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3-10-1894

Indian school at Cherokee, N. C. Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of the Interior submitting an estimate of appropriation for the Indian school at Cherokee, N. C.

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 142, 53rd Cong., 2nd Sess. (1894)

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INDIAN SCHOOL AT CHEROKEE, N. C.

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Secretary of the Interior submitting an estimate of appropriation for the Indian school at Cherokee, N. C.

MARCH 12, 1894.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
 March 10, 1894.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 8th instant, submitting an estimate of appropriation for the Indian school at Cherokee, N. C., for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, amounting to \$37,600, in lieu of the estimate of \$14,560 for the said school to be found on page 151 of the Book of Estimates for 1895.

Respectfully, yours,

W. E. CURTIS,
 Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
 Washington, January 6, 1894.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the estimates of appropriations for the Indian Service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, wherein the following item appears:

Support of Indian school, Cherokee, N. C.:	
Support of pupils at the training school at Cherokee, N. C., at \$167 per annum each.....	\$13,360
Pay of superintendent of said school.....	1,200
Total.....	14,560

Instead of this, I now respectfully recommend that Congress be requested to appropriate as follows:

Support of Indian school, Cherokee, N. C.:	
Support of 200 pupils at the training school at Cherokee, N. C., at \$167 per annum each.....	\$33,400
Pay of superintendent of said school.....	1,200
Erection of buildings.....	3,000
Total.....	37,600

In recommending this increase of appropriation for the support of the Cherokee training school for the ensuing fiscal year, I would state that my action in so doing is based upon the facts presented in communications from the superintendent of the school.

It is stated in the correspondence that there are over 400 full-blood Indian children of school age on the Eastern Cherokee Reservation, and, while the present school building will afford accommodation for only 80 pupils, 144 are enrolled.

For the first time in the history of these Indians they are taking an interest in the education of their youth. It is therefore reasonable to presume that at least 200 of the 400 children before mentioned would quickly take advantage of any school facilities offered them, as the superintendent states that 200 Indian children on the reservation who have never attended school are now seeking to enter.

The plan, as proposed by the superintendent, to provide additional accommodations for children and to enlarge the school plant is both practical and economical. In the first place, he states that the present school building, consisting of two small rooms, is so old, antiquated, and rotten that a new building is necessary. It is not, however, his idea to replace this with an expensive structure, but he will, if the Department approves of the project, cut and hew a sufficient quantity of timber and erect a set of two-story log buildings (the logs to be neatly hewn and mortised), which will answer all purposes, and can be made very neat, unique, and comfortable, the cost thereof not to exceed \$3,000 in the aggregate. The labor can all be performed by the Indians at from 60 cents to \$1 per day, and such employment would be a boon to many of them who are now in circumstances of destitution.

I commend this project to the early and favorable consideration of the Department, as I believe that the Eastern Cherokees, who now seek to be educated and advanced in the ways of civilization, should meet with such encouragement as seems only reasonable and proper.

There are transmitted herewith for the convenience of the Department and of Congress triplicate copies of the correspondence before alluded to.

Very respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE, OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,
Cherokee, N. C., December 15, 1893.

SIR: I have the honor to request that a sufficient appropriation be allowed the Eastern Cherokee training school for the support and training of 250 Indian pupils for the fiscal year 1895. My semimonthly report of attendance this date enrolls 144 pupils. The appropriation is for only 80. There are 200 Indian children on this reserve who have never attended school and are now seeking to enter.

The four Indian day schools have been wisely closed, which have in past accommodated about 160 pupils, when in successful operation.

There are over 400 full-blood Indian children of school age on this reservation. Therefore I respectfully ask that the Office will increase the appropriation to an amount sufficient for the support of 250 Indian pupils. I shall erect such additional two-story log buildings as will accommodate the above number of pupils, at a trifling cost, with the approval of the Office, using the labor of Indians and my schoolboys. Please see accompanying letter concerning new buildings.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS W. POTTEE,
Superintendent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE, OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,
Cherokee, N. C., December 15, 1893.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 9th instant, stating that the Office did not look favorably upon the erection of any additional buildings at this school at the present time.

My enrollment for this month is 144.

There are over 400 full-blooded Indian pupils on this reserve, and I am packing as many of them as possible into buildings estimated to hold 80 pupils, although my estimate is 100. There is not a building here suitable for safely storing my supplies. I am obliged to place them in the attic of the girls' quarters, although I feel it is really dangerous to have such a weight placed there.

The school building, consisting of two small rooms, is so old, antiquated, and rotten that a new building is absolutely necessary.

I do not ask the Office to expend a large sum in the new buildings needed, but merely to grant me authority to go out into the woods, cut and hew a sufficient quantity of timber, and erect a set of log buildings, two-story high, neatly hewn and mortised, which will answer all purposes, and can be made very neat, unique, and comfortable at less than one-tenth of the cost that is usually expended in similar buildings for training schools elsewhere. The labor can all be performed by the Indians at 60 cents to \$1 per day, and the employment would be a great blessing to many of them who are in destitute circumstances.

I shall superintend the work myself, and will have the timber cut and hewn in such dimensions so that whenever the Government wishes to build more stylish and expensive buildings these timbers can be used to advantage.

Several of these Indians are experts at hewing, and I feel assured that a plant can be erected here, of neatly-hewn log buildings, which will be a credit to the administration from the point of economy as well as suitability and capacity.

Three thousand dollars or less will be sufficient to erect a new outfit of log buildings for 250 pupils. In an accompanying letter I have asked an appropriation for 250 pupils (instead of 80) be allowed this school for fiscal year 1895.

With that appropriation granted I can build the necessary buildings from funds within that appropriation, and do recommend that such authority be granted. If the honorable Commissioner disapproves of any Government money being expended in the erection of these much-needed buildings, I will then recommend that the \$1,200 interest annually due these Indians for educational purposes from their own funds at Washington, and, if necessary, part of the principal, be expended in the erection of the buildings needed here for their education and training, and that I be authorized to begin work at once in getting out the logs, stone, etc., so that all will be completed by September 1, 1894.

I respectfully call the attention of the Office to my previous communication of December 1 instant, as well as to the accompanying estimate of cost of labor (Indian) necessary to erect one school building, one storehouse, one boys' dormitory, one girls' dormitory, one commissary, and one dining hall and kitchen, suitable for the accommodation of 250 pupils.

I have the honor to remain your obedient servant,

THOMAS W. POTTER,
Superintendent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

Estimate of cost of Indian labor required for the erection of five log buildings (one girls' dormitory, one boys' dormitory, one dining hall, one school building, and one commissary) at Cherokee, N. C.

15 choppers and hewers for sixty days at 60 cents.....	\$540.00
5 carpenters for sixty days at 60 cents.....	180.00
2 carpenters for sixty days at \$1	120.00
10 teams hauling timber and stone for twenty days at \$1.50.....	300.00
Erection of 15 stone chimneys at \$8	120.00
25 barrels of lime at \$1	25.00
Excavating and building one basement under dining hall for cellar, bakery, and laundry.....	100.00
Total.....	1,385.00
Flooring, roofing, doors, and windows.....	1,200.00
Total.....	2,585.00

After the office decides on the question of giving these Indians a cheap portable sawmill and shingle mill I shall itemize the estimate for flooring, roofing, etc., reducing greatly the above estimate.

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS W. POTTER,
Superintendent.

CHEROKEE, N. C., *December 15, 1893.*

DEPARTMENT INTERIOR, *March 8, 1894.*

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of the Treasury, with favorable recommendation to Congress for an appropriation of \$3,000 for the erection of school building.

HOKE SMITH,
Secretary.

