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**Estimates for Sisseton, Wahpeton, and other Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting estimates of appropriations for Sisseton, Wahpeton, Santee Sioux Indians, at Lac Traverse and Devil's Lake, Dakota**

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ESTIMATES FOR SISSETON, WAHPETON, AND OTHER INDIANS.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

SUBMITTING

*Estimates of appropriations for Sisseton, Wahpeton, Santee Sioux Indians, at Lac Traverse and Devil's Lake, Dakota.*

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JANUARY 19, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 18, 1870.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 13th instant, together with estimates of appropriation required for the Sisseton and Wahpeton Santee Sioux Indians, on Lac Traverse and Devil's Reservations in Dakota Territory, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871, amounting to \$79,135 80; also, recommending an appropriation of \$10,000 for said Indians for the remainder of the present fiscal year, to provide necessary food for them "during the spring and summer, and to furnish them with implements and seeds for cultivating their fields."

I concur with the Commissioner in the views submitted by him, and commend the subject to the early and favorable consideration of Congress.

It is proper to remark that in consequence of the continued indisposition of the Rev. Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, at whose disposal the funds appropriated for these Indians, by the act of March 3, 1869, were placed, he has been constrained to relinquish the duties imposed upon him by said act, and has notified me that he can no longer perform them. He is now absent from the country for the restoration of his health.

Under the existing circumstances, I therefore respectfully suggest that the appropriations which Congress may make for the Indians referred to be placed within the control of this department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. COX,  
*Secretary.*

HON. JAMES G. BLAINE,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., January 13, 1870.

SIR: The sixth article—Senate amendment—treaty of February 19, 1867, (15 Stat., p. 509,) with the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux, provides "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, and, consequently, no appropriation has been asked for said Indians, in the regular estimate for this office, now before Congress.

By the act of March 3, 1869, (15 Stat., p. 315,) making appropriations to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the service of the government, &c., the sum of \$60,000 was appropriated, to be expended under the direction of Rev. H. B. Whipple, in the purchase of tools, food, seeds, cattle, agricultural implements, and other useful articles for said Indians. The full amount so appropriated has been placed at the disposal of Bishop Whipple, but from reports received at this office it will not prove sufficient to furnish the Indians with the actual necessities of life to the end of the present fiscal year.

I herewith inclose a copy of a letter from H. H. Sibley, esq., who is acting for Bishop Whipple in his absence, dated the 19th ultimo, inclosing one from Agent Daniels, with an estimate of appropriations required for the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux on the Lake Traverse and Devil's Lake reservations, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871. This estimate amounts in the aggregate to \$79,135 80, and Mr. Sibley, for reasons given in his letter, suggests that the further sum of \$10,000 be appropriated for the present fiscal year, to provide necessary food for the Indians during the spring and summer, and to furnish them with implements and seeds for cultivating and planting their fields.

With the exception of the items for pay of interpreters, the estimate of Agent Daniels is approved by this office; and I would also recommend the appropriation, at an early day, of the \$10,000 required for use the coming spring and summer to feed said Indians, and to enable them to plant their fields and cultivate the same.

I respectfully request that this matter be submitted to Congress, with such remarks thereon as may be deemed proper and advisable by your department, for the consideration and action of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. J. D. Cox,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA,  
December 19, 1869.

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit herewith estimates of United States Indian Agent J. W. Daniels, for the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux Indians, on the reservations at Lac Traverse and Devil's Lake, Dakota Territory, for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1871, together with a report of the same agent, dated 3d instant, embodying recommendations, which I cheerfully indorse as wise and judicious, in my judgment. These Indians are doing so well, and seem so anxious to as-

simulate themselves to the condition and habits of life of the whites, that they should meet with every practicable encouragement at the hands of the government.

