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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a draught of a bill to secure eighty acres of land in the White Earth Reservation of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota to the Episcopal Board of Missions

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WHITE EARTH RESERVATION IN MINNESOTA.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A draught of a bill to secure eighty acres of land in the White Earth reservation of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota to the Episcopal Board of Missions.

JANUARY 27, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 23, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith a draught of a bill to secure eighty acres of land in the White Earth reservation of the Chippewa Indians, in Minnesota, to the Episcopal Board of Missions, upon which is situated their church and other buildings.

A copy of a report, dated the 22d instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and a copy of a letter, dated the 17th instant, from the Rev. J. B. Whipple, bishop of Minnesota, contain a statement of the reasons for asking the legislation necessary to enable the Department to convey the land in question to the Episcopal mission board.

The subject is commended to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER *House of Representatives.*

A BILL to secure to the Episcopal Board of Missions the land in the White Earth Indian reservation in Minnesota on which is situated their church and other buildings.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed, by and with the consent of the Mississippi bands of Chippewa Indians, to cause to be issued a patent in fee-simple to the Episcopal Board of Missions, or to such person as may be designated by said board, for eighty acres of land, to embrace the church, parsonage, and hospital and such other buildings as may have been, or may prior to the issue of such patent be, erected by and under the direction of said board on the White Earth Indian reservation in Minnesota, said land to be selected by some person acting under the authority of said board, and reported by the United States agent for the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota, through the Office of Indian Affairs, to the Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 22, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt, by Department reference of the letter of Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, of 17th instant, relative to the question whether the Department is authorized by law to convey the lands on the White Earth reservation to the Episcopal Board of Missions, that board having erected, at their own expense, a hospital church, and parsonage, and still purposing to erect other buildings as they may be needed, for mission purposes.

In reply, I have to state that this transfer cannot be made without special legislation in the case, and I respectfully suggest, that as the consent of the Indians can, without doubt, be readily obtained, that Congress be requested to authorize the Department to convey eighty acres of land for this purpose.

A draught of a bill for this purpose is inclosed herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWD. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

ON CAR, P. O., FAIRIBAULT,
January 17, 1874.

HONORABLE AND DEAR SIR: You are aware that I have, at very great expense, built a hospital at White Earth reservation for the Indians. A friend has offered to endow the hospital if the title to it can be made secure in our Board of Missions.

Is there not a law by which you can convey to us the property where our mission-buildings stand? Say forty or eighty acres for church, parsonage, hospital, &c., all of which I have built. We propose to add to these buildings as time goes on. Pardon my writing with a pencil. It is very important that I get an answer early, and I shall not be where I can get pen and ink for a day.

With kind regards, yours respectfully,

H. B. WHIPPLE.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Washington.