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Appropriation for Indian police service. Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting an estimate of deficiency in the appropriation for Indian police service for the current fiscal year, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior.

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APPROPRIATION FOR INDIAN POLICE SERVICE.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate of deficiency in the appropriation for Indian police service for the current fiscal year, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior.

JANUARY 3, 1895.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *December 23, 1894.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, an estimate of deficiency in the appropriation for the Indian police service for the current fiscal year, \$7,000, as submitted by the Secretary of the Interior under date of the 21st instant.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. HAMLIN, *Acting Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, December 21, 1894.

SIR: On April 10 last, under Department authority, an advertisement was published inviting proposals to furnish goods and supplies for the Indian Service for the fiscal year 1895. Under this advertisement awards were made and contracts executed for various articles. Among other things contracted for were uniforms for Indian police, as follows: 1,394 coats, officers' and men's; 1,320 pants, officers' and men's; 1,362 vests, officers' and men's; 1,278 hats, officers' and men's.

At the time the contract was made it was expected that the estimated amount for pay of police and for their equipment, etc., would be appropriated. The House of Representatives, however, reduced the estimated amount from \$150,000 (which was allowed for 1894) to \$125,000. Upon the representation of this office, the Senate increased the House appropriation to \$140,000, but in a committee of conference the Senate receded from its position, and the bill as approved August

15, 1894, appropriated only \$125,000 for the purpose stated. This necessitated the reduction of the force previously employed in the service, and the cutting of the uniforms, except coats and hats.

It will require—

To pay salaries of the authorized number of officers and men	\$110, 820
To pay for rations for the police at nonration agencies, about.....	4, 800
To pay for the coats and hats contracted for, about.....	7, 720
	123, 340

leaving a balance of only \$1,660 to pay for equipments, and pants and vests.

The cost of the pants and vests, which have been contracted for, but which have not yet been delivered because of the inability of this office to pay for them, is in the neighborhood of \$7,000.

As soon as the bill became a law and it was observed that this appropriation had been reduced, the contractor for these articles was at once notified of the position the office was in, and was directed not to deliver these uniforms until further orders. Subsequently, it was found that by reducing the force the coats and hats could be taken, and consequently they were ordered. The contractor is ready and willing to deliver the pants and vests, but in the absence of any money to pay for them the office is unable to allow him to do so.

For the authority of this office to make these contracts in the absence of an appropriation, I refer to section 4 of the act approved August 15, 1894 (28 Stat., 312), which authorizes the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the spring of each year—

To advertise for bids and to enter into contracts, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, for goods and supplies for the Indian Service required for the ensuing fiscal year, notwithstanding the fact that the appropriations for such fiscal year have not been made; and the contracts so made shall be on the basis of the appropriation for the preceding fiscal year, and shall contain a clause that no deliveries shall be made under the same, and no liability attach to the United States in consequence of such execution, if Congress fails to make an appropriation for such contract for the fiscal year for which the supplies are required.

The police force is one of the most important branches of the service, and a uniform is an essential part of its equipment. The pants and vests not delivered are very much needed, and I therefore respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to make a deficiency appropriation of \$7,000 to pay for them.

Very respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING, *Commissioner*.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, *December 21, 1894.*

Respectfully forwarded through the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury for the favorable consideration of Congress.

HOKE SMITH, *Secretary*.

MEMORANDUM.

The essential facts regarding funds for the police force are set forth in this letter. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars was appropriated for the fiscal year 1894. Under the general authority of Congress authorizing the making of contracts on the basis of the appropriations for the preceding year, the Indian Office made the usual contracts for clothing, etc., for the police force in June last. Finding at a later date that the House committee had reduced the appropriation to \$125,000, a reduction was

made in the number of police to the lowest possible limit, yet requiring more than the sum proposed by the House.

The Senate agreed to give \$140,000, and allowed that much in the bill, but receded to the requirements of the House in conference.

Without a further large reduction in the police force from the 1st of January, which would be far below the requirements of the service, and greatly impair the efficiency of the police at most of the agencies, there will be a deficiency of about the sum named—\$7,000—or else the pants and vests, already contracted for, will have to be thrown on the hands of the contractor.

To bring the force within the limit of the present appropriation, it would be necessary to discharge about one hundred and twenty-five of the present number of policemen for the next six months.

Respectfully submitted.

W. C. POLLOCK,
Chief Indian Division.