

4-12-1890

Salaries of Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs and Financial Clerk of Indian Office.

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 1411, 51st Cong., 1st Sess. (1890)

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SALARIES OF COMMISSIONER AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND FINANCIAL CLERK OF INDIAN OFFICE.

APRIL 12, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. REED, of Iowa, from the Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 9283.]

The Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department have had under consideration Executive Document relating to the salaries of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the financial clerk of the Indian Office, together with the draught of a bill submitted to the committee with said document, and report the same back with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The bill provides for an increase of \$1,000 in the salaries of the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, and \$250 in that of the financial clerk. The Secretary of the Interior has frequently urged upon Congress the propriety and justice of providing for an increase of the salary of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which is now fixed at \$4,000 per annum. Your committee feel that they can not do better than to quote the language used by Mr. Secretary Lamar on this subject in his annual report in 1886, which is as follows:

The office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with the great responsibilities and the peculiar nature of the duties imposed upon it by law for the management, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, of all Indian affairs and of all matters arising out of Indian relations, is one of the most trying and difficult positions in the public service, requiring constant and exacting labors and unremitting care and watchfulness. The salary of \$4,000 allowed by law is by no means commensurate with the requirements of the office and I therefore recommend that it be increased to \$5,000 per annum, thus making it to correspond with the salaries allowed to other bureau officers of this Department, which it at least equals in importance.

What is thus said applies with equal force to the office of Assistant Commissioner. The character of the duties of that office are indicated in the document under consideration, and in the judgment of your committee the increase of salary provided for in the bill is both just and wise. The financial clerk is charged with the duty of supervising the expenditure of all moneys expended by the Indian Office for supplies for the Indians, for the erection of agency buildings and buildings for educational purposes. He also has charge of the settlement of all claims for supplies and transportation and for all services rendered in educating Indian children. He is also charged with the duty of preparing all estimates for the bureau and has the oversight of all expenditures hereunder. The salary at present is \$2,000 per annum, and your committee believe the increase provided for in the bill should be made.