

6-26-1888

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior,
transmitting report upon the claim of Presbyterian
Mission Board at Albuquerque, N. Mex

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Recommended Citation

S. Exec. Doc. No. 204, 50th Cong., 1st Sess. (1888)

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*Report upon the claim of Presbyterian Mission Board at Albuquerque,
N. Mex.*

JUNE 26, 1888.—Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 25, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 21st instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with accompanying papers, in the matter of the claim of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church for re-imbursement for certain improvements made by them on the grounds of the Albuquerque (New Mexico) Indian School, while that school was conducted by said board under contract with the Indian Bureau.

The report of the Commissioner contains a history of the facts in the case as they are known to his office, and shows that the various out-buildings, fencing, and other improvements which were made by the board were not provided for by the Government, and that they were necessary for the proper conduct of the school. Also, that these improvements thus made by the board have been appraised by a representative of the Indian Bureau and of the Board of Home Missions in the sum of \$6,803.13, which sum he recommends may be appropriated by Congress to make payment therefor, and he incloses an item of an appropriation in that amount which he requests be inserted in the sundry-civil or deficiency bill now before Congress.

I have the honor to submit the matter for such action as Congress shall find to be right and proper on the facts presented.

Very respectfully,

WM. F. VILAS,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, June 21, 1888.

SIR: I respectfully ask your attention to the claim of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church for re-imbursement for cer-

tain improvements made by them on the grounds of the Albuquerque (New Mexico) Indian School. The facts are as follows:

In 1881, at the instance of this Bureau, the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions opened, in buildings rented by them, a boarding-school for the Pueblos, at Albuquerque, the Government entering into contract to assist in the support of the pupils. Subsequently, largely through the efforts of the board, a tract of land at Albuquerque was donated to the Government for Indian school purposes, and two buildings were erected thereon by the Government, into which the board moved its school in August, 1884.

For the proper conduct of the school, out-buildings, fencing, walks, and various other improvements were essential. These the Government has not provided, and the board found it necessary to furnish them forthwith. The school was to be an industrial school, but no rooms for shops had been provided, and as the number of pupils increased the dormitory and other accommodations of the school were found to be inadequate. With the approval of the Indian Bureau the board proceeded to supply these deficiencies also, and commenced the erection of two brick buildings.

In 1886, before these buildings were completed, the office decided to conduct this school thereafter as a Government and not as a contract school, and the board was obliged to give up the occupancy of the premises and to establish their school elsewhere. Their furniture, etc., they removed, and for the buildings and improvements not removable, which had been placed upon the land at their expense, they very properly asked re-imbursment from the Government. Copy of Inspector Gardner's report on the improvements and the justice of paying for them is inclosed herewith.

March 3, 1887, this office agreed to have an appraisal of the improvements made by a representative of the Indian Bureau and of the Board of Home Missions. Copies of this agreement and of instructions of April 21, given in accordance therewith, to Rev. Henry Kendall and Special Agent Welton, are inclosed herewith; also, copy of their report, dated July 28, 1887, of the appraisal agreed upon by them.

The bill originally presented by the board, copy herewith, amounted to \$9,252.82. The appraised amount is \$6,803.13.

As stated above, the improvements made were necessary to the proper conduct of the school. By its failure to furnish them the Government practically obliged the Board of Missions to make expenditures at their own risk on land whose title was vested in the Government. The Government has had the benefit of these improvements and is now enjoying the use and occupancy thereof, and in my opinion the board should be paid for same.

I therefore respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to insert an item making an appropriation of \$6,803.13 for this purpose in the sundry civil or deficiency bill or in any other bill in which it can properly be inserted. A draught of said item is herewith submitted.

Very respectfully,

A. B. UPSHAW,
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Item to be inserted in an appropriation bill.

For this amount to pay the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church for buildings and other improvements made by said board on land at Albuquerque,

N. Mex., donated to the Government for Indian school purposes, \$6,803.13, being the appraised value of said improvements as agreed upon by a representative of said board and a special agent of the Indian Bureau.

SAN FELIPE HOTEL,
Albuquerque, N. Mex., July 28, 1887.

We, the undersigned commissioners duly appointed to value the improvements placed upon the United States school lands at Albuquerque, N. Mex., by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, do hereby certify that we have carefully examined and impartially valued said improvements and find the sum thereof to be \$6,803.13.

H. S. WELTON,
United States Special Indian Agent.
T. C. KIRKWOOD,
Superintendent of Home Mission of Presbyterian Church.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 21, 1887.

SIR: Replying to your communication of the 5th ultimo, you are informed that the office has designated a special agent, Henry S. Welton, who is now at Santa Fé, to appraise, in connection with your representative, Dr. Kirkwood, the buildings and improvements put up by the Board of Home Missions at Albuquerque.

Mr. Welton has been instructed to inform Dr. Kirkwood when to meet him at Albuquerque.

It is the understanding that if the two can not agree in their appraisal they are to select a third person to act with them.

Very respectfully,

A. B. UPSHAW,
Acting Commissioner.

REV. HENRY KENDALL, D. D.,
Secretary Board Home Missions, Presbyterian Church,
280 Broadway, New York.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 21, 1887.

SIR: At the Albuquerque school the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions while in charge there put up two buildings (unfinished) and made several improvements. When called upon to vacate the buildings last fall, asked that the Government purchase those buildings and improvements. Before any steps can be taken in that direction, or even toward asking an appropriation therefor, the office must know what would be a fair price for the Government to pay.

Therefore it has been decided that this office and the Presbyterian Board of Missions shall each appoint a representative, who shall jointly appraise the buildings and improvements. If they fail to agree they shall select a third person, who must be entirely disinterested, to act with them.

For this service the Board of Home Missions has designated Rev. T. C. Kirkwood, D. D., of Colorado Springs, Colo., who, they say, will be ready to attend to the business at any time upon a notice of, say, ten days.

You are hereby designated to represent the Indian Office in this matter, and you will please notify Dr. Kirkwood, upon receipt hereof, at what time you will meet him at Albuquerque.

I send you herewith copy of report of Inspector Gardner upon this subject, also copy of bill for their improvements presented by the Board of Home Missions. You will look into the whole matter very carefully, and see that the Government gets and gives full justice, and report your findings to this Bureau.

Very respectfully,

A. B. UPSHAW,
Acting Commissioner.

HENRY S. WELTON,
Special Agent, Santa Fé, N. Mex.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, March 3, 1887.

SIR: Referring to conversation a few days since held with the treasurer of your society, Mr. Boyd, I desire that you will name at an early day the one whom you wish to represent you as appraiser of the buildings, etc., which were put up at your expense on the Albuquerque school grounds and for which you ask compensation. The office will name some one to represent it as joint appraiser, and the two if they can not agree may name a third. Please state when your nominee will be ready to commence the work.

It is understood that the sum agreed upon by these joint appraisers shall be the sum which Congress will be asked to appropriate to re-imburse your society for expenses incurred.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

Rev. HENRY KENDALL,
Secretary Board Home Missions, 280 Broadway, New York.

[Extract from report of Inspector Gardner on the Albuquerque Training School.]

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Albuquerque, N. Mex., September 30, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have carefully inspected the Albuquerque Indian Training School, of Albuquerque, N. Mex., and as a result of my observations respectfully submit the following:

In addition to these Government buildings as above described, the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church, through their superintendent, R. D. W. Bryan, have made certain permanent improvements in the shape of buildings, fencing, etc., as is fully described upon Exhibit No. 1, herewith inclosed, to which attention is respectfully invited. I personally examined each and all of these improvements embraced in the Exhibit No. 1, and find that they have been made as represented, other than as to the cost of same, as affixed to each. The specific data of the cost of each item therein charged for was not furnished me. These improvements were made without proper authority of the Department, and with the knowledge that they were so made at their own risk. In my judgment, these improvements were necessary for the proper and successful conduction and maintenance of the school, and the Home Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church should be re-imbursed in whole or in part for said improvements, excepting items 20, 21, 22, and 23. The labor performed in this painting was done by school employes and school pupils. The material only should be charged for.

* * * * *

Very respectfully,

ROBERT S. GARDNER,
United States Indian Inspector.

[Copy of bill forwarded to Commissioner Indian Affairs, September 3, 1886.]

ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN SCHOOL,
Albuquerque, N. Mex., September 3, 1886.

The United States Government to the Home Mission Board Presbyterian Church, Dr.

To permanent improvements made on buildings and grounds belonging to the United States Government and occupied by the said board as an Indian school since August 1, 1884. (These improvements were absolutely essential to the proper conduct of the school and could not be removed without injury to the property.)

- A two-story building, as it stands, designed and partly used as laundry, tin-shop, tailor-shop, vegetable cellar, coal-house, dormitory, bed-rooms, general store-room, boys' sitting room, bakery, oven, and lamp-room.... \$4,397.69
- (Cost of finishing said building according to plans and specifications hereto attached—brick veneer, lath and plaster, doors and transoms, cut stone, sash-weights, stairs, wainscot and interior finish—\$4,737.09.)
- A two-story building, as it stands, designed and partly used as dormitories, school-room, and boys' wash-room..... 1,361.97

5,759.66

(Cost of finishing said building according to plans and specifications hereto attached—brick veneer, lath and plaster, doors, cut stone, sash weights, wainscot, and interior finish—\$916.90.)

Barn, 14 by 56.....	282.43
Carpenter-shop, as it stands, 22 by 56—two stories.....	601.29
Carpenter-shop additions, 14 by 42; 10 by 13—one story.....	190.79
Carpenter-shop, 6 work-benches.....	32.71
6 gates.....	13.33
Interior wire fence.....	255.56
3 wells, force-pumps, and platforms.....	168.59
Corral—fence, pump, well, etc.....	93.64
Cow-sheds.....	63.02
Hay-rack.....	19.68
Hog and sheep pen.....	62.21
Boys' water-closet.....	46.52
Girls' water-closet.....	31.76
Fence in front main building.....	57.49
Drains.....	49.55
Sidewalks.....	254.49
Ice-house.....	87.49
Graining and varnishing all inside wood-work (oak) main building and school-house.....	300.00
Frosting windows and transoms.....	35.00
Painting ceiling and walls of lower story of main building, back of dining-rooms.....	117.34
Graining and varnishing wainscot (oak) on plaster in dining-room, in all the dormitories, in the upper and lower side halls, main building.....	369.08
Wire screens for windows.....	338.00
Paving with cobble stones.....	23.19
	<hr/>
	9,252.82

I hereby certify that the above bill is correct, that all the items charged were, in my judgment, necessary for the proper conduct of the school, that the work was faithfully done, and that the prices charged are just and reasonable.

R. W. D. BRYAN,
Superintendent Albuquerque Indian School.

I hereby certify that I have carefully examined every item of the above bill, that I have personally inspected the work charged for, that it is done in a workmanlike manner and is suitable for the purposes indicated, that the prices charged are just and reasonable, and that I have no interest, directly or indirectly, in this bill or any of its items.

J. B. RANDELL,
Architect and Superintendent.

I fully concur in the above certificate and hereby make it my own, with the exception of items 20, 21, 22, and 23, respecting which I pass no judgment.

EDWARD MEDLER,
Contractor and Builder.

We fully concur in the above certificate and hereby make it our own in respect to items 20, 21, 22, and 23.

LOVELAND & SCHWARTZ,
Painters and Decorators.