

University of Oklahoma College of Law

## University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

---

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

---

1-9-1873

**Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to an appropriation required to remove the Cheyenne River agency from its present location at the mouth of Cheyenne River, on the Missouri River.**

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 80, 42nd Congress, 3rd Sess. (1873)

This House Executive Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu](mailto:Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu).

CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

*An appropriation required to remove the Cheyenne River agency from its present location at the mouth of Cheyenne River, on the Missouri River.*

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

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

SIR: I have the honor to submit to Congress an estimate of appropriation for \$25,000 required for the removal of the Cheyenne River agency from its present location to a more suitable place within the Sioux reservation.

I also inclose a copy of a report dated the 6th instant, from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying papers, in relation to the subject, which is earnestly commended to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully,

B. R. COWEN,  
Acting Secretary.

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

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

I have the honor to present, herewith, copies of a communication from Theo. M. Kones, late United States Indian agent, dated April 13, 1872, and to invite your attention to the subject-matter thereof, relating to the removal of the Cheyenne River agency from its present location, at the mouth of Cheyenne River, on the Upper Missouri.

The buildings at this agency are faulty in construction, and unsightly in appearance, being built of logs with earth roof, and plastered with

mud. The warehouse is a harbor for vermin, and affords but little protection for the large amount of supplies which has to be stored at that place for subsisting the Two Kettle, Minneconjoux, Sans Arc, and a portion of the Blackfeet bands of Sioux Indians belonging to said agency. Besides, the location is exceedingly unfortunate by reason of the encroachment of the river upon its bank, rendering it necessary at certain times to remove the stores and other property of the agency from front to rear for safety, a process which, from present indications, will have to be continued until the agency shall be removed to a permanent location.

I inclose, herewith, an estimate for the sum of \$25,000, or so much thereof as shall be required for the removal of said agency to such place on the Sioux reservation, in Dakota, as in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior will best subserve the public interest, and the interest of the Indians, and for the erection thereat of necessary agency-buildings; and respectfully request that the same be laid before Congress for favorable consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
Acting Commissioner.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

\* Estimate of appropriation required for the removal of Cheyenne River agency from its present location to a more suitable place upon the Sioux reservation.

For this amount, or so much thereof as shall be necessary for the removal of the Cheyenne River agency from its present location, at the mouth of Cheyenne River, on the Upper Missouri, to such other suitable place on the Sioux reservation as the Secretary of the Interior shall select, and for the erection thereat of necessary buildings for the use of said agency..... \$25,000

CHEYENNE RIVER INDIAN AGENCY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,

April 13, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 2d ultimo in relation to the removal of this agency. The estimated cost incident to the undertaking, and my views in regard to the necessity of immediate action in the matter, are called for.

In responding thereto, I beg leave to hand to you, herewith, a sketch or plan for a new agency, to be built of wood, with shingled roofs. The cost, as near as I can estimate it, will be as follows, viz:

2 new warehouses, 25 by 100 feet, \$2,250 each.....	\$4,500
1 new stable, 32 by 100 feet, \$2,000.....	2,000
3 dwelling-houses, 44 by 44 feet, \$1,800 each.....	5,400
7 dwelling-houses, 20 by 30 feet, \$600 each.....	4,200
1 dormitory for men, 20 by 35 feet, \$500.....	500
1 mess-house for men, 20 by 35 feet, \$500.....	500
4 offices and workshops, 20 by 25 feet, \$300 each.....	1,200
1 school-house, 30 by 40 feet, \$500.....	500
1 chapel, 30 by 40 feet, \$750.....	750
Removing and reconstructing old buildings, machinery, &c.....	5,450
Making total of.....	25,000

This estimate exceeds that previously given by \$5,000, but is intended to provide a better class of buildings than those at first contemplated, with a view to some protection against vermin. The cost, in fact, (if the money is honestly expended,) will depend upon the character and number of buildings.

Ten thousand dollars, I have no doubt, will build a better agency than the present one, which, as I learn, was never intended for a permanent affair, only a shift for the moment. The location is said to have been selected from the deck of a steambot, as she was passing down the river, and the large quantity of timber, which is now entirely gone, recommended it.

I beg leave to add that there are no architects or builders here, and the information of various kinds necessary to estimate with much precision is not within reach. The desire to do something more satisfactory than I have been able to accomplish has caused the delay in furnishing the estimate.

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

THEO. M. KONES,  
*United States Special Agent.*

Hon. F. A. WALKER,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

○