indian peace commission, has been expended as follows, viz:

In the northern reservation, under the immediate supervision of General Harney	\$200,000
In the southern reservation, under the immediate supervision of General Hazen	100,000
On the Shoshone and Snake reservation, under the immediate supervision of General Augur	50,000
Paid out for subsistence and supplies furnished by commission prior to appropriation	150,000
	500,000

The amount retained by General Sherman to pay liabilities incurred by direction of the commission proved insufficient, as expenses had been incurred in the removal of Indians and the continued service of employes as interpreters not then anticipated, and \$23,000 is asked to pay all existing liabilities of this nature.

It is now estimated that there will be 10,000 Indians to be fed on the southern reservation this year, at a cost of 10 cents per ration, which should be appropriated—\$365,000.

General Harney submits estimates for northern reservation for next fiscal year, and statements of deficiency the present year, for which appropriations are respectfully asked.

The commissioners still feel confident that the policy recommended by them, vigorously carried into effect, will reduce the expenses of this branch of the public service from upwards of \$30,000,000 per annum now expended through the War and Interior Departments, to less than \$6,000,000 per annum in 1870, and to less than \$4,000,000 in 1873, and therefore earnestly recommend that a sufficient amount be appropriated to test the policy to its fullest extent.

In the southern territory the War Department has furnished a large amount of subsistence to Indians, for which reimbursement is asked by it, as the accounts in the treasury are complicated thereby.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN B. SANBORN,
Commissioner, and Vice-President late Indian Peace Commission.
 WASHINGTON, January 29, 1869.

Estimated cost of subsisting and clothing 21,000 Indians for one year and carrying into effect the treaty stipulations with Sioux nation from June 1, 1869, to June 1, 1870.

Subsisting, (1 lb. meat and 1 lb. flour each per diem)....	\$1,303,050 00
Clothing, (as called for by treaty)	189,275 00
Freight, (estimated about).....	200,000 00
Additional agricultural implements and mills.....	25,000 00
Salaries of employés.....	24,000 00
	<hr/>
	1,741,325 00
One cow and one yoke work-oxen for each lodge or family, (3,000 families)	720,000 00
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	2,461,325 00
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Respectfully submitted.

WM. S. HARNEY,
Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Com. Sioux Indian Dist.
 WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29, 1869.

HEADQUARTERS SIOUX INDIAN DISTRICT,
 Washington, D. C., January 29, 1869.

SIR: In submitting you the enclosed estimate of amount required for carrying out the stipulations of the Sioux treaty, made by the Indian peace commission last year, I would respectfully suggest that the item of \$720,000 for cows and work-oxen for each family can be very well dispensed with this year, as the Indians will not be far advanced enough to need domestic animals of this description.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WM. S. HARNEY,
Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Com. Sioux Indian Dist.
 Hon. BENJ. F. BUTLER, Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 4, 1869.

DEAR SIR: Your note of 2d instant was not delivered until 4 p. m. this day. I am exceedingly anxious to give the committee all the information they desire in regard to my expenditures in the Sioux Indian district. On the evening of the date of your letter, I had an interview with General Butler and gave him copies of all vouchers issued by me showing date of purchase and price paid for each item.

I presume that these vouchers, with the statement that I made to General Butler at the time they were submitted, afford all the information that the committee now ask. I will state, however, that the item of \$112,646 49 for freight is made up by multiplying the number of

pounds of freight transported from St. Louis and other points to the various reservations in the district by $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.

This was the lowest rate for which transportation of goods at that season could be procured, as may be seen from General Sherman's report, and as can easily be substantiated by calling on any of the steamboat men of St. Louis.

The whole amount of expenses to date is \$684,115 21, including about \$50,000 incurred in subsisting the Indians during the summer and fall and while they were in transitu to the new reservation, and providing transportation for them according to arrangements made by the Indian peace commission at Fort Laramie, of which I have paid \$198,331 in cash, leaving unpaid and awaiting appropriations \$485,784 21.

I have supplies on hand for 9,000 Indians (the number estimated for) till the last of May. There are now about 11,000 Indians on the reservations and supplies have to be increased in proportion.

Any further information that may be required I will be most happy to furnish.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, yours,

WM. S. HARNEY,

Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Com. Sioux Indian Dist.

Mr. ROBERT J. STEVENS.

Secretary Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives.

The United States, on account of the Sioux Indian district,

To Smith & Peck, Dr.

