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Removal of Chippewa Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to the removal of Chippewa Indians to the reservation provided for them near White Earth Lake

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REMOVAL OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

*The removal of Chippewa Indians to the reservation provided for them near
White Earth Lake.*

JANUARY 23, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 22, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated the 18th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and of a communication from E. P. Smith, United States agent for the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota, in relation to completing the removal of the scattering bands of said tribe to the reservation provided for them near White Earth Lake, under the second article of the Chippewa treaty of 19th of March, 1867, and subsisting them at that place for six months, for which an estimate is submitted by the agent.

The Commissioner refers to a balance on hand of appropriations heretofore made for the removal and subsistence of these Indians, which it is believed would suffice for the present purpose; but this balance, \$57,079 44, is, by the restricting clause in the appropriation act of July 27, 1868, held to have been placed beyond the control of this Department on the 1st December, 1868.

Therefore, to render the funds referred to available to meet the expenses incident to the removal of Chippewa Indians to their reservation; to subsist them thereat for six months, and for improvements on said reservation, I inclose the draft of a joint resolution to meet the case, and respectfully invite the attention of Congress to the subject.

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

C. DELANO, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

REMOVAL OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 19, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to lay before you the inclosed copy (in duplicate) of a communication from E. P. Smith, United States Indian agent, submitting, at the request of this office, an estimate for funds required to complete the removal of the scattering bands of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota to the reservation near White Earth Lake, which has been set aside for their use and benefit by the terms of the second article of the treaty of March 19, 1867, (Statutes, vol. 16, p. 720,) and to subsist them for six months after their arrival on said reservation.

This estimate, computing the number of persons to be removed and subsisted at nine hundred, the cost of such removal and subsistence at \$54 86 for each individual, and the cost of erecting houses and plowing ground for the chiefs, as provided by the fourth article of the treaty of May 7, 1864, (Statutes, vol. 13, p. 694,) at \$7,290, amounts in the aggregate to \$56,664, which sum, added to the amount of \$62,700, estimated as the probable cost of certain improvements on the reservation which the agent recommends hereafter to be made, makes a total, as per estimate, of \$119,364.

It is evident, however, from circumstances referred to in the agent's report, that of the nine hundred persons embraced in his estimate not more than one-half will consent to the proposed removal during the coming year, and that, so far as present requirements are concerned, his said estimate may safely be reduced to one-half of the amount stated.

Of appropriations heretofore made for the removal and subsistence of these Indians, and for the transportation of subsistence supplies, there is now on the books of this office an unexpended balance of \$57,079 44, which sum, if it could be used, would probably suffice for present purposes; but by the restricting clause in the appropriation act of July 27, 1868, (Statutes, vol. 15, p. 204,) it is held that these funds passed beyond the control of the Department on the 1st December, 1868.

I would therefore respectfully request that the attention of Congress be invited to this subject with the view of obtaining such legislation as will make available the unexpended balance of \$57,079 44, as above, for the removal of Chippewa Indians to the White Earth reservation in Minnesota, for their subsistence at that place, and for necessary improvements on said reservation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

JOINT RESOLUTION to enable the Secretary of the Interior to use, for the removal of scattering bands of Chippewa Indians to their reservation near White Earth Lake, in Minnesota, to subsist them thereat for six months, and for improvements on their reservation, the unexpended balance on the books of the Treasury heretofore appropriated for those purposes.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby is, authorized to expend, for the removal of Chippewa Indians to the White Earth Lake reservation, in Minnesota, for their subsistence for six months after their removal, and for improvements on the said reservation, the unexpended balance of appro-

priations heretofore made for such removal, subsistence, and so forth, and now on the books of the Treasury Department, amounting in the aggregate to fifty-seven thousand and seventy-nine dollars and forty-four cents.

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,
Chippewa Agency, Minneapolis, Minnesota, December 30, 1871.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 11th, relative to the removal and subsistence of the scattering bands of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota to their reservation near White Earth Lake, I have the honor to submit the following statement and estimates:

There are two bands of the Mississippi Chippewas who ought to go to White Earth—the Gull Lakes, who are without any homes or rights elsewhere, numbering two hundred and fifty, and the Mille Lacs, who have still the right of occupancy in their old reservation around Mille Lacs Lake. They number eight hundred and sixty-eight, but of these about one hundred have settled on Government land, near Snake River, purchased and paid for by themselves, and by another year one hundred more will probably so settle and will not be subject to removal, nor inclined to remove to White Earth.

The remaining six hundred and fifty would be benefited in every way by removal; but they have not yet signified their consent to go, and claim that, by their treaty, they cannot be compelled to go, while many citizens in the neighboring country claim that by the annoyance they give to settlers, while wandering off their reservation in petty depredations, and in the fear to women and children, these Indians are constantly violating their treaty stipulations, and are, therefore, subject to removal by the Government. I believe that a part of this band will yet consent to go to White Earth during the year.

The transportation for these bands will be one hundred miles by rail, and from forty to eighty miles by wagons, including wagon transportation at both ends of the railroad line. I estimate the cost of transportation at \$10 each; subsistence, en route, ten days, at 30 cents per day each; subsistence on the reservation, one hundred and eighty-two days, at 23 cents each per day, \$41 86; total, <i>per capita</i> , for removal and subsistence, \$54 86, for nine hundred persons	\$49, 374
For plowing 70 acres for chiefs of Mille Lacs, at \$6 per acre	420
For plowing 70 acres for Gull Lake chiefs, at \$6 per acre	420
For erecting 12 houses for Mille Lacs chiefs, at \$300 each	3, 600
For erecting 7 houses for Gull Lake chiefs, at \$300 each	2, 100
Salary of issue-clerk, 6 months	750
Total	56, 664

I thus estimate that about \$60,000, properly expended, will fulfill treaty stipulations respecting the removal of these tribes. But merely to transport these Indians one hundred and fifty to two hundred miles, and feed them six months in a new place, would be only a repetition of an expensive farce, with which some of these Chippewas are already familiar. To make this removal of benefit to the Indians, and creditable and profitable to the Government, it should be on such a plan and broad enough to secure the *establishment* of these Indians in homes, and their

beginning to live by agriculture. To secure this, additional sums will be required as follows :

Erecting log houses for 200 families	\$25,000
Five acres of ground broken for each family, 1,000 acres at \$6 per acre	6,000
Rails for fencing 200 5-acre lots	8,000
Twenty-five yoke of oxen, at \$140	3,500
Twenty-five wagons, \$2,500; twenty-five plows and chains, \$700.	3,200
Saw-mill and grist-mill	5,000
Boarding-school house for boys	7,500
Three houses for employes, at \$1,500 each	4,500
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	62,700
Estimate as above	56,664
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Total	119,364
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The estimate for funds required to remove the Otter Tail Pillagers to White Earth I have already submitted. The consent of the Mississippi Chippewas at White Earth for other Chippewas to settle with them, can be secured as a condition of a part of the outlay suggested for White Earth in the mill and school. Some of the Pembinas, also, who are homeless and forlorn, should be encouraged and helped to emigrate to White Earth, and such of the Pillagers around Leech Lake, and the Mississippi Chippewas around Oak Point, as can be induced to remove, ought also to be brought upon this reservation. A few years of steady prosperity at White Earth will make that country attractive to all the Chippewas, until, at no distant day, it will become the civilized home of the tribes of this State. I am confident, from my year's observation, that these Indians are in a transition state. The right help now will not be lost upon them, and the experiment of civilization for them will, in its results, declare the present expenses to the Government wise and economical, as well as humane.

I need not add that there is growing in the white people of this State a decided sentiment that these men cannot live among them in barbarism; that they must be civilized or removed. No steps toward civilization can be taken by a people who live as these Otter Tail Pillagers, Gull Lakes, and Mille Lacs are compelled to live in their present surroundings.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. SMITH,

United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. A. WALKER,

Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.