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12-14-1894

Revised estimate for salaries, office Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a revised estimate for salaries, office Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior.

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 119, 53rd Cong., 3rd Sess. (1894)

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REVISED ESTIMATE FOR SALARIES, OFFICE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A revised estimate for salaries, office Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior.

DECEMBER 17, 1894.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
December 14, 1894.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a revised estimate for salaries, office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, \$114,220, as submitted by the Secretary of the Interior on the 8th instant.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. HAMLIN, *Acting Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 8, 1894.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith revised estimates for the salaries in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896.

The estimates as revised are approved, and the favorable action of Congress thereon respectfully solicited.

Very respectfully,

HOKE SMITH, *Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, December 7, 1894.

SIR: During my absence in the West, in September last, the annual estimate for salaries for the Indian Office for the fiscal year 1896 was submitted to the Department, in which it was recommended that one stenographer at \$1,600 be reduced to \$1,400, and that one female messenger at \$840 and one messenger at \$720 be dropped, substituting therefor one laborer at \$660 per annum.

I would respectfully state that I do not deem it to be desirable to make the changes recommended in the estimate, and believe that the requirements of this office demand the employment of the full force of messengers now employed here, and that any decrease in their numbers would result in serious inconvenience.

Likewise, I know of no good reason for the reduction of the salary of one of the stenographers to \$1,400.

I therefore trust that the estimate for salaries for stenographers and messengers for the Indian Office for the fiscal year 1896 may be allowed to stand as they are for the present fiscal year, and that the revised estimate herewith inclosed receive your approval and be transmitted through the usual channels for the action of Congress.

I also have the honor to invite attention to my letter of November 14 last, asking for four additional second-class clerks, and to urge that it receive your favorable consideration. These additional clerks are included in the accompanying estimate.

I regret the necessity for submitting this revised estimate, but my attention has but recently been called to the matter.

Very respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, November 14, 1894.

SIR: In the administration of the affairs of the Indian Bureau I find myself confronted with the serious problem of keeping the large and increasing office work up to date, and within the requirements of law, with a corps of clerks the increase in which has not kept pace with the increase in work. The necessity for an increased clerical force in this Bureau is so urgent that I feel that it is my duty to present the situation to you to recommend and that an estimate be made to Congress for at least four additional clerks of class 2, at \$1,400 per annum, for service in this Bureau.

I desire to invite your attention to a few facts in regard to the clerical work of this Bureau, and to the increase in such work during the last five years.

In 1889 there were in operation but 7 large training schools for Indian pupils, whereas to-day there are 28 schools under the supervision of bonded superintendents. These new schools necessarily increase largely the clerical work in this office in directing the administration of their affairs and in the examination of the accounts of the superintendents who are in charge of them.

In addition to these new officers, there is now a corps of about 50 disbursing officers in the field in various parts of the country, who are engaged mostly in the allotments of lands to the various Indian tribes, whereas in 1889 the work was comparatively in its infancy and but few disbursing officers were required to carry on the necessary operations in that direction.

There have also been ratified by Congress lately (especially by the acts of March 3, 1891, Stat. 26, p. 986, and August 15, 1894) a number of agreements with Indian tribes, which involve the per capita payment of large sums of money to them, and in other ways, such as the purchase of goods and supplies, development of irrigation, etc., have largely increased the clerical work of this Bureau, as compared with former years.

I would also invite your attention to the large number of Indian depredation claims that are now being presented for payment, and to the large number, involving the payment of millions of dollars, that have been filed against the various Indian tribes, all of which will cause a large increase in the clerical work of this Bureau.

All of these conditions have combined to make it a matter of impossibility to keep the work of this Bureau up to date with the regular number of clerks allowed by law.

This statement is now more in evidence than ever before, owing to the provisions of what is known as the "Dockery law," recently enacted by Congress, wherein it is made mandatory on the administrative officers of the Government to forward the accounts of disbursing officers to the Auditors of the Treasury within sixty days from their actual receipt in the administrative office. There are, approximately, at the present time, one hundred and fifty disbursing officers under the direction of this Bureau, whose quarterly accounts must be examined and forwarded to the Treasury within the sixty days, and to do this and to assist in other work there are now in this office thirteen clerks detailed for duty from other bureaus of the Department, the services of the majority of whom are necessarily temporary in character.

I would add, as an illustration in a small way of the increase of work in this office, that in 1889 there were received 37,450 letters, whereas this year there will be at least 51,000, an increase of over 35 per cent.

I believe that a consideration of the facts herein set forth will convince you of the necessity for permanent addition to the clerical force of this Bureau, especially of the small number that I have deemed proper to ask for at this time.

The character of the increase of work is such that I do not believe it is wise, in case you recommend and Congress allows the four additional clerks asked for, to call on the Civil Service Commission for clerks of the \$900 grade, as it has been the experience in this Bureau that such clerks are, as a rule, not fitted for work of an advanced character such as is required for this Bureau, and I have, therefore, placed the salary of the additional clerks in a grade that requires a more advanced examination than those of the lower grades.

Comparatively speaking, there are at the present time a sufficiency of typewriters and clerks of the lower grades employed here. There are actually needed clerks of a capacity to take up the examination of the accounts of disbursing officers, pass upon claims presented against the Government on account of the Indian Service, and perform other work of a high character.

I would respectfully request your careful consideration of these facts, and that a strong and favorable recommendation be forwarded to Congress for the allowance of these additional clerks.

Very respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

REVISED ESTIMATE FOR SALARIES.

Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, by the Indian Office.

Detailed objects of expenditures, and explanations.	Estimated amount which will be required for each detailed object of expenditure.	Total amount to be appropriated under each head of appropriation.	Amount appropriated for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1895.
INDIAN OFFICE.			
Salaries, Indian Office:			
Commissioner of Indian Affairs (Rev. Stat., p. 78, sec. 462; act July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	\$4,000		
Increase (submitted)	500		
Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs (Rev. Stat., p. 74, sec. 440; act July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	3,000		
Increase (submitted)	500		
Financial clerk (June 15, 1880, vol. 21, p. 231, sec. 1; July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	2,000		
Chief of division (Aug. 5, 1882, vol. 22, p. 247, sec. 1; July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	2,000		
(Chief of land division, in lieu of chief of division, as above submitted.)			
Principal bookkeeper (Mar. 3, 1881, vol. 21, p. 407, sec. 1; July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	1,800		
Five clerks of class 4 (Rev. Stat., p. 27, sec. 167-169; July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	9,000		
(Chief of accounts division, in lieu of one clerk of class 4, heretofore appropriated, submitted.)			
(Chief of education division, in lieu of one clerk of class 4, heretofore appropriated, submitted.)			
(Chief of files division, in lieu of one clerk of class 4, heretofore appropriated, submitted.)			
Ten clerks of class 3 (same acts)	16,000		
One draftsman (same acts)	1,600		
One stenographer (same acts)	1,600		
One stenographer (same acts)	1,400		
Twelve clerks of class 2 (same acts)	16,800		
Four clerks of class 2 (submitted)	5,600		
Twenty clerks of class 1 (Rev. Stat., p. 27, sec. 167, July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	24,000		
Nine clerks, at \$1,000 each (one in lieu of clerk to the Assistant Commissioner, heretofore appropriated) June 19, 1878, vol. 20, p. 199, sec. 1, July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	9,000		
Twelve copyists, at \$900 each, July 31, 1886, vol. 24, p. 200, sec. 1, July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	10,800		
One messenger (R. S., p. 27, sec. 167; July 31, 1894, vol. 28, p. 194, sec. 1)	840		
Two assistant messengers, at \$720 each (same acts)	1,440		
One female messenger (same acts)	840		
One laborer (same acts)	660		
One messenger boy (same acts)	360		
Two charwomen, at \$240 each (same acts)	480		
		\$114,220	\$107,620