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**Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting estimate of appropriation for the purchase from the Omaha Indians in Nebraska, of such quantity of land as may be required for the Winnebagoes in Wisconsin, &c**

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OMAHA INDIAN LANDS IN NEBRASKA.

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LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*Estimate of appropriation for the purchase from the Omaha Indians in Nebraska, of such quantity of land as may be required for the Winnebagoes in Wisconsin, &c.*

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FEBRUARY 4, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, D. C., February 3, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to present, herewith, for the action of Congress, an estimate of appropriation for eighty-two thousand dollars, (\$82,000,) or so much thereof as may be necessary to purchase from the Omaha Indians in Nebraska such quantity of land, not exceeding twenty sections, as may be required for the use of the "Winnebago Indians of Wisconsin," and for improvements on their reservation, said amount to be appropriated from the residue of the eleven hundred thousand dollars provided to be set apart for the Winnebagoes by the 4th article of the treaty concluded with those Indians on the 1st day of November, 1837, provided that such amount as may be paid to the Omahas for the lands purchased of them shall be applied for their use, under direction of the Secretary of the Interior, for general purposes of civilization. A copy of a communication, dated the 29th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the accompanying letters of the superintendent Indian Affairs, Northern Superintendency, and of the Omaha Indian agent, in relation to the sale by said Indians of a portion of their reservation for the use of the Winnebagoes, are also herewith transmitted. The sum now in the Treasury to the credit of the Winnebagoes is \$886,909.17.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,  
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., January 29, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a communication from Superintendent White, dated the 18th ultimo, transmitting one from Agent Gillingham, reporting that the Omaha Indians have consented to sell a portion of their reservation for the use of the Winnebago Indians of Wisconsin.

This action on the part of the Omahas has been taken on the suggestion of this office, as it is very desirable to permanently locate the Wisconsin Winnebagoes at the earliest practicable date, as they have refused to go to the Indian Territory.

The number of acres proposed to be purchased from the Omahas is 12,800, for which the sum of \$2.50 per acre is to be paid, making an aggregate of \$32,000 necessary for the purchase of the land required.

I respectfully recommend that Congress be requested to appropriate this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purchase of said lands, and also the sum of \$50,000 for the location and establishment of the Wisconsin Winnebagoes thereon and for improvement on their reservation, said appropriation to be made out of the \$886,902.17, being the residue of the sum of \$1,100,000 belonging to the Winnebago Indians, under the 9th clause of the 4th article of the treaty made with said Indians, November 1, 1837. (Stats. at Large, vol. 7, pp. 545, 546.)

I also recommend that provision be made for the expenditure, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, for general purposes of civilization for the Omahas, of such amount as may be paid to them for the lands referred to.

An estimate of the amount thus required is submitted herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. P. SMITH,  
*Commissioner*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY,  
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Omaha, Neb., Twelfthmonth 18, 1873

RESPECTED FRIEND: I am in receipt of a letter from Agent Gillingham, of the Omaha agency, (which is herewith inclosed,) setting forth the proceedings of a council recently held with the Omaha Indians relative to the sale of a portion of their land to the Winnebagoes.

As it is a very unpopular move with the majority of the Omaha tribe to sell any of their land to the Winnebagoes, and inasmuch as Agent Gillingham has succeeded in convincing them that it would be better for them to make such sale, I would recommend that all of the chiefs (nine in number) be allowed to go to Washington to complete said negotiations, even though they be compelled to wait until an appropriation is made by Congress to defray the expenses of said delegation.

Very respectfully, thy friend,

BARCLAY WHITE,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs*

Hon. EDWARD P. SMITH,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT FOR THE OMAHAS,  
Omaha Agency, Nebraska, Twelfthmonth 13, 1873.

RESPECTED FRIEND: At open council of the chiefs and head-men held to-day in the council-room at this place the subject of selling land to the Wisconsin Winnebagoes was discussed. I read to them the letter received from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and laid before them the benefits I thought would be derived from the sale.

After deliberation they concluded that they would consent to sell the land, but requested me to say that if possible they would like to have a better price than that offered, (\$2.50 per acre.) It being nearly all wood-land, they thought it more valuable than prairie.

They expressed the hope that something decided might be done that would in the future, put a stop to the pony-stealing. As there are to be two tracts of land sold, one to the Poncas and one to the Winnebagoes, and the consent to sell to the latter reluctantly given, I would ask as an especial favor to the Omahas, if it can be consistently granted, that their chiefs (nine in number) might be all allowed to go to Washington to ratify said sale.

It would undoubtedly have a good effect upon the tribe. If only five went, as has been talked of, I think it would not be good policy for me to decide who should go; and if left to themselves, of course some of the younger, and I think most deserving, would be left at home.

I also offer for the consideration of the Commissioner the proposition to take an assistant for the United States interpreter, that he may not have all the responsibility resting upon him should any dissatisfaction hereafter arise about the manner of the sale.

Very respectfully, thy friend,

T. T. GILLINGHAM,  
United States Indian Agent.

BARCLAY WHITE,  
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Omaha, Neb.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to purchase from the Omaha Indians, in Nebraska, such quantity of land, not exceeding twenty sections, as may be required for the use of the Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin, and for improvements on their reservation, to be appropriated from the residue of the eleven hundred thousand dollars provided to be set apart for the Winnebagoes by the fourth article of the treaty made with those Indians, November first, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven: *Provided*, That such amount as may be paid to the Omahas for the lands required, shall be applied for their use under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior for general purposes of civilization .....\$32,000 00