

University of Oklahoma College of Law

University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

1-28-1886

Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of the Interior with draft of a proposed amendment to the act ratifying an agreement with the Crow Indians.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

S. Exec. Doc. No. 49, 49th Cong., 1st Sess. (1886)

This Senate Executive Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Secretary of the Interior with draft of a proposed amendment to the act ratifying an agreement with the Crow Indians.

JANUARY 28, 1886.—Read and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith a communication of 25th instant from the Secretary of the Interior submitting, with accompanying papers, the draft of a proposed amendment to the first section of the act ratifying an agreement with the Crow Indians in Montana, approved April 11, 1882, requested by said Indians, for the purpose of increasing the amount of the annual payments under said agreement, and reducing the number thereof, in order that sufficient means may be provided for establishing them on their individual allotments.

The matter is presented for the consideration and action of Congress.
GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
January 28, 1886.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 25, 1886.

To the President :

I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of a report of 21st instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inviting attention to the second stipulation in the first section of the act of April 11, 1882 (22 Stat., 42, 43), entitled, "An act to accept and ratify the agreement submitted by the Crow Indians of Montana for the sale of a portion of their reservation in said Territory, and for other purposes, and to make the necessary appropriations for carrying out the same."

This stipulation provides—

That, in consideration of the cession of territory to be made by us as individual Indians and heads of families of the Crow tribe to the Government of the United States, said Government of the United States, in addition to the annuities and sums for provisions and clothing stipulated and provided for in existing treaties and laws, hereby agrees to appropriate annually for twenty-five years the sum of \$30,000, to be expended, under the direction of the President, for our benefit in assisting us to erect houses, to procure seeds, farming implements, and stock, or in cash, as the President may direct.

The total amount to be paid to the Crow Indians in consideration of the cession of lands under this act is \$750,000, of which four installments, amounting to \$120,000, have already been appropriated for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1883, 1884, 1885, and 1886; and it appears that the Crow Indians are dissatisfied with the annual payment of \$30,000' on the ground that it is inadequate to provide the necessary means to establish them on their homesteads, and to make necessary permanent improvements upon their diminished reservation.

An agreement, also herewith submitted, signed by 254 of the leading individuals and heads of families of the Crow tribe, presented through their agent under date of February 27, 1885, contains a proposed modification of the said second stipulation in the first section of the act of April 11, 1882, above referred to, by amending the clause providing for the annual appropriation of \$30,000 for twenty-five years, so as to provide in lieu thereof that the sum of \$90,000 annually hereafter be paid to them for the period of seven years, which will exhaust the balance to be paid them under the provisions of said act.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs approves of the proposed modification, and recommends that the matter be transmitted for the action of Congress; and that in the event of the modification by that body of the agreement as proposed, the money be expended for the benefit of the Crows in such manner as the President may direct, with a view to assist them in their agricultural operations, in making permanent improvements upon their homesteads and reservation, and in any other manner that will tend to their advancement and prosperity. He also submits a draft of a bill for that purpose.

In connection with the papers herein noted I also submit an extract from a report of United States Indian Inspector Armstrong upon the same subject, urging the adoption of the proposed modification of the existing agreement.

The amounts provided by annual appropriations are entirely inadequate for building houses, constructing irrigating ditches, purchasing agricultural implements, seeds, work cattle and horses, and other necessary appliances required for the number of these Indians who wish to enter upon farming operations.

I think the evident desire of the Crows to engage in civilized pursuits and to become self-supporting should be encouraged; and, as the proposed measure now submitted is for that purpose, and is in accordance with the wishes of the Indians, I respectfully recommend that the matter may be presented for the consideration and action of Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 21, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to "An act to accept and ratify the agreement submitted by the Crow Indians of Montana, for the sale of a portion of their reservation in said Territory, and for other purposes, and to make the necessary appropriations for carrying out the same," approved April 11, 1882 (Stats. 22, pp. 42, 43).

The second stipulation of the first section of said act provides as follows :

That in consideration of the cession of territory to be made by us as individual Indians and heads of families of the Crow tribe to the Government of the United States, said Government of the United States, in addition to the annuities and sums for provisions and clothing stipulated and provided for in existing treaties and laws, hereby agrees to appropriate annually, for twenty five years, the sum of \$30,000, to be expended under the direction of the President for our benefit in assisting us to erect houses, to procure seeds, farming implements, and stock, or in cash, as the President may direct.

The total consideration to be paid for the cession of land under this act amounts to \$750,000, of which sum \$120,000 has been appropriated, being four installments of \$30,000 each for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1883, 1884, 1885, and 1886.

