

3-9-1896

Report : Mr. Allen

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Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 427, 54th Cong., 1st Sess. (1896)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 9, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. ALLEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Allen to H. R. 6249.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Allen to the bill (H. R. 6249) making appropriations for current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, and for other purposes, beg leave to report as follows:

In line 5 strike out the words "the Indian" and insert the word "Oklahoma," and in the same line strike out the words "South Dakota."

The proposed amendment is substantially in the form and language of the appropriation bills heretofore enacted making appropriations for these Indians.

It has come to the attention of your committee that many of these Indians are being supported by public charity, are eking out a precarious existence, and that they are entirely destitute of seed for farming purposes, and many of them in need of horses, wagons, and other necessary farming implements which they can not obtain unless an appropriation shall be made for that purpose.

It is stated by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that the Poncas of Nebraska are in straitened circumstances and that he has endeavored, so far as the limited appropriations available for their support would admit, to ameliorate their condition. Two successive failures of crops have left these Indians in a destitute condition, and the ordinary appropriation would not be sufficient to cover their imperative necessities.

The Ponca Indians number 798, 210 of whom reside on the Ponca Reservation in the State of Nebraska. The remainder reside in Oklahoma. Of the \$15,000 appropriation heretofore made, \$6,560 has been consumed in the payment of salaries of officers and employees, leaving a balance of only \$8,440 to be distributed among the Indians. If this amendment were adopted, it would leave clear to the Indians, after paying the salaries of officers and employees, about \$29.37 per capita, which it is thought is the least amount they can get along with.

Your committee therefore recommend that this proposed amendment be sent to the Committee on Appropriations for their favorable action.