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**Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, relative to an appropriation required for the construction of a wagon-road for the transportation of supplies from Red Lake Crossing, on the Northern Pacific Railroad, to the Red Lake Agency, in Minnesota.**

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WAGON-ROAD TO RED LAKE AGENCY, MINNESOTA.

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LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

*An appropriation required for the construction of a wagon-road for the transportation of supplies from Red Lake Crossing, on the Northern Pacific Railroad, to the Red Lake Agency, in Minnesota.*

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JANUARY 9, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 7, 1873.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 6th instant, from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with an estimate of appropriation for \$5,000, required for the construction of a wagon-road for the transportation of annuity goods and supplies from Red Lake Crossing, on the Northern Pacific Railroad, to the Red Lake Agency in Minnesota.

The subject is respectfully submitted, with the request that it receive the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 6, 1873.*

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith copies of a letter from Edward P. Smith, United States Indian agent for the Chippewas of the Mississippi, dated "White Earth, Minnesota, November 16, 1872," in which the attention of this Office is invited to the necessity of construct-

ing a wagon-road from Red Lake Crossing to the agency at Red Lake. By this road all supplies for the Indians at Red Lake can be taken from the Northern Pacific Railway, at the crossing of Red Lake River, and delivered at the agency direct, instead of being transported, as at present, by a long circuitous route, one hundred and seventy miles, via Brainerd and Leech Lake, partly by land and partly by water.

The cost of this road, estimated by the agent at \$5,000, will in a few years, be saved to the Government by a corresponding reduction in the expenses of transportation.

I respectfully submit an estimate for the amount required, with the request that the same may receive the favorable consideration of the Department and of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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*Estimate of appropriation required for the construction of a wagon-road for the transportation of annuity goods and supplies from Red Lake Crossing, on the Northern Pacific Railroad, to the Red Lake agency, in Minnesota.*

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the construction of a wagon-road, by which supplies may be transported from a point on the Northern Pacific Railway, in the State of Minnesota, known as Red Lake Crossing, to the Red Lake branch of the agency, for the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi..... \$5,000

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UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,  
*Becker County, Minnesota, White Earth, November 16, 1872.*

SIR: I desire to invite the attention of the Indian Office to the necessity of a wagon-road from Red Lake Crossing to the agency at Red Lake. The distance is not far from sixty miles. The line of the road will probably require eighty miles, about forty-five of which will lie in country partly timbered.

There are 1,100 Indians at Red Lake, and, so far as I can see, they are permanently located, and all future efforts for their civilization will be undertaken at that point. The great obstacle to civilizing efforts among them is their inaccessibility. At present all their supplies are carried by wagon from Brainerd to Leech Lake, and across the lake on the steamboat, fifteen miles, and, then by wagon seventy miles, a distance in all of one hundred and seventy miles.

Many times in the year the lake is impassable by boat, and at other times the road from Leech Lake is impassable on account of water and mud.

The proposed road will take all supplies at the crossing of Red Lake River from the Union Pacific Railroad. It can be built from the crossing to Red Lake agency for \$5,000. As a matter of economy in transportation to the Government and of necessity to the Indians, I earnestly recommend an appropriation for this purpose.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. SMITH,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.