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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a draught of a bill and estimates of appropriation for the removal of the Kickapoo and other Indians from Texas and Mexico.

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REMOVAL OF KICKAPOOS AND OTHER INDIANS FROM
TEXAS AND MEXICO.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*A draught of a bill and estimates of appropriation for the removal of
the Kickapoo and other Indians from Texas and Mexico.*

JANUARY 7, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be
printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., December 15, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to present to Congress a draught of a bill, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to use the unexpended balance of appropriations made by acts approved July 15, 1870, and March 3, 1871, for the removal of Kickapoo and other Indians from the borders of Texas and Mexico, and for the support and subsistence of said Indians after such removal. (Statutes at Large, vol. 16, pp. 359 and 569.)

I also transmit an estimate of \$50,000, for which amount an appropriation is necessary to defray the expenses of subsistence and care of Indians removed, until the 30th June, 1875, to meet liabilities already contracted, and bring the work of the commissioners, appointed to remove said Indians, to a successful termination.

It is believed that the balance of funds already appropriated, with the additional sum of \$50,000 now asked for, will accomplish the objects, the attainment of which, in former years, failed.

A copy of a report, dated the 12th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, herewith presented, shows the progress that has been made in removing the Indians from Texas and Mexico, and states that those left behind may, if encouraged and assisted by the Government, be also induced to follow the three hundred already removed to the Indian Territory.

The Indians herein referred to have for many years committed depredations in Texas and Mexico. The loss of life and property at their hands has been the subject of grievous complaint by the citizens of

Texas, and of frequent remonstrance on the part of the authorities of Mexico. The importance of restoring peaceful relations within the borders infested by these roaming and predatory Indians cannot be too highly estimated; and their removal to the Indian Territory will, it is believed, relieve the authorities of Mexico and the United States from a condition of things which jeopardizes the continuance of friendly relations between the two governments.

The subject is commended to the favorable consideration of Congress, and early action respectfully invited.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized to use for the removal of Kickapoos or other Indians from the borders of Texas and Mexico to the Indian Territory, and for their support and subsistence after such removal, the unexpended balance of appropriations made by the acts approved July 15, 1870, and March 3, 1871, (St., vol. 16, pp. 359 and 569,) for such removal and subsistence.

Estimate of appropriation required to defray expenses connected with the removal of certain Indians from the borders of Texas and Mexico.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary to defray expenses connected with the removal of Kickapoo or other Indians from the borders of Texas and Mexico to the Indian Territory, and to subsist and properly care for them after such removal \$50,000 00

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 12, 1873.

SIR: By the Indian appropriation acts approved July 15, 1870, and March 3, 1871, (St., vol. 16, pp. 359 and 569,) the sum of \$65,000 was appropriated "to enable the Secretary of the Interior to collect bands of Kickapoos, or other Indians, roving on the borders of Texas and Mexico, and to locate and subsist them in the Indian Territory."

Of the funds thus appropriated there is now on the books of this office an unexpended balance of \$50,604.63, which, by a recent decision of the First Comptroller of the Treasury, is made unavailable for present purposes, by virtue of the fifth section of the act of July 12, 1870, (St., vol. 16, p. 251,) regarding the disposition to be made of such balances.

The object for which these appropriations were made, after repeated failures in former years, has now been partially accomplished. About three hundred Kickapoos, &c., have already been removed to the Indian Territory by the commission appointed last spring for this special work, and the prospects are fair that those left behind, or the greater portion of them, will, if encouraged and assisted by the Government, follow in the footsteps of their leaders.

In order that those removed may be properly subsisted and cared for until the 30th June, 1875, and to meet liabilities already contracted, and

bring the work of the commission to a successful termination, it is of the utmost importance that the balance of funds appropriated to defray expenses connected therewith be made available, and that an additional sum, say \$50,000, be provided by Congress, at as early a day as possible.

With these objects in view, I have prepared and inclose herewith a draught of a bill to place at the disposal of the Department the balance of funds on hand from former appropriations, as above referred to, and an estimate for the additional sum of \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary to complete the work; and respectfully request that, if the same meets your approval, the matter be submitted to Congress for favorable consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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