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**Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, relative to an appropriation to meet indebtedness contracted by the agent for the Arickaree, Gros Ventre, and Mandan Indians, in the northwestern part of Dakota**

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APPROPRIATION FOR INDIANS IN NORTHWESTERN DA-  
KOTA.

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LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

*An appropriation to meet indebtedness contracted by the agent for the Arickaree, Gros Ventre, and Mandan Indians, in the northwestern part of Dakota.*

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JANUARY 25, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 22, 1873.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 20th instant, inclosing an estimate of appropriation amounting to \$76,000, to meet indebtedness contracted by the agent for the Arickaree, Gros Ventre, and Mandan Indians, in the northwestern part of Dakota, in providing them with subsistence, over and above the amount heretofore appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.

The reasons which necessitated the incurring of this indebtedness are very fully set forth in the letter of the Acting Commissioner, and I respectfully recommend that the subject may be favorably considered by Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The Hon. the SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 20, 1873.*

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith a copy of a letter from John E. Tappan, United States Indian agent for the Arickaree, Gros Ventre, and Mandan Indians, in the northwestern part of Dakota, inclosing an estimate for the sum of \$75,925.67, to meet indebtedness contracted by him in providing subsistence for said Indians over and above

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the amount of \$75,000 appropriated for their support for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.

The starving condition of the Indians in his charge, to the number of some 2,400 persons, resulting from the destruction of their crops by grasshoppers, and the total disappearance of all game in that section of the country, induced the agent, in order to prevent starvation among them, to take upon himself the responsibility of contracting this indebtedness, regardless of the fact that there were no means at the disposal of the Department applicable in payment, the balance from last year's appropriation being merely sufficient to pay salaries of the employes of the agency up to June 30, next.

Referring to the agent's communication on the subject, I respectfully ask that his request for a special appropriation, to provide for the exigency of the case, may receive the favorable consideration of the Department and of Congress.

I have caused to be prepared, and herewith inclosed, an estimate for the sum of \$76,000, or so much thereof as may be required for the purpose indicated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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*Estimate of appropriation required for the benefit of the Arickaree, Gros Ventre, and Mandan Indians, in Dakota.*

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the subsistence, civilization, and care of the Arickaree, Gros Ventre, and Mandan Indians, at Fort Berthold agency, Dakota, to make up deficiency in the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873..... \$76,000

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UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,  
*Fort Berthold, November 30, 1872.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a statement of the account of this agency, with the appropriation set apart for the support of the Indians. You will see upon examination that the amount of indebtedness exceeds the appropriation some \$75,925.67. This great indebtedness has been rendered necessary by reason of the failure of the crops, and an epidemic among the deer and antelope, great numbers of which have died, and there is absolutely no game in the country, and the Indians are totally destitute. I have made these purchases and sent you this exhibit in order that you may take this amount up in your deficiency bill, before the present session of Congress, and that the next year's appropriation may be free from any old debts.

I am aware that I have exceeded my authority, and that the estimates have been exceeded, but the lives of 2,400 faithful and peaceable Indians are dependent upon my exertions, and the care and proper feeding of the sick, aged, and orphans that are intrusted to me must be my excuse. Trusting that this may meet with your approval,

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. TAPPAN,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

The Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

APPROPRIATION FOR INDIANS IN NORTHWESTERN DAKOTA. 3

*United States Indian agency in account with appropriation, 1872.*

July 1.	To cash.....	\$16,850 00
Aug. 19.	To cash.....	17,200 00
Aug. 19.	To annuities .....	11,769 24
Annuities transportation:		
June 30.	To vouchers, E. H. Durfee, (provisions).....	4,126 19
July 12.	To vouchers, D. W. Marsh, (provisions).....	1,748 21
Sept. 2.	To vouchers, D. W. Marsh, (provisions).....	2,392 86
Sept. 2.	To vouchers, D. W. Marsh, (extra hay).....	2,250 00
Sept. 7.	To vouchers, D. W. Marsh, (beef).....	19,192 69
Sept. 23.	To vouchers, D. W. Marsh, (contract hay).....	5,050 00
Sept. 27.	To vouchers, D. W. Marsh, (provisions).....	930 23
Oct. 18.	To vouchers, Durfee & Peck, (provisions).....	8,619 72
Nov. 1.	To vouchers, John H. Charles, (provisions).....	11,684 05
Nov. 1.	To vouchers, D. W. Marsh, (provisions).....	1,363 24
Nov. 25.	To vouchers, D. W. Marsh, (provisions).....	30,889 24
Estimate:		
Oct. 6.	To estimate of funds to pay coal contract.....	1,500 00
Oct. 6.	To estimate of funds to pay seed-wheat.....	360 00
Not estimated for:		
Oct. 6.	Estimate of funds to pay employés, first and second quarters, 1873	15,000 00
Total .....		150,925 67
CR.		
July 1.	By appropriation .....	75,000 00
Deficit to be taken up.....		75,925 67

JOHN E. TAPPAN,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,  
*Fort Berthold, Dakota Territory, November 30, 1872.*