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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to an appropriation for Creek annuities

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CREEK ANNUITIES.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

An appropriation for Creek annuities.

JANUARY 13, 1875.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 5, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report, dated the 28th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with inclosure therein noted—copy of letter from Messrs. G. W. Stedham and J. K. Moore, Creek delegates, dated December 14, 1874—upon the subject of the appropriation of certain Creek annuities.

The matter is respectfully presented for the consideration of Congress, without recommendation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 28, 1874.

SIR: By reference to the 5th articles of the treaties of February 14, 1833, and August 7, 1856, with the Creek Nation of Indians, (Statutes, vol. 7, p. 419, and vol. 11, p. 700,) it will be found that the United States agreed to furnish the said Indians annually, during the pleasure of the President, \$1,000 for educational purposes, and \$1,710 to pay for the services of a wagon-maker, blacksmith and assistant, provide for a shop and tools, and furnish iron and steel, in addition to the permanent annuities provided for similar purposes by the 8th article of their treaty of January 24, 1826.

The necessary funds to meet the said obligations of the Government have been annually provided until the last session of Congress, when that body did not include in the act making appropriations for the Indian service during the present fiscal year the following items for the

purpose indicated embraced in the general estimate prepared in this Office, viz :

For blacksmith and assistant, shop, and tools.....	\$840
For iron and steel for shop.....	370
For wagon-maker	600
For education.....	1,000

For the reason, as understood by this Office, that large appropriations were necessary to be made for the care, support, and education of tribes requiring more assistance than the Creeks, and that the Government was not obligated by treaty stipulations to continue the appropriations for an unlimited period.

Believing that the Creeks would make good use of the funds, if appropriated, the items above named were embraced in the estimate of appropriations required for the Indian service during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, but they are not included in the Indian appropriation bill as reported to the House.

The inclosed copy of a letter from Messrs. Stedham and Jno. R. Moore, Creek delegates, upon the subject, dated the 14th instant, is respectfully submitted, with the foregoing statement of facts, for such action as the Department may consider proper and desirable.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 14, 1874.

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

The undersigned delegates beg leave to state that the 5th article of the treaty of 14th February, 1833, provides as follows :

"As an evidence of the kind feeling of the United States toward the Mus-ko-kee Indians, and as a testimonial of the (their) gratification with the present amicable and satisfactory adjustment of their difficulties with the Cherokees experienced by the commissioners, they agree, on behalf of the United States, to furnish to the Creek Indians west of the Mississippi one blacksmith and one wheelwright or wagon-maker, as soon as they may be required by the nation, and for purposes of education one thousand dollars, the whole of the above grants to be continued so long as the President may consider them conducive to the interest and welfare of the Creek Indians."

We find the above items are not included in the present Indian appropriation bill as reported.

While the above stipulations seem to appear as mere grants as an evidence of kind feeling, &c., from words used, the Creek Nation, in the settlement of their boundary-line between themselves and the Cherokees, sacrificed large interests in said adjustment, and the above stipulations were accepted by them as a consideration, and not as mere grants.

The continuation of these shops is of vast importance to our people, as there are many of them who are not able to pay for such work, and our national council recently established a female school, in addition to the other schools which we had in successful operation, and need assistance more particularly now than heretofore.

While the amounts are but small to the United States, they are of great importance and benefit to our people.

We therefore respectfully request, in behalf of our nation, that you give these items your favorable consideration, and recommend Congress to restore the amounts by an appropriation.

Respectfully, your obedient servants,

G. W. STEDHAM,
JNO. R. MOORE,
Creek Delegates