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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to an appropriation required for the removal of the Snake or Pi-Ute Indians to the reservation provided for them on the head-waters of the Malheur River, in the State of Oregon.

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REMOVAL OF SNAKE OR PI-UTE INDIANS TO THEIR RESERVATION.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

An appropriation required for the removal of the Snake or Pi-Ute Indians to the reservation provided for them on the head-waters of the Malheur River, in the State of Oregon.

JANUARY 30, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 28, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 24th instant, inclosing, with other papers, an estimate of appropriation amounting to \$47,500, required for the removal of the Snake or Pi-Ute Indians to the reservation provided for them on the head-waters of the Malheur River, in the State of Oregon, for the erection of agency buildings, and for the subsistence and support of the Indians for one year.

Concurring with the Acting Commissioner as to the necessity for this appropriation, I respectfully request that it may receive the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 24, 1873.

SIR: In a letter from this office of the 4th September last, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs submitted for the consideration of the Department a report of T. B. Odeneal, esq., superintendent Indian af-

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fairs for Oregon, relative to the action taken by him with a view to the establishment of a reservation on the head-waters of the Malheur River, in that State, for the Snake or Pi-Ute Indians, in accordance with office instructions of July 6, 1872.

Referring to said report, and to the letter of the Department in reply thereto, inclosing an executive order of the President under date of September 12, 1872, in which he directs that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, the lands described in the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs be set apart as a reservation for the Snake or Pi-Ute Indians, I have the honor herewith to present copies of a communication from Superintendent Odeneal, together with his estimate of funds required for the erection of agency buildings on said reservation, the removal of the Indians thereto, their establishment thereat, and for their subsistence and support for one year, amounting in the aggregate to \$47,500.

It is impossible to state the exact number of these Indians; but from the best information obtained it is believed to be not less than eight hundred. Scattered in the southeast part of the State, they have heretofore, by their roving and warlike habits, caused much trouble and annoyance to the white settlements; but having, of late, been brought, to some extent, under the controlling influence of the Government, they can readily be induced to go on the reservation set apart for them if provision is made for their subsistence and support.

Approving of the superintendent's recommendation in the premises, I have caused to be prepared, and herewith inclose, an estimate for the sum of \$47,500, or so much thereof as may be necessary to accomplish the desired object, and respectfully 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.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Estimate of funds required for the establishment of Malheur agency, the removal of the Indians thereto, subsistence, &c., for one year.

For removing Indians to reservation.....	\$2,000
For erection of dwelling and office for agent, and dwellings for three employés.....	3,000
For subsisting Indians one year.....	20,000
For pay of one carpenter, one blacksmith, one farmer, and one miller, at \$1,200 each per annum.....	4,800
For pay of agent.....	1,500
For pay of commissary.....	1,200
For pay of interpreter.....	500
For purchase of a portable steam saw-mill.....	3,500
For purchase of blankets, clothing, &c., and for other beneficial objects, including medicines.....	6,000
For purchase of tools, teams, and farming implements, and pay of laborers....	5,000
Total.....	47,500

According to the estimates of Colonel Otis, and other military officers, which are perhaps more nearly correct than any others obtainable at this time, the number of Indians to be placed upon this reservation will not be less than eight hundred. In order to keep them upon the reservation they will have to be subsisted the greater part of the first year. They will be very much inclined to rebel against the confinement and circumscription of this new mode of life, and cannot be successfully dealt with and peaceably managed except by kind treatment and proper provisions for their comfort-

able maintenance. The timber for building purposes being from ten to fifteen miles distant from the agency, a portable steam saw-mill is almost indispensable; the difference in the expense of building up the agency without it would exceed its cost. These Indians will be nearly destitute of clothing and blankets in the spring, hence the necessity of furnishing these articles. Tools, teams, and farming implements will be needed. I have made no estimate for school-house, books, or teacher, because I do not consider it practicable to take any steps toward their education in books until they shall first be brought under the influence of enlightened people, and learn, by experience, that our ways, customs, and habits are better than theirs. It would, as I believe, be a useless expenditure of money to attempt the establishment of a school during the first year.

T. B. ODENEAL,

Superintendent Indian Affairs in Oregon.

SALEM, OREGON, November 20, 1872.

Estimate of appropriation required for the establishment of the Snake Indians upon the Malheur reservation, in the State of Oregon.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the erection of agency-buildings on the Malheur reservation, in Oregon, set apart by the President of the United States for the use and benefit of the Snake Indians, to defray the expenses of the removal of said Indians to the said reservation, for their establishment thereat, and for their subsistence and support for one year after their removal..... \$47,500