Oct. 15, 1868.—For 214,920 pounds bacon, at $19\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.....	\$41,909 40
For 3,556 sacks flour, at \$5 50 per sack . . .	19,558 00
For 1,800 pounds soap, at 10 cents per pound .	180 00
For 4,860 pounds tobacco, at 75 cents per pound.....	3,645 00
For 56 rifles, at \$15 50 each.....	868 00
For 4 stocks and dies, at \$12 each.....	48 00
For 3 smiths' drills, at \$7 50 each.....	22 50
For 8 pair smiths' tongs, at 80 cents each..	6 40
For C. S. hand hammers and handles, at \$2 each.....	8 00
For 4 C. S. sledges and handles, at \$5 each..	20 00
For 4 farriers' hammers, at 90 cents each..	3 60
For 4 pair farriers' pincers, at \$1 25 each..	5 00
For 4 pair farriers' knives, at 70 cents each..	2 80
For 4 buttresses, at \$1 50 each.....	6 00
For 4 horse rasps, 14 inches, at \$1 25 each..	5 00
For 2 dozen each half-round files, 13 and 14 inches, at \$12 and \$14—4 dozen.....	52 00
For 2 dozen each flat files, 12 and 14 inches, at \$8 and \$10—4 dozen.....	36 00
For 4 bellows, at \$25 50 each.....	102 00
For 3 anvils, 455 pounds, at $17\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.....	79 63
For 3 vices, 158 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, at $18\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.....	29 32
For 3 tuyere irons, at \$2 25 each.....	6 75
Total.....	66,593 40

*The United States, on account of the Sioux Indian district,
To Smith & Peck, Dr.*

Oct. 15, 1868.—For 50,055 pounds of bacon, at 19½ cents per pound.....	\$9,760 73
For 3,330 sacks flour, at \$5 50 per sack.....	18,315 00
For 2,621 pounds tobacco, at 75 cents per pound.....	1,965 75
For 1,800 pounds soap, at 10 cents per pound..	180 00
For 1 bellows.....	25 50
For 1 anvil, 159 pounds, at 17½ cents per pound	27 84
For 1 vice, 40 pounds, at 18½ cents per pound..	7 40
For 1 tuyere iron.....	2 25
For 1 drill.....	7 50
Total.....	<u>\$30,291 97</u>

*The United States, on account of the Sioux Indian district,
To Smith & Peck, Dr.*

Nov. 15, 1868.—For transportation on the following to the reservation,
viz:

	Pounds.
Bacon.....	50,055
Flour, 1638 bbls., 216 lbs. each.....	353,808
Flour, 54 sacks, 100 lbs. each.....	5,400
Tobacco.....	2,936
30 boxes soap.....	1,800
1 bellows, 1 tuyere iron, 1 anvil, 1 drill, 1 vice, 1 box hardware.....	469
	<u>414,468</u>
414,468 lbs., at 5½ cts. per lb.....	<u>\$22,795 74</u>

*The United States, on account of the Sioux Indian district,
To Smith & Peck, Dr.*

Nov. 15, 1868.—For transportation to the reservation of the following,
viz:

	Pounds.
Bacon.....	214,920
1582 barrels flour, 216 pounds each.....	341,712
392 sacks flour, 100 pounds each.....	39,200
30 boxes soap.....	1,800
Tobacco.....	5,210
6 cases rifles.....	810
1 box blouses.....	200
4 iron bound chests.....	220
3 boxes hardware, 4 bellows, 3 anvils, 3 vices, 3 tuyere irons, and 3 drills.....	1,467
Bill of iron, steel, &c.....	4,191
1 mill and fixtures.....	21,735
	<u>631,465</u>
631,465 pounds, at 5½ cents.....	<u>\$34,730 57</u>

SUPPORT OF INDIANS.

*The United States, on account of the Sioux Indian district,
To Smith & Peck, Dr.*

Nov. 20, 1868.—For transportation on the following to the reservation,
viz:

	Pounds.
1,303 barrels flour, 216 pounds each.....	281, 448
3,000 sacks flour, 100 pounds each.....	300, 000
Bacon.....	100, 000
Tobacco.....	1, 960
Sugar, 242 barrels.....	61, 210
10 breaking ploughs.....	3, 500

748, 118

748, 118 pounds, at 5½ cents \$41, 146 49

*The United States, on account of the Sioux Indian district,
To Smith & Peck, Dr.*

Nov. 20, 1868.—For 5,606 sacks of flour, at \$5 50 per sack.	\$30, 833 00
For 100,000 lbs. bacon, at \$19½ cts. per lb.	19, 500 00
For 96,119 lbs. sugar, at 15½ cts. per lb....	14, 898 45
For 1745 lbs. tobacco, at 75 cts. per lb....	1, 308 75
Total.....	66, 540 20

*The United States, on account of the Sioux Indian district,
To H. D. & J. E. Booge, Dr.*

Dec. 7, 1868.—For 99 head cattle, (Whetstone,) 123,288 pounds, at 7 ⁹ / ₁₀ cents.....	\$9, 739 75
Dec. 7, 1868.—For 16 head cattle, (Whetstone,) 13,600 pounds, at 6 ⁹ / ₁₀ cents.....	938 40
Nov. 26, 1868.—For 313 head cattle, (Cheyenne,) 306,740 pounds, at 7 ⁹ / ₁₀ cents.....	24, 232 46
Dec. 1, 1868.—For 340 head cattle, (Grand River,) 408,000 pounds, at 7 ⁹ / ₁₀ cents.....	32, 232 00
Total.....	67, 142 61

Awarded lowest bidder, under advertised contract, October 12, 1868.