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Letter from the acting Secretary of the Interior, to
the House of Representatives, transmitting
estimates of cost of buildings at Lower Brule
Agency, Dakota

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BUILDINGS AT LOWER BRULÉ AGENCY, DAKOTA.

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TO THE

*House of Representatives, transmitting estimates of cost of buildings at
Lower Brulé agency, Dakota.*

OCTOBER 25, 1877.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 18, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report, dated the 17th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and inclosure therein noted, together with an estimate of appropriation of \$5,000 to complete the erection of buildings required at the Lower Brulé agency, Dakota.

The subject is respectfully recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress.

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

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the *House of Representatives.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 17, 1875.

SIR: This office is in receipt of a letter from Thomas A. Reily, agent for the Sioux Indians at the Lower Brulé (formerly White River) agency, Dakota, (copy herewith,) calling attention to the insufficiency of the amount appropriated by the act of March 3, 1875, for the erection of the necessary buildings at said agency, which he enumerates as follows, viz: Residence for the agent, residence for physician, school-house, mess-house, six buildings for carpenter, blacksmith, farmer, engineer, sawyer, and interpreter, warehouse, smith and carpenter shops, stable, and a corral.

The amount appropriated by the act referred to (\$8,000) being insuf-

ficient to erect the required number of good, substantial buildings at said agency, I have the honor to transmit herewith an estimate of appropriation for \$5,000, which sum, with the amount already appropriated, will be required to defray the expense attending the erection of suitable buildings at said agency, and respectfully recommend that the same be forwarded to Congress for the favorable consideration of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Estimate of appropriation required to erect additional buildings at the Lower Brulé agency (formerly White River agency,) Dakota.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to complete the erection of buildings at the Lower Brulé agency, Dakota, \$5,000.

WHITE RIVER AGENCY, DAK., *December 2, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to request the following recommendations:

1st. That the name of this agency be changed to "The Lower Brulé Agency," Dakota Territory, or some other name by which it can be distinguished more readily from the White River agency of Colorado. Much of my official correspondence is miscarried to that point by reason of the similarity in name.

2d. That the appropriation already made for the buildings of this agency may be increased by an additional sum of five thousand dollars.

The present appropriation of eight thousand dollars will be insufficient to erect the following necessary buildings: An agency building for the residence of the agent, a residence for the physician, a school-house, a mess-house, and six other buildings for a carpenter, blacksmith, farmer, engineer, sawyer, and interpreter, together with a warehouse, a blacksmith and carpenter shop, a stable, and a corral. The building material in this vicinity consists entirely of cottonwood, and but little that is fit for saw-logs that would answer for building purposes. Buildings made of this cottonwood are of the most indifferent and unsubstantial kind, from the fact that it is always subject to so much warping, and decays twice as rapidly as pine. I respectfully and earnestly request that this may meet with your approval, and that it may receive the weight of your influence, and be urged upon Congress by the Department.

If this is done, I have no hesitancy in saying that the progress of this tribe of the Sioux Nation will not be embarrassed at the beginning of their new life at a separate agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

TOM A. REILY,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. E. P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.