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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting information, with report dated the 4th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in response to Senate resolution of the 26th ultimo, calling for the action taken by that department to ascertain the damages resulting from the raid of Northern Cheyenne Indians through the western portion of the Indian Territory and the States of Kansas and Nebraska in 1878

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*Information, with report dated the 4th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in response to Senate resolution of the 26th ultimo, calling for the action taken by that department to ascertain the damages resulting from the raid of Northern Cheyenne Indians through the western portion of the Indian Territory and the States of Kansas and Nebraska in 1878.*

FEBRUARY 9, 1882.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, February 8, 1882.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate of the 26th ultimo, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to inform the Senate what if any, steps have been taken to ascertain the damages resulting from the raid of Northern Cheyenne Indians through the western portion of the Indian Territory and the States of Kansas and Nebraska in September, 1878, and what further action, if any, is necessary in order that such damages may be paid to the persons entitled thereto, and charged to the sums of money due or to be appropriated for the use and benefit of the tribe of Indians whose members caused such damages.

In reply, I would respectfully state that no steps have been taken by this department or the Indian service to ascertain the damages in the case noted, as the remedy lay with the parties who had cause for complaint, in filing their claims for damages growing out of depredations which may have been committed by said Indians, as provided in section 466 of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

Eighteen claims of this character have been filed in the office of Indian Affairs, aggregating the sum of \$25,375.75. Of these, six claims, amounting to \$11,748.75, have been received with report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs by the department and transmitted by this department to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, viz:

Thomas Bailey, \$200. To Speaker House of Representatives, February 17, 1880.

Dora Westphalen, \$1,153.75. To Speaker House of Representatives, December 13, 1880.

Peter Westphalen, \$655. To Speaker House of Representatives, December 13, 1880.

D. C. Tracy, \$1,350. To Speaker House of Representatives, January 12, 1882.

Milton C. Connor, \$6,315. To Speaker House of Representatives, January 12, 1882.

Julia Lang *et. al.*, \$2,075. To Speaker House of Representatives, January 12, 1882.

Eleven of the claims filed have not been returned by the Indian agent to whom they were referred for examination and report; and one claim, not having been properly made out, is held by the Indian Office for correction.

Touching that portion of the resolution which refers to the action to be taken relative to the payment of these claims, and charging the amounts so paid to the funds of the Cheyenne Indians of the band to which the raiding Indians belonged, your attention is respectfully invited to the inclosed copy of report dated the 4th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom the subject of the resolution of the Senate was referred, which, together with the statements herein presented, comprises all the information, it is believed, within the knowledge of this department touching the subject of inquiry.

Very respectfully,

S. J. KIRKWOOD,  
*Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT  
*of the Senate.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, February 4, 1882.*

SIR: Referring to my report of the 31st ultimo, in reply to Senate resolution of the 26th of January, directing that the Senate be informed as to what, if any, steps have been taken to ascertain the damages resulting from the raid of Northern Cheyenne Indians through the western portion of the Indian Territory and the States of Kansas and Nebraska in September, 1878 \* \* \* with a view of paying such damages to the persons entitled thereto from the sums of money due or to be appropriated for the use and benefit of the tribe of Indians whose members caused such damages, I have to report further as follows: Under the treaty with the Northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes of May 10, 1868, and agreement with the Sioux and said Indians, approved February 28, 1878, the United States guaranteed assistance in agriculture and a sufficient amount for their clothing, support, and civilization, and for pay of employes, but no specific amount was stipulated to be paid for any of the purposes mentioned. For the general support and care of said Indians there was appropriated for the Indian service for the current fiscal year the sum of fifty-three thousand dollars (\$53,000). Unexpended balances of treaty funds, belonging to said Indians, have been carried to the surplus fund for several years past, as follows:

For fiscal year 1877.....	\$1,595 43
For fiscal year 1878.....	18,866 24
For fiscal year 1879.....	2,147 42

22,609 09

And there is still to their credit, but liable to the surplus fund, unexpended balances as follows, viz:

For fiscal year 1880.....	\$280 87
For fiscal year 1881.....	5,315 43

5,596 30

Amount brought down.....

22,609 09

Total.....

28,205 39

I respectfully recommend that the above facts be reported to the Senate in the reply of the department to said resolution.

The Senate resolution is returned herewith.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.