It appears that the Crow tribe of Indians are dissatisfied with the annual payment of \$30,000, on the ground that it is inadequate to provide the necessary means to establish them on their homesteads, and to make permanent improvements upon their diminished reservation.

In this connection I inclose herewith, in duplicate, a copy of a communication from H. J. Armstrong, ex-Indian agent for the Crow Indians, dated February 27, 1885, inclosing for the action of Congress an agreement containing a proposed modification of the second stipulation of section 1 of the act above referred to, signed by two hundred and fifty-four of the leading individuals and heads of families of the Crow tribe, in which they agree for themselves and their tribe that the clause providing an appropriation of \$30,000 annually for twenty-five years be stricken out, and that in lieu of said amount, the sum of \$90,000 annually be paid for seven years, thus exhausting the balance due of the consideration to be paid for cession of lands, aggregating the sum of \$630,000.

This proposed modification of the agreement of June 12, 1880, meets my approval, and I have the honor to recommend that the papers submitted herewith be forwarded to the President for transmittal to Congress for the action of both Houses.

In the event of the ratification by Congress of this modified agreement, I would recommend that the annual appropriation of \$90,000 be expended for the benefit of the Crows, in such manner as the President may direct, with a view to assist them in their agricultural operations, in making permanent improvements upon their homesteads and reservation, and in any other manner that will tend to their advancement and prosperity.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act to accept and ratify the agreement submitted by the Crow Indians of Montana for the sale of a portion of their reservation in said Territory, and for other purposes, and to make the necessary appropriations for carrying out the same," approved April 11, 1882.

Whereas the Crow Indians in Montana, on the 26th of February, 1885, by a petition herewith submitted, requested that paragraph 2 of the agreement for the sale to the United States of a portion of their said reservation, approved April 11, 1882, be amended in order to pay them the consideration of the cession of said territory in annual installments of \$90,000 instead of \$30,000 as provided for in said agreement:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That said agreement be, and is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

In consideration of the cession of territory made by us as individual Indians and

heads of families of the Crow tribe to the Government of the United States, said Government of the United States, in addition to the annuities and sums for provisions and clothing stipulated and provided for in existing treaties and laws, hereby agrees to appropriate annually, for seven years, the sum of \$90,000, being balance of purchase money due said Crows under agreement approved April 11, 1882, for sale of a portion of their reservation in Montana, to be expended under the direction of the President, for their benefit, in assisting them to erect houses, to procure seeds, farming implements, stock, or in any manner that will tend to their advancement and prosperity.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Crow Agency, Montana, February 27, 1885.

SIR: In accordance with your telegram of December 9, 1884, I presented for the consideration of the Crows the inclosed modification of the treaty of June 12, 1880. The Indians received the document with expressions of general approbation, and all present signed the agreement, except Spotted Horse and Crazy Head. All the other chiefs signed and were greatly pleased at the prospect of a sufficient appropriation to enable them to advance in the paths of agriculture, &c., more rapidly, and the chiefs all expressed a most earnest desire that the Great Father should assist them in every practicable way, such as building cabins, irrigating ditches, allowing them sufficient white men to instruct them fully in regard to planting, preparation of the soil, and harvesting, at such seasons when extra assistance for these purposes is imperative, furnishing them with more stock cattle, wagons, implements, and cooking and heating stoves, &c.

The agreement would have been forwarded to you several weeks ago had not Spotted Horse, who has ever given me great trouble on every occasion, tried to prevent the Indians signing the same. While he did not deny the great benefits to be derived by the Indians from the agreement, yet he used every endeavor, inclusive of threats, to prevent the better disposed element of the tribe from following their inclinations. I used every argument to obtain his signature, but neither Spotted Horse nor Crazy Head would sign. It is so very important that the yearly appropriation be increased to the amount requested by the Indians, \$90,000, in order that such permanent improvements as irrigating ditches, which will alone cost over \$50,000, be completed this season, if it is possible, that I would respectfully suggest that all practicable efforts be made to secure the increased appropriation this year. It seems a great pity to waste another year, which will, to a certain extent, be the case unless sufficient appropriation is obtained this year to complete the irrigating ditches mentioned in previous communications to the honorable Commissioner. I regret that the unfortunate circumstance above mentioned prevented me forwarding the agreement properly signed at a much earlier date.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

We, the undersigned members of the Crow tribe of Indians, hereby agree for ourselves and our people to the following change in our treaty dated June 12, 1880, being for the segregation of a certain western portion of our reserve, viz:

