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Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, relative to the expenses of removing the Otter Tail band of Pillager Indians to the White Earth Reservation, Minnesota

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OTTER TAIL BAND OF PILLAGER INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

The expenses of removing the Otter Tail band of Pillager Indians to the White Earth reservation, Minnesota.

JANUARY 18, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 13, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 11th instant, with the accompanying papers, including an estimate of appropriation for \$25,000, recommending, for reasons stated by him, that said sum be appropriated by Congress to defray the expense of removing the Otter Tail band of Pillager Indians to the White Earth reservation, in Minnesota.

I approve the recommendation of the Acting Commissioner, and respectfully submit the subject for 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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 11, 1873.

SIR: By the Indian appropriation act of May 29, 1872, (St., vol. 17, p. 189,) the sum of \$25,000 was appropriated to aid and instruct the Indians on the White Earth reservation, in Minnesota, in the arts of civilization, &c., conditioned upon the assent of the Mississippi band

of Chippewas to the settlement of the Otter Tail band of Pillagers upon said reservation with equal rights in respect to the lands within its boundaries. The condition upon which this appropriation was made has been complied with, and the prospect is fair for an early remove of said Indians from their old haunts in Otter Tail County, where they have no rights whatever, but are a constant source of annoyance and irritation to the citizens of that locality, who are making urgent appeals to the executive of the State to have them removed by force.

In connection with this subject I have the honor to present herewith a copy of a letter from E. P. Smith, United States agent for the Chippewas in Minnesota, dated "White Earth, December 31, 1872," in which he reports that the Otter Tail Indians are willing to remove to the reservation, provided that the means of self-support, such as the building of houses, opening and fencing of farms, stocking the same with cattle, &c., are extended to them in the start.

I fully concur in the agent's recommendation that the sum of \$25,000 be appropriated for these purposes, and respectfully request that the inclosed estimate for said amount be laid before Congress for favorable consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY, BECKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA,
White Earth, December 31, 1872.

SIR: The attention of the Commissioner is respectfully invited to the condition of the Otter Tail band of Pillagers. In my annual report I made a statement of their forlorn circumstances.

They have no right where they are; they are unwilling to go to Leech Lake, and would be without help or hope if they should. The right to go to White Earth has been purchased for them by the Government, of the White Earth Chippewas; and they are willing to come, and the citizens at Otter Tail and the State authorities are very determined to compel them to leave Otter Tail County.

There are about three hundred (300) of them. They cannot make any beginning toward self-support here without help in building houses, opening and fencing farms, and stocking with cattle.

For these purposes twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) will be required. This sum will place these Indians in a condition to begin to live, and the outlay now will be in every way most economical. For unless they are put in the way of providing for themselves, besides being a perpetual annoyance to the citizens, they will be a continual burden to the State and United States Government.

I do, therefore, most earnestly recommend the securing of such an appropriation as shall relieve these Indians and the citizens.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. SMITH,
United States Indian Agent.

Estimate of appropriation required for the benefit of the Otter Tail band of Pillager Indians in Minnesota.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to aid and assist the Otter Tail band of Pillager Indians in establishing themselves upon the White Earth reservation, in Minnesota, as provided by the second clause of the third section of the act of May 29, 1872, (Stat., vol. 17, p. 189) \$25,000