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12-23-1874

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting an estimate of appropriation to remove the Modoc Indians from Oregon to the Indian Territory

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 53, 43d Cong., 2nd Sess. (1874)

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REMOVAL OF MODOC INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate of appropriation to remove the Modoc Indians from Oregon to the Indian Territory.

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

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

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed to this Department under date of 28th ultimo, by F. H. Smith, secretary of the board of Indian commissioners, covering a copy of special report, addressed by him to Hon. Clinton B. Fisk, chairman of the board, recommending the removal of the remnant of the Modoc tribe of Indians in Oregon to the tract of country purchased for their brethren from the Quapaws in Indian Territory, and the appropriation of a sufficient sum to defray the expense of such removal and location.

I also transmit a copy of a letter, dated the 17th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom the matter was referred for his consideration and views, approving the recommendation of Mr. F. H. Smith, and recommending that Congress be asked to make an appropriation of \$20,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for said purpose.

Concurring in the views and recommendation contained in the letter of the Commissioner, I respectfully recommend that an item be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill, now before the House, appropriating the sum of \$20,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the removal and location of said Modoc Indians.

The subject is respectfully submitted for the favorable consideration and action of Congress. An estimate is herewith submitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,
Washington, D. C., November 28, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor, by direction of the board of commissioners, to transmit for your information and such action as you may deem advisable, the inclosed copy of a special report made by myself to the board of commissioners, on the subject of the removal to the Indian Territory of the remaining portion of the Modoc Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. H. SMITH,
Secretary.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,
Washington, D. C., November 21, 1874.

SIR: While in the Indian Territory in company with Col. J. W. Smith, special commissioner of the Indian Department, in September last, I visited the portion of the Modoc tribe of Indians now located in that Territory, and found them in camp near the Quapaw agency headquarters. I learned that a portion of the Shawnee reservation, under that agency, had been obtained by purchase for the permanent home of these Modocs. The Shawnees declined to sell except upon condition that possession was not to be given until the first installment of the purchase-money had been paid, which condition not having been complied with, the Modocs were still at the agency. Funds for that purpose had, however, reached the superintendency, and it was expected the Indians would enter upon this new reservation during the succeeding week.

The report of Special Agent Jones and of every one about the agency as to the conduct of these people was very encouraging. No difficulty had occurred in enforcing the strictest discipline. The agent had, as far as practicable, furnished them employment during the season, and had found them willing and energetic in the discharge of every duty.

One instance of friction had occurred in the persistence of some of the members of the band in the practice of gambling, resulting, in some instances, in the disposition of blanket and of every other article of clothing. The acting chief, Scarfaced Charley, declining to interpose his authority for discontinuing the practice, was deposed, and Bogus Charley appointed.

Twenty-five of the children had been in constant attendance on the school of A. C. Tuttle, in care of the Friends, twelve or fifteen miles distant, and had made unusual progress in the acquisition of the English language and rudiments of education. Several of the adults remaining at the agency had also learned to read during the summer.

In a formal talk, for which every member of the band, male and female, assembled, on the morning of the 23d of September, the expression of satisfaction in their present location and prospects, and of their determination to go to work immediately on their new reservation, and become like white men as rapidly as possible, was hearty and unanimous by the chiefs, and assented to by the entire band.

On learning of my intended visit to Oregon, and that I might possibly see the remaining portion of the tribe, great solicitude was expressed for the removal of their Oregon brethren to this Territory, and a large number of individual Indians were desirous immediately to send messages, photographs, and fraternal greeting to their friends in the west.

It was impossible, in the time at my disposal, to visit the Oregon Modocs; but at the instance of the Department in Washington I made inquiries of Agent Dyar and others in respect to their present condition and probable assent to removal, if deemed advisable by the Government. I was informed that no objection would probably be interposed on their part. The number now remaining in charge of Agent Dyar at Klamath, men, women, and children, is about one hundred and fifty. The country in which they are located is not favorable to cultivation, and the inclination and habits of the Indians do not lead them to engage in industrial pursuits; nor are they likely to make any advancement in civilization under their present conditions.

The cost of transportation to the Quapaw agency in the Indian Territory, should removal be determined upon, will not be far from \$12,000, nearly all of which would be applicable to railroads, the interest of whose bonds are guaranteed by the Government, and under existing law the money would not actually be withdrawn from the Treasury.

I respectfully recommend that authority be given by Congress for the removal, and that the amount named be appropriated for the purpose of transportation; also, that the additional sum of \$8,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be appropriated for subsistence and to defray such incidental expenses as may be incurred.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. H. SMITH,
Indian Commissioner.

Hon. C. B. FISK,
Chairman Indian Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 17, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from you for my consideration and views, of a letter from F. H. Smith, secretary board of Indian commissioners, inclosing copy of his special report to the chairman of said board, dated the 21st ultimo, recommending that the remainder of the Modoc tribe of Indians now living in the tribal reservation in Oregon be removed to and located upon the tract of country purchased for their brethren from the Quapaws in Indian Territory, and that the appropriation of a sum sufficient to defray the expenses of such removal and location be asked of Congress.

These Indians number about one hundred and fifty, and it is stated by Mr. Smith that the cost of their transportation to the Indian Territory will be in the neighborhood of twelve thousand dollars, nearly all of which would be for fare on railroads, the interest on whose bonds is guaranteed by the Government, and under existing law the money would not be actually withdrawn from the Treasury.

In addition to this amount, the sum of eight thousand dollars will, in the opinion of Mr. Smith, be sufficient to defray the expense of their subsistence, and such incidental expenses as may be necessary.

The recommendations of Mr. Smith meet with the approval of this office, and in view of the facts that the present reserve of the Modocs in Oregon is not at all adapted for agricultural purposes, that the Modocs still remaining there are willing to be removed, and that those in the Indian Territory are anxious to have their brethren join them, I respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to make an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to defray the expenses of removing and locating these Indians as above set forth. Estimate herewith.

The letter of Mr. Smith is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Estimate of appropriation required for removing to and locating in Indian Territory the remnant of the Modoc tribe of Indians remaining in Oregon.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to defray the expense of removing the remnant of the Modoc tribe of Indians from their present home in Oregon, and for locating and establishing them within the tract of country purchased for their brethren from the Quapaw Indians in Indian Territory, and for subsistence and such other necessary expenses as are incident to such removal and location \$20,000 00