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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, in answer to a Senate resolution of March 6, 1876, accompanying information in relation to the expenditures of the Indian Bureau and the number of Indians provided for at the expense of the government

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LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN ANSWER

To a Senate resolution of March 6, 1876, accompanying information in relation to the expenditures of the Indian Bureau and the number of Indians provided for at the expense of the Government.

MAY 3, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, May 2, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate under date of March 6, in the following words:

“*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, directed to furnish for the information of the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, a statement showing the annual expenditures of the Indian Bureau since its organization to the present time; and also the number of Indians provided for at the expense of the Government each year since the organization of said Indian Bureau.”

In reply I have the honor respectfully to invite your attention to the inclosed copy of report, dated 1st instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with the accompanying schedule, therein referred to.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. T. GORHAM,
Acting Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, D. C., May 1, 1876.

SIR: In response to a resolution of the Senate under date of March 6, 1876, referred by you to this Office for report thereon, I have the honor to transmit herewith a tabular statement showing the number of Indians provided for at the expense of the Government in each year, together with the annual expenditures of the Indian Bureau since its organization.

In forwarding this statement, however, I desire to state distinctly that I have encountered great difficulties in the preparation of the

figures showing the number of Indians provided for by the Government, particularly in the earlier years named; for, until within a few years, owing to objections thereto by the Indians, no accurate census was possible, and the estimates were, prior to 1865, based upon unsatisfactory data. I submit these figures, therefore, as estimates only. I believe them to be entitled to that weight (and that alone) which is due to a careful and somewhat laborious attempt to collect, complete, and collate statistics from reports which are always fragmentary and often confused. In the absence of any previous attempt of this character, such an estimate may have some value. In that belief it is submitted.

In the compilation of the table of population, tribes for whom an appropriation was made in any one year are included, no matter whether such appropriation was large enough for the purchase of a few trinkets as presents only, or for actual and continuous support during the entire year. Exception to this rule was made, however, in the cases of the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and the Six Nations of New York, aggregating, as per last annual report, 52,217, for which tribes the annual appropriations have been mainly for interest on their own funds or in pursuance of old treaty stipulations. But, although the population of the above-named tribes is excluded from the estimate of Indian population as given in the table, all expenditures on their behalf are included in the total annual expenditures, which cover all disbursements by the Treasury for the Indian service.

The resolution of the Senate is herewith returned.

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

J. Q. SMITH, *Commissioner.*

HON. Z. CHANDLER,
Secretary of the Interior.

Tabular statement showing the number of Indians provided for at the expense of the Government in each year, together with the annual expenditures of the Indian Bureau since its organization.

Year.	Population.	Expenditures.	Year.	Population.	Expenditures.
1832.....	70,000	\$1,352,419 75	1854.....	92,000	\$1,550,339 55
1833.....	70,000	1,602,980 93	1855.....	92,500	2,772,990 78
1834.....	70,000	1,003,953 20	1856.....	98,700	2,644,263 97
1835.....	70,000	1,706,444 48	1857.....	99,000	4,354,418 87
1836.....	73,000	5,037,022 88	1858.....	103,303	4,978,266 18
1837.....	74,600	4,348,036 19	1859.....	109,500	3,490,534 53
1838.....	75,000	5,504,191 34	1860.....	110,000	2,991,121 54
1839.....	77,500	2,528,917 28	1861.....	115,000	2,865,481 17
1840.....	79,500	2,331,794 86	1862.....	119,500	2,327,948 37
1841.....	80,500	2,514,837 12	1863.....	133,600	3,152,032 70
1842.....	80,500	1,199,099 68	1864.....	138,700	2,629,975 97
1843.....	82,000	*578,371 00	1865.....	140,000	5,053,360 71
1844.....	82,000	1,256,532 39	1866.....	142,000	3,295,729 32
1845.....	82,000	1,539,351 35	1867.....	142,000	4,642,531 77
1846.....	83,000	1,027,693 64	1868.....	150,000	4,100,082 32
1847.....	83,000	1,430,411 30	1869.....	161,000	7,042,923 06
1848.....	83,000	1,252,296 81	1870.....	169,300	3,407,938 15
1849.....	83,000	1,374,161 55	1871.....	191,600	7,426,997 44
1850.....	85,000	1,663,591 47	1872.....	199,900	7,061,728 82
1851.....	85,000	2,629,801 77	1873.....	201,500	7,951,704 88
1852.....	87,500	3,043,576 04	1874.....	203,000	6,692,462 09
1853.....	90,600	3,880,494 12	1875.....	206,600	8,354,656 82

* For the half year, from January 1, 1843, to June 30, 1843. The statement of expenditures is by calendar years to 1843, and by fiscal years from that time.

From the population as given in this table the number of Cherokees, Choctaws and Chickasaws, and Six Nations of New York has been uniformly excluded.