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Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi and of Lake Superior

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CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND OF LAKE
SUPERIOR.

FEBRUARY 2, 1899.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PETTIGREW presented the following

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, TRANSMIT-
TING A REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ON BILL (S. 3671) ENTITLED "A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SEC-
RETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO FULFILL CERTAIN TREATY STIPU-
LATIONS WITH THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF THE MISSISSIPPI
AND OF LAKE SUPERIOR, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
THE SAME."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 9, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by your reference of the 3d ultimo, of S. 3671, "A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to fulfill certain treaty stipulations with the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi and of Lake Superior, and making appropriations for the same," with request for a report thereon for the information of your committee.

In response thereto I transmit herewith a copy of a report, dated the 6th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom the bill was referred by me.

Very respectfully,

C. N. BLISS,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 6, 1898.

SIR: By your reference of the 5th ultimo, for report, I have the honor to be in receipt of S. 3671, entitled "A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to fulfill certain treaty stipulations with the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi and of Lake Superior, and making appropriations for the same," referred by Hon. R. F. Pettigrew, chairman, with a request for a report thereon for the information of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

The bill enacts—

That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to set aside, in the Treasury of the United States, to the credit of the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi and of Lake Superior, the sum of eighty-one thousand seven

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hundred and two dollars and sixty-one cents, the sum being the total amount arising from balances of appropriations under treaties with said Indians and covered into the Treasury between the years 1843 and 1878, inclusive.

SEC. 2. That the said amount of eighty-one thousand seven hundred and two dollars and sixty-one cents shall be, by the Secretary of the Interior, paid to the said Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior and of the Mississippi, in the proportion due to each under said treaty stipulations, or invested or applied for their benefit by the said Secretary, as may be deemed most advantageous for the interests of the said Indians.

SEC. 3. That the sum of eighty-one thousand seven hundred and two dollars and sixty-one cents be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this act into effect.

In reply I have the honor to state that on the 26th day of January, 1897, a report was made to the Department on Senate bill 3306, providing in part for the payment of the sum above named, in which report this office stated that the claims of the Chippewa Indians, as required by the ninth article of the treaty with the Chippewas of September 30, 1854 (10 Stat. L., 111), were fully investigated in 1879, under a resolution of the House of Representatives, by a subcommittee composed of two members, viz, Hon. George M. Beebe and Hon. J. H. Stewart, and J. L. Mahan, Indian agent, detailed by this office for the purpose of assisting in the investigation, the full report of which committee will be found in the Congressional Record, volume 8, part 3, and Appendix, Forty-fifth Congress, third session, page 134, which report is full and explicit and is substantially correct. An examination was made of the abstract of balances of appropriations carried to the surplus fund, as printed in the Record, aggregating \$85,174.01, and it was found at that date, owing to certain payments having been made after the date mentioned, namely, April 30, 1878, the amounts had been reduced to \$81,702.61.

As has been reported to Congress heretofore, this balance is largely made up of unexpended balances of appropriations provided by Congress years ago, under treaty stipulations, for education, mills, shops, and various employees, and for agricultural assistance, and was not used or expended for their benefit owing to the fact that the Indians were unsettled and not disposed to change their mode of life, and that probably there was a lack of energy on the part of the superintendents and agents who had charge of said Indians, who neglected to push their advancement in education, civilization, and agricultural pursuits.

The Chippewas are now in an advanced state of civilization, are taking allotments of land, and are anxious to build houses, to educate their children, and to contribute to their support by individual exertions in agricultural pursuits and other modes of civilized life, but they are very poor, owing to the expiration of their treaties by limitation.

The bill meets the approval of this office, and is respectfully returned for favorable consideration of the Department.

Very respectfully,

W. A. JONES, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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