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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to a deficiency in the appropriation for the subsistence of the Sioux Indians.

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APPROPRIATIONS FOR SIOUX INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

A deficiency in the appropriation for the subsistence of the Sioux Indians.

FEBRUARY 13, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of a communication from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 10th instant, in relation to a deficiency in the appropriation for the subsistence of the Sioux Indians. The causes which have produced this deficiency are fully set forth in the Acting Commissioner's letter, and will be seen to have been beyond the control of the Department.

The condition of this appropriation was not brought to the attention of the Department until within a very short time, and it was supposed that if the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874, were made flexible, as had been done in former appropriation bills, the Indian Office would have been able to meet the demands upon that fund for the remainder of the fiscal year as well as for the next year, by the exercise of proper economy. The change in the appropriation bill, however, confining expenditures to the fiscal year for which it was made, has compelled the Department to ask for this deficiency. It seems to have been the custom of the Indian Office to supply deficiencies, where any occurred, by using the new appropriation so soon as it was made. For this reason this is the first time, within my knowledge of the affairs of the Department, when a deficiency has been asked for the support of Indian tribes.

The great importance of being able to feed this powerful nation of Sioux Indians, for the remainder of this fiscal year, must be apparent to every one, and needs only to be stated in order to be appreciated. Should the means to accomplish this object be withheld, there is great danger that the peaceable relations now existing between this nation and the United States will be disturbed; and should hostilities occur, aside from the ordinary calamities to individuals, the expense of such hostil-

ities to the Government will soon very far exceed the small amount now asked for, and which, if granted, it is believed will certainly prevent the occurrences to which I have alluded.

I desire, therefore, as earnestly as I may consistently with propriety, to urge upon the attention of Congress the request herein contained.

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., February 10, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing the appropriations and disbursements, in gross, that have been made annually for and on account of subsisting the Sioux Indians, under treaty made with that tribe April 29, 1868.

It will be seen from such statement that the entire amount appropriated has been expended, and that, consequently, there are no funds now at the disposal of the Department to purchase subsistence for said Indians for the remainder of the present fiscal year. The causes which have led to this deficiency, briefly stated, are as follows: It will be seen by the inclosed statement that in the first appropriation made for subsisting said Indians there was an actual deficiency of \$168,125.64, and in the second appropriation a further deficiency of \$57,531.45, making in all \$225,657.09. After deducting this amount of \$225,657.09 from the last appropriation, \$1,314,000, there was left for the present fiscal year only the sum of \$1,088,342.91. There has also been a large increase over last year in the number of Indians who are being fed at the Whetstone and Red Cloud agencies. The number fed during the last fiscal year at the Whetstone agency was never greater than about 5,000, while there are now not less than 10,000 being subsisted at that place. This increase is doubtless made up of individuals and bands that have been heretofore more or less with what are known as the "hostile Sioux." At the Red Cloud agency the number is also materially increased by reason of the northern Arapahoes and Cheyennes to the number of about 2,100 having come into that agency. The Yankton band of Sioux and the Poncas—neither of which tribes is a party to the Sioux treaty—have also been subsisted from the subsistence-fund of the Sioux, as was contemplated by the Indian appropriation act of May 29, 1872.

There will be required for the subsistence of the Sioux, including the Yankton band and the Poncas, up to the 30th of June next, as near as the same can be estimated, not less than \$350,000; and as it cannot be expected that the contractors for furnishing supplies for these Indians should deliver any further stores without an assurance that they will receive pay for the same within a reasonable time, and as the only way to keep the Indians quiet and at their respective agencies is to feed them, which cannot be done unless an additional appropriation shall be made by Congress for that purpose, I have caused to be prepared, and inclose herewith, an estimate of a deficiency in the appropriation for the subsistence of the Sioux Indians until June 30, 1873, amounting to

\$350,000, and respectfully ask that the same be laid before Congress, with such favorable recommendation as the Department shall deem proper and advisable for the action of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Statement of appropriations and disbursements on account of the subsistence-fund for the Sioux Indians.

Periods for which appropriations and disbursements were made.	Appropriations and disbursements.	Deficiencies.
Amount appropriated for the year ended June 30, 1871..	\$985,500 00
Amount disbursed	1,153,625 64
		\$168,125 64
Amount appropriated for the year ended June 30, 1872..	1,314,000 00
Amount disbursed	1,371,531 45
		57,531 45
Amount appropriated for the year ending June 30, 1873.	1,314,000 00
Amount disbursed	1,088,342 91
Difference, being amount paid on account of the service for the years ended June 30, 1871 and 1872	225,657 09
Total deficiencies		225,657 09

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, January 18, 1873.

Estimate of appropriation required to meet a deficiency in the appropriation for the subsistence of the Sioux Indians for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary to make up deficiency in the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873, for the subsistence and support of "Sioux of different tribes, including Santee Sioux in the State of Nebraska, and Poncas in the great Sioux reservation, and families of Santee Dakota Sioux, who have taken homesteads at or near Flandreaw, in Dakota Territory"..... \$350,000 00