I trust the small amount estimated for—in all less than eighty thousand dollars for both reservations for an entire year—will be accorded by Congress without curtailment; and I respectfully suggest that the sum of ten thousand dollars be appropriated for the current year, as the funds on hand, now less than eight thousand dollars, will not suffice to furnish the bands named with actual necessaries to the end of the present fiscal year, June 30, 1870. Apart from the actual expense of employes requisite, not much more of food and clothing than are now on hand will be needed at the lower reservation before the opening of the spring season; but the Indians on the Devil's Lake reservation are poorly furnished with food, and I have been compelled by the scanty amount of funds remaining to restrict the rations issued to them by the military authorities at Fort Totten, to six hundred dollars per month, in addition to a few barrels of flour on hand belonging to the Indian fund. From this exhibit in brief you will perceive that at least ten thousand dollars additional is required to provide necessary food for the Indians during the spring and early summer, and to furnish them with the means and appliances for cultivating and planting their fields.

In compliance with the request of Bishop Whipple—contained in a letter received from him in France, two days since—I have had the honor to-day to communicate to the Secretary of the Interior such statements and recommendations, relating to Indian matters, as I deemed to be of importance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. H. SIBLEY,

*Acting for Bishop Whipple, in his absence.*

Hon. E. S. PARKER,

*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.*

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SISSETON AND WAHPETON SIOUX AGENCY,  
*Dakota Territory, December 3, 1869.*

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to forward estimates for the Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871.

In connection, I would say, at or near the agency a farm should be opened, where the young men can be taught everything pertaining to agriculture and the minor mechanical duties of a farm; it will serve to keep them out of idleness, teach them industry, frugality, dependence upon themselves, and the peaceable habits of life. It takes away all excuse for not having anything to do. It is upon these young men we are to depend for any permanent improvement among these people, and if they are not encouraged while there is a willingness to work, and brought up fully to understand their duties to themselves and their God, the future condition of these Indians will be no better in ten years than it is to-day. There is everything in the habits of the Indians to encourage the young men to grow up in idleness and the ways of their forefathers, and to counteract that influence they should be kept at work, and away as much as possible from associations with those that encourage indolence by example and counsel.

A few young men that were educated at the Presbyterian Mission, near Yellow Medicine, on their old reservation, who have received the

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least help from government, are further advanced in civilization, better adapted to care for themselves, and have a greater influence for good on these Indians than any other men among them.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. DANIELS,  
United States Indian Agent.

Gen. H. H. SIBLEY,  
Agent for Bishop Whipple, St. Paul, Minnesota.

SISSETON AND WAHPETON SIOUX AGENCY,  
Dakota Territory, December 2, 1869.

*Estimates for the Sisseton and Wahpeton Santee Sioux Indians, on Lac Traverse and Devil's Lake Reservations, Dakota Territory, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871.*

*Lac Traverse Reservation.*

10 yoke oxen, at \$160.....	\$1,600 00	
10 cows, at \$45.....	450 00	
10 hogs, at \$10.....	100 00	
15 yokes, at \$4.....	60 00	
12 pair ox-bows, at 80 cents.....	9 60	
5 wagons, at \$100.....	500 00	
20 chains, at \$2 50.....	50 00	
10 cross-plows, at \$15 50.....	155 00	
8 breaking-plows, at \$25.....	200 00	
2 dozen scythes, at \$13.....	26 00	
2 dozen snaths, at \$8.....	16 00	
4 dozen hay-forks, at \$9.....	36 00	
6 dozen scythe-stones, at \$1 50.....	9 00	
3 dozen spades, at \$14.....	42 00	
1 dozen shovels, at \$14.....	14 00	
4 dozen planter's hoes, at \$9.....	36 00	
6 dozen axes, at \$13 50.....	81 00	
1 dozen augers.....	12 00	
1 dozen chisels.....	12 00	
½ dozen wheelbarrows, at \$7.....	42 00	
1 platform scales.....	24 00	
800 lbs. grindstone, at 5 cents.....	40 00	
1 set blacksmiths' tools.....	200 00	
1,000 lbs. iron.....	300 00	
12 cook stoves, at \$36.....	432 00	
6 box stoves, at \$18.....	108 00	
60 joints pipe, at 50 cents.....	30 00	
Stationery and books for department and schools.....	200 00	
		\$4,784 60
Subsistence supplies.....	20,000 00	
Clothing and dry goods.....	12,000 00	
		<u>32,000 00</u>

IMPROVEMENTS.

