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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting an estimate of appropriation for collecting and subsisting the Apache Indians in Arizona for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875

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APACHE INDIANS IN ARIZONA.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate of appropriation for collecting and subsisting the Apache Indians in Arizona for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875.

DECEMBER 23, 1874,—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., December 22, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith an estimate of appropriation for \$175,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for collecting and subsisting the Apache Indians in Arizona for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875.

The necessity of this appropriation is fully explained in the accompanying copy of a report, dated the 21st instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, on the subject, to which the attention and favorable consideration of Congress is respectfully invited.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 21, 1874.

SIR: By the act making appropriations for the Indian service during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, the sum of \$375,000 was provided for collecting and subsisting the Apache Indians in Arizona Territory, in part compliance with the general estimate for that purpose prepared in this Office and submitted for the action of Congress.

In the estimate referred to an item of \$550,000 was embraced for the purpose indicated. The application for this sum was based upon the

expenditures incurred on account of the said Indians during the fiscal years ending June 30, 1873 and 1874, respectively, which actually exceeded said amount of \$550,000. Every effort has been made to make the \$375,000 provided by Congress to meet the wants of that portion of the Indian service for which it was appropriated; but, although supplies are being furnished at prices very much below those of former years, yet, after a careful examination of the matter, it is ascertained that the amount estimated for by this Office will be no more than will absolutely be required to meet the urgent necessities of the Apache agencies in said Territory.

There are upward of 7,000 Apache Indians in Arizona, and on the reservations set apart for them there are, as near as can be ascertained, 6,600. Of these, the average number to whom subsistence-supplies were actually furnished during the third quarter, 1874, as shown by the returns of the agents, amount to 5,369. This number having been provided with rations during the most favorable season of the year, it is very certain that 6,000 at least will be the average number to be provided with subsistence throughout the entire fiscal year. Estimating, therefore, that 6,000 Apaches will require to be furnished with subsistence-rations for 365 days, the average actual cost of which is twenty cents for each ration, and it will be found that an amount equal to \$438,000 will be required to feed these Indians, leaving \$112,000 only to meet all other necessary expenses incident to a successful administration of the affairs of the five agencies where the Indians are being subsisted, and where improvements are being made for their future care and support. Such being the case, it is very evident that the whole amount (\$550,000) called for in the said general estimate, for the purpose indicated, will certainly be needed.

In this connection I desire to state that the agents in charge of these Apache Indians have been instructed to issue no more subsistence than shall be absolutely necessary, and also to issue such articles as will be most economical.

In view, therefore, of the foregoing and of the requirements of section 6 of said act, I have caused to be prepared the inclosed special estimate for \$175,000, and respectfully request that the same be laid before Congress, with such recommendation as the Department may deem proper to make in the premises.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Estimate of appropriation required for the Indian service in Arizona during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for collecting and subsisting the Apache Indians in Arizona for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875..... \$175,000