

University of Oklahoma College of Law

## University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

---

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

---

1-3-1895

**Puyallup Indian Commission. Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, an estimate of appropriation, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior, to continue the work of the Puyallup Indian Commission.**

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 166, 53rd Cong., 3rd Sess. (1895)

This House Executive Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu](mailto:Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu).

PUYALLUP INDIAN COMMISSION.

---

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate of appropriation, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior,  
to continue the work of the Puyallup Indian Commission.*

---

JANUARY 4, 1895.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

---

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 3, 1895.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, an estimate of appropriation, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior under date of the 14th ultimo, to continue the work of the Puyallup Indian Commission appointed under the act of March 3, 1893 (26 Stat., p. 612), \$14,000.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. HAMLIN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., December 10, 1894.*

SIR: Under date of November 15, 1894, Mr. James J. Anderson, chairman of the Puyallup Commission, informed me that the appropriation of \$20,000 made by the Indian appropriation act approved March 3, 1893 (27 Stats., 612), for the purpose of defraying the expenses of said Commission, reimbursable, would be exhausted by February 1, 1895.

On November 23, 1894, I requested the chairman of the said Commission to send to me as soon as possible an official communication, stating briefly what had been done by the Commission, the then condition of the work, and how much it would be likely to take to complete it, and to submit an estimate of the amount of money that would be required to continue the work to the 1st of July next, and also how much it would require for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1895, and ending June 30, 1896.

On the 7th instant I received a communication from the Puyallup Commissioners, dated November 30, 1894, reciting briefly the work accomplished, the condition of the work in which they are engaged, and stating that the cost of continuing their work until July 1, 1895, including salaries, office rent, advertising land for sale, having guardians appointed for minor Indians, etc., they estimate at \$6,500, and that the cost for fiscal year beginning July 1, 1895, they estimate at \$7,500, with the statement that this is presuming that the work will not continue longer than December 31, 1895.

In view of the importance of the work in which the Commissioners are engaged, and the necessity for further appropriation, I think that Congress should be asked to appropriate the amount estimated by the Commissioners to continue the work, namely, \$14,000.

Accordingly, I have prepared the draft of an item for that amount for insertion in the proposed Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1895, to be immediately available, and have the honor to recommend, if the views as herein expressed meet with your approval, that one copy of the same be transmitted to the House Committee on Indian Affairs and another copy thereof to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, with favorable recommendation in the premises.

For your further information I inclose herewith two copies of the said communication from the Puyallup Commission, dated November 30, 1894, respecting their work, and estimate of the amount needed to continue the same, with the further recommendation that one of said copies accompany the item transmitted to the respective committees.

I inclose two copies of this report also for the purpose last indicated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. M. BROWNING, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR,  
December 14, 1894.

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for the favorable consideration of Congress, which is recommended.

HOKE SMITH, *Secretary.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
Tacoma, Wash., November 30, 1894.

SIR: Replying to your letter of 23d instant, in regard to the work accomplished by this Commission, the present condition of the work, the amount necessary to continue same to July 1, 1895, and amount needed for fiscal year beginning July 1, 1895, we have to say in brief that after many difficulties and much unavoidable delay we obtained the consent of more than a majority of the adult Puyallup Indians to sale of the school farm or agency tract on the Puyallup Reservation; that we have caused said tract to be surveyed and platted into blocks, lots, etc., as an addition to the city of Tacoma; that we have appraised each lot and made report to you under date of November 10, 1894, and that we are now awaiting your action on said report and your instructions concerning sale of said tract.

In regard to the allotted lands there are 414 acres, which all the parties interested therein have consented to sell; and there are 648 acres which the heads of families and some of the others interested have consented to sell, but by reason of your late decision that those

named in patent are tenants in common, the consent of other parties must be obtained. The fact that all those named in patent are tenants in common makes the work of obtaining consent much more difficult than would be the case if only the consent of the heads of families, or allottees, were necessary.

Heretofore the Indians have been very backward about consenting to the sale of their allotted lands, because of the uncertainty as to when the proceeds of same would be paid them, and also because outside parties have induced them to believe that they would soon have the power to dispose of their lands themselves. These matters have been detailed at length in former communications. However, since the recent decision of the United States circuit court of appeals in the case of *F. C. Ross v. Edwin Eells et al.*, the Indians seem much more inclined to consent to sale of portions of their allotted lands through this Commission.

If we are given authority to promise the Indians that the money received for their allotted lands will be paid them, one-third cash and balance in say five annual installments, we believe that the large majority of them will at once consent to sale of parts of their allotted lands, and that our work in regard to selling the land can be completed during the year 1895.

As we have previously stated, there are about 12,000 acres that might be sold.

Some of the difficulties with which we have had to contend were detailed to you in our letter of November 10, 1894, which accompanied report of appraisement of lots in agency tract, and we consider it unnecessary to again detail.

There are some points of law upon which we need further instructions, which we will submit under separate cover.

The cost of continuing our work until July 1, 1895, including salaries, office rent, advