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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting an estimate of appropriation to indemnify the Pawnee Indians for 4,800 acres of land

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PAWNEE INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate of appropriation to indemnify the Pawnee Indians for 4,800 acres of land.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 5, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith, for the consideration of Congress, an estimate for an appropriation of \$6,000 to indemnify the Pawnee Indians, in Nebraska, for 4,800 acres of land which was excluded from their reservation by an error in the survey of the boundary-lines thereof; said amount to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior for their benefit.

A copy of a report, dated the 20th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and copy of a letter, dated the 11th June, 1873, from the superintendent Indian affairs, northern superintendency, are also herewith submitted, giving the facts in the case.

The attention of Congress is respectfully invited to the subject, which is commended to the favorable consideration of that body.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

Estimate of appropriation required to indemnify the Pawnee Indians for certain lands.

For this amount, to indemnify the Pawnee Indians for four thousand eight hundred acres of land erroneously excluded from their reservation by the survey of the boundary-line thereof, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior for their benefit..... \$6,000 00

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 20, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the following, for the purpose of legislation thereon by Congress, viz:

By the first article of the treaty concluded with the Pawnee tribe of Indians September 24, 1857, (Stat. at Large, vol. 11, p. 729,) there was reserved out of the cession made by said Indians, for their use, "a tract of country thirty miles long from east to west by fifteen miles wide from north to south."

Upon a resurvey of the eastern boundary-line of this reservation, it has been ascertained that the east and west lines are but twenty-nine and a half miles apart, in place of thirty miles, thus leaving a deficiency of 4,800 acres in the area of the reservation, as described in the treaty. The Pawnee Indians insist upon indemnity for said deficiency, and it is deemed just that Congress shall provide for the same at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, the minimum price of Government lands.

I will add that the lands for which indemnity is asked are now thickly settled by white settlers, and that it would, therefore, be impracticable to add them to the reservation of the Pawnees, who have more land than they require, a portion of which is to be sold for their benefit.

A copy of a communication from Superintendent White, dated the 11th of June last, is respectfully submitted herewith, as showing the facts in the case, together with an estimate of appropriation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Omaha, Nebr., Sixthmonth 11, 1873.

RESPECTED FRIEND: Having been informed that white settlers along the eastern line of the Pawnee reservation were encroaching upon its limits, I addressed a letter to the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated Eleventhmonth 2, 1872, suggesting the propriety of a resurvey of the boundaries of said reservation.

I have recently been informed by Richards and Brother, surveyors, that they were duly commissioned by the proper authorities at Washington, to make said resurvey, and have now completed it, and find the reservation, as laid out and marked by previous Government surveyors, to be twenty-nine and one-half miles long from east to west by fifteen miles wide from north to south, whereas the treaty between the United States and the four confederate bands of Pawnee Indians, made September 24, 1857, provides for a reservation thirty miles long from east to west by fifteen miles wide from north to south, leaving a deficiency of land in the present reservation of 4,800 acres.

The surveyors informed me that they would mention the error in their official report to the superintendent of the land-office, and point out the place where it occurred.

The original survey commenced at the proper initial point, and the error was made on the southern line going westward. The Indians are thus entitled to a strip of land west of their reservation half a mile

wide, and in length the width of the reservation, or fifteen miles. Said land, I am told, is all settled by whites, and is much more fertile than the land south of the Loup, about being sold under an act of Congress.

The Indians already have an excess of land, and there appears to be no occasion for interfering with the settlements on said strip of land.

I would respectfully ask, on behalf of said Pawnee Indians, that proper steps may be taken to obtain from the United States Government a full and just consideration for the deficiency of land mentioned, for the use and benefit of the Pawnee Indians, and that the amount so obtained may be expended only in such manner as will advance the tribe in civilization.

Very respectfully, thy friend,

BARCLAY WHITE,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

HON. EDWARD P. SMITH,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

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