1 warehouse, stone or brick.....	\$3,000 00	
3 houses for employés.....	2,500 00	
1 blacksmith's shop.....	300 00	
1 carpenter's shop.....	400 00	
1 mill, with one run of stone.....	1,500 00	
1 portable steam saw-mill.....	2,000 00	
12 houses for Indians.....	4,800 00	
3 school-houses.....	1,200 00	
	<hr/>	\$15,700 00

EMPLOYÉS REQUIRED.

1 clerk.....	1,200 00	
1 interpreter.....	600 00	
2 farmers.....	1,200 00	
1 storekeeper.....	600 00	
1 carpenter.....	720 00	
1 assistant carpenter, 6 months.....	240 00	
1 blacksmith.....	600 00	
4 laborers.....	1,200 00	
1 wheelwright, at \$40, for 4 months.....	160 00	
1 engineer, at \$70.....	840 00	
1 miller, at \$40.....	480 00	
5 school-teachers, at \$20, for 9 months.....	900 00	
1 cook, at \$40.....	480 00	
	<hr/>	9,220 00
Total.....		<hr/> <hr/> 61,704 60

*Devil's Lake Reservation.*

1 span horses.....	\$400 00	
2 yoke oxen, at \$175.....	350 00	
4 yokes, at \$5.....	20 00	
2 wagons, at \$100.....	200 00	
4 chains, at \$3.....	12 00	
6 pair ox-bows, at 80 cents.....	4 80	
1 dozen scythes.....	14 00	
2 dozen scythe-stones.....	3 00	
1 dozen snaths.....	9 00	
1 dozen hay-forks.....	10 00	
½ dozen spades.....	7 00	
½ dozen shovels.....	7 00	
4 dozen planter's hoes.....	36 00	
1 set counter scales.....	16 00	
300 lbs. grindstone, at 8 cents.....	24 00	
	<hr/>	1,112 80

EMPLOYÉS.

1 farmer.....	1,000 00	
1 interpreter.....	600 00	
1 cook, at \$40.....	480 00	
2 laborers, at \$35.....	840 00	
1 carpenter, 3 months, at \$75.....	225 00	
	<hr/>	3,145 00

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Subsistence supplies.....	\$8,000 00	
Clothing and dry-goods.....	4,000 00	
1 cook stove.....	40 00	
1 box stove.....	35 00	
12 joints pipe.....	8 40	
		<u>\$12,073 40</u>

IMPROVEMENTS.

1 warehouse, 20 x 30.....	600 00	
1 boarding house, 18 x 30.....	500 00	
		<u>1,100 00</u>
Total.....		<u><u>17,431 20</u></u>

There is a great scarcity of timber fit for building purposes, and what there is is scattered along the Coteau des Prairies for fifty miles. It will be cheaper to build of brick or stone, as the material for making the former is abundant, and to the latter there is no limit.

The portable steam mill can be made available during the summer to cut timber at the several ravines, and be located in the winter as a power for grinding corn.

I would also recommend that means may be allowed for the purchase of twelve (12) carbines, with one thousand rounds of ammunition, to be kept at the agency for the use of Indian scouts that may be raised, when necessary by the presence of hostile Sioux in the vicinity of the reservation. The settlers on the border of Minnesota and Dakota are dependent upon the vigilance of these Indians for protection from the Missouri Sioux, and as long as they are without the proper means in their own hands, it would be advisable to have them at hand. In all cases I should notify the nearest post commander when they were in use by the scouts.

J. W. DANIELS,  
*United States Indian Agent.*