That article —, stipulating that the sum of \$30,000 shall be paid to us annually for the period of twenty-five years, shall be stricken out so far as relates to the balance of the money due us, and in lieu thereof shall be inserted the following:

Second. That, for the purpose of providing funds to enable the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs to make such permanent improvements as irrigating ditches, the building of houses for us, making roads and bridges, purchase of wire fencing, cooking and heating stoves, wagons and harness, farming implements, and any such other articles as are necessary to enable us to establish ourselves upon our homesteads and for the purchase of additional subsistence when necessary, and also for the employment of such additional or irregular farmers as the honorable Secretary and the honorable Commissioner may authorize (in excess of the \$10,000 limited by law for the payment of employes at any one agency) for the purpose of instructing us in all matters pertaining to our occupation as farmers, &c., until the remainder of the \$750,000 paid for the segregation of the western portion of our reserve shall be exhausted, in addition to the \$30,000 already provided to be appropriated by the terms of the treaty of June 12, 1880, a further sum of \$60,000 be appropriated annually, making a

total appropriation annually of \$90,000, until the remainder of the \$750,000 stipulated by the aforesaid treaty to be paid to us shall be exhausted: *Provided*, That the appropriation of the sums mentioned in this supplementary agreement does not, of necessity, compel the expenditure of all of the money that may be appropriated from time to time, but only so much thereof as, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs, after careful scrutiny of the estimates upon which the several sums are proposed to be expended, shall appear necessary, and for the best interests of the Crows, and any sums appropriated and not expended during the fiscal year in which such appropriation was made shall stand to our credit in the Treasury of the United States, to be drawn upon for like purposes mentioned in this agreement as necessity occurs.

[Signed with cross-mark by the following named, and attested as below:]

Two People, Bull Nose, Takes Wrinkle, Medicine Crow, Sits-in-the-Middle, Young Curlew, Fire Bear, Little Whetstone, Shaving, Long Hair, Bull that Knows, Child in Mouth, Charles Foster, Enemy Hunter, Big Ox, Big Forehead, Iron Bull, White Bull, Dog Eye, Small Waist, White Ass, Bull Chief, Mountain Chief, Blue Iron Bead, Beaver That Slides, Short Bull, Shot in the Arm, John Wallace, Yellow Face, Horse got no Joint, Iron Shield, Swings his Arm, Walks in Middle of Ground, Flathead Woman, Two White Birds, Black Hair, White Mouth, White Forehead, War Man, Sugar, Cayote to Water, Old Nest, White Shirt, Crane in the Sky, Old Woman, Big Medicine, Old Cayote, Busy Wolf, Red Fox, Spotted Buffalo, White Man Runs Him, Worker, Fringe, The Bend, Bear Wolf, Pretty Guts, Bell Rock, Rides the Horse, Old Crow, Wood Tick, Old Spaniard, Bobtailed Wolf, Gray Bull, Crazy's Sister-in-law, Sitting Elk, Plain Horse, Mountain Chief, Buffalo Calf, Left Hand, White Hat, In the Fog, Knot in his Forehead, Drift Wood, Short Bull, Lots of Beans, Little Wolf, Pukes on the Ground, Strikes the Enemy, Scratches his Face, Goes in Front, The Drunkard, Yellow Tail, Two Belly, Boy that Grabs, Bears Head, Bulls Tongue, Walks up the Hill, Cuts the Turnip, Fights Plenty, Jim, Lost Horse, How is It, Small Bells, Fat Boy, Little Calf, Keeps the Food, The Old Bear, The Bread, Sharp Head, Bull goes Hunting, Bear in the Middle, Dancing Woman, Snake, The Arm, No Hair on his Tail, Bear lays down Plenty, Bear in the Water, Small Knife, Bears Nail, On the other Side, The Bull Wolf, Hides his Neck, Rock Chief, Sees the White Horse, White Buffalo, Crow Chief, Big Man, Runner, Shaved Tail, Pretty Eagle, He is Gone, Fire Fish, Goes On, Bull in the Water, Small Bead, Big Hair, Sharp Horn, Plenty Loose, Ghost Bear, Paints his face, Yellow, No Milk, Bell Rock, Black Foot, The Wet, Big Sky, Hits himself on the Head, Big Peck, Back of the Neck, Blockfoot goes to War, Young Otter, White Otter, Sees all on the Land, Bird Hat, Bull well Known, Hears all Over, The Bear, Bird Head, Spotted Rabbit, Well Known Egg, Rock Breast, Yellow Crow, Looks Big, Gives Away, Little Old Man, Bob Tailed Bear, Gets Off, Turns Back, Sharp Head No. 2, Small, Putty Face, Walks High, Round, Does Pretty Things, Young Chief, Dick, Plenty Bear, Old Coyote, Pounded Meat, White Arm, Shows his Ear, The River, Makes a Pile, The Horn, Dreamer, The Fire, Round Rock, Old Woman, Plenty Hail Stones, Lots of Feathers, The Iron Horse, Runs with the Enemy, Big Nose No. 2, Old Wolf, Sits before the Cloud, White Dog, Medicine Bear, Little Bear, Charge up the Hill, The Hair, Goose Chief, Red Iron, Knife Chief, Runs Him, Holds on the Tail, Takes a Crooked Stick, Cuts a Hole in the Ice, Antelope Coyote, Snake Bull, The Twins, Poor Elk, Two White Birds, Alligator Stands Up, Bloody Man, The Mountain, The Trail, Bird High Up, Yellow Iron, Swings Arm, Finds the Feather, Rock all the Time, The Beard, The Fox, Runs on Top, Half gone Home, Top of the Moccasin, Looks Back, Smells Bad, Top, Knows how to go to War, Takes it Himself, Young Blackbird no Good, Sees the Moon, Bird Tail Spotted High Up, Old Dog, Busy Wolf, Lean Man, Long Elk, In the Cloud, Pretty Guts, Hugs the Bear, Black Bird, Bob Tailed Crow, The Curly Bull, Sorrell Horse, Looks at the Water, Gun, Hole in the Lodge, Spotted Tail No. 2, Round Face, Hides, Wood Tick, One Star, Spotted Tail, Yellow Crane, Bad Baby, Black Bird, Cut Lip Jack, Rides a Gray Horse, Big Leg, Covers his Face, Big Shoulder Blade, Big Porcupine, Black Man, Bull Wolf.

CROW AGENCY, MONTANA, *February 26, 1885.*

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signatures of each and every Indian named on this page.

C. H. BARSTOW.
THOS. E. WALKER.

AGREEMENT WITH THE CROW INDIANS.

CROW AGENCY, MONTANA, February 26, 1885.

I certify on honor that I have explained the nature of the above agreement to all the Indians who have signed their names thereto from No. 1 to No. 254, inclusive, and that I am satisfied that they fully understand all the conditions therein contained, and that I have witnessed each and every signature thereto from No. 1 to No. 254, inclusive, on pages from No. 3 to No. 12, inclusive.

B. BRAVO, *Interpreter.*

CROW AGENCY, MONTANA, February 26, 1885.

I certify on honor that I have witnessed each and every signature from No. 1 to No. 254 to the above agreement between the Government of the United States and the Crow tribe of Indians, and that I have had said agreement carefully explained to the said Crow Indians, and am satisfied that they understood all the provisions of same at the time of signing their names thereto.

H. J. ARMSTRONG,
United States Indian Agent.

[Extract from report of inspection report of United States Indian Inspector Frank C. Armstrong on Crow Agency, November 14, 1885.]

* * * * *

There are 550 Crow families drawing rations from this agency (one-half pound flour and three-quarters pound beef). These families make 3,226 Indians. About 50 families or 300 Indians of this number reside on the Pryors Creek, 60 miles west. The balance are scattered along Big Horn and Little Big Horn Valleys. At least 170 families are living in comfortable houses and the remainder building and trying to make themselves comfortable for the winter. Many more could have been housed, but were waiting to be placed on their permanent allotments before making permanent improvements. Nearly all of those in houses have been allotted their lands and have fields. During the past season they have nearly all made crops of vegetables, and have stored away in suitable root-houses enough to carry them through the winter, with the rations they get from the Government. They have stored in the agency cellar sufficient for seed in the spring. They are careful and saving, and should be encouraged and assisted in their willing efforts to become farmers and self-supporting.

* * * * *

Everything depends upon the allotment of land and the locating Indians where they can farm, and then teaching each family *separately*.

* * * * *

As soon as this allotment is completed, Indians all housed, and farms opened and being cultivated, titles secured to their homesteads, &c., the western part of this reservation should be purchased from them by the Government, and part of the money put into good stock cattle, cows, and good mares, then they will be independent and self-supporting and prosperous. There is no use paying Indians small annuities every year. When they have treaty funds, it should be used in large amounts for their benefit and where they can realize the immediate results.

To carry out my suggestions in regard to these Crows, it will be necessary to get the ratification of the modified treaty made by them February 26, 1885. This allows the use of \$90,000 per year instead of \$30,000, which will be ample to place them on a solid basis during the summer. It is all-important that the action by Senate be had as early as possible. * * *

C