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Removal of Osage Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting estimate of appropriation required to defray certain expenses connected with the removal of the Osage Indians

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REMOVAL OF OSAGE INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Estimate of appropriation required to defray certain expenses connected with the removal of the Osage Indians.

FEBRUARY 16, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 15, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated February 14, together with an estimate of appropriation for \$10,801 43, required to defray certain expenses connected with the removal of the Osage Indians; also the accompanying communication from the committee of Friends on Indian affairs, in relation to the subject.

The Commissioner makes a full report in the matter, and the same is respectfully submitted for the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., February 14, 1872.

SIR: By the twelfth section of the act of July 15, 1870, (Statutes, vol. 16, p. 362,) provision was made for the removal, &c., of the Great and Little Osage Indians from the State of Kansas to lands provided for them in the Indian Territory, and on the 20th August following a council was held with said Indians by members of the board of Indian commissioners for the purpose of obtaining their consent to such removal, and to make suitable arrangements for the same.

In order more readily to secure the attendance of the Indians at the council in the country to which they were to be removed, it was deemed necessary that some inducement should be held out to them by way of presents or otherwise; and, under the direction of the then Secretary of

the Interior, goods and provisions, at the cost of \$10,801 43, were purchased and distributed among the Indians in attendance.

That the supplies thus distributed were intended as presents to the Osages is indicated by official correspondence on the records of this office, but as there were no funds at the disposal of the Department that could be used in payment for said supplies, except those appropriated for the settlement, subsistence, and support of the Great and Little Osages, subject to reimbursement from the proceeds of the sale of their lands in Kansas, the supplies in question were paid for out of those funds.

I have now the honor to present copies (in duplicate) of a letter from Edward Earle and William Nicholson, of a committee of Friends, who were present at said council, representing that the goods and provisions issued to the Osages on that occasion were supposed by the Indians and by the members of the board of Indian commissioners to be presents from the Government, and that the Osages feel great disappointment and dissatisfaction in learning that the cost of said goods has been deducted from the funds due the tribe.

It is recommended by the committee of Friends, and I fully indorse their recommendation, that Congress be asked to appropriate a sufficient amount to enable the Department to restore to the funds of the Osage Indians the amount used in payment for said goods, as per estimate herewith inclosed.

The application of their funds to this purpose seems to me to have been without sufficient authority, although the object sought to be attained thereby was a good one, and the results have been in an eminent degree beneficial to the Government.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

Estimate of appropriation required for the Great and Little Osage Indians, to defray certain expenses connected with their removal from Kansas to their new homes in the Indian Territory.

For this amount, to enable the Secretary of the Interior to restore to the funds of the Osage Indians the amount used in payment for goods and provisions distributed as presents at a council held with said Indians in the Indian Territory during the month of August, 1870..... \$10,801 43

WASHINGTON, D. C., Firstmonth 16, 1872.

Hon. C. DELANO, Secretary of the Interior :

The undersigned respectfully represent that the goods which were distributed to the Osage Indians by members of the board of Indian commissioners in the year 1870, when said Indians accepted the provisions of a law of Congress for their removal to the Indian Territory, were supposed by said Indians to be presents from the Government of the United States. Such was also the supposition of the said members of the board of Indian commissioners; but as no funds had been appropriated for the purchase of these goods, their cost has been deducted from the funds of said Osage Indians, who justly feel great disappointment and dissatisfaction thereat.

We respectfully request thy recommendation to Congress for a sufficient appropriation to enable the Department to restore to the funds of said Osage Indians the amount used in payment for said goods.

EDWARD EARLE,
Chairman Washington Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs.
WM. NICHOLSON,
General Agent of Committee.