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Education of children. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting an increase in the estimate for education of children in Alaska, as submitted by the Secretary of the Interior, for the fiscal year 1891

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EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
TRANSMITTING
An increase in the estimate for education of children in Alaska, as submitted by the Secretary of the Interior, for the fiscal year 1891.

MARCH 28, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
March 27, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication from the Commissioner of Education of the 22d instant, forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior, submitting an increase in the estimate on page 61 of the Book of Estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, for “Education of children in Alaska,” from $50,000 to $75,000.

Respectfully yours,

GEO. S. BATELLER,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
Washington, D. C., March 22, 1890.

SIR: The estimates of appropriations for this office were required to be submitted in September last, and had been sent in a few days before my assuming the duties of Commissioner. Not having time to study the various interests concerned, I contented myself with revising a few of the items which I thought needed modification and repeating in most cases the estimates of the preceding year.

I desire now to recommend, and to request you to recommend to the Congress, a modification of the estimate submitted last September under the very important item, the “Industrial and elementary education of the children of school age in Alaska.” The appropriation for that pur-
pose, I am now convinced, ought to be increased from $50,000 to
$75,000.

The Government's educational work in that Territory, which is man-
aged and supervised by this office, is at least firmly established and
well organized, and the moderate and healthy growth which is already
apparent imperatively demands the opening and maintenance of new
schools. One of the sections of the rules for the government of educa-
tion in Alaska, issued by the Secretary of the Interior June 14, 1887,
declares that "a common school should be established in every settle-
ment where there are children of sufficient number, and at least one
school in every tribe of Indians or native settlement." This require-
ment has not yet been complied with, but the times are now ripe for
the establishment of schools at a number of stations, where they will
surely do great good to the cause of commerce and civilization. The
Government officers who are connected with the educational work in
Alaska and are most conversant with the condition of the various com-
munities, are unanimous in recommending an increase of the appropria-
tion to $75,000; and a careful estimate of the expense of the work that
ought to be undertaken next year, on the most economical basis, slightly
exceeds that figure.

I therefore urgently recommend the increase to $75,000, and respect-
fully request that you submit the matter to the proper committee with
as strong a recommendation in its favor as you may deem the impor-
tance of the interest involved to merit.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. HARRIS,

Commissioner.

The Secretary of the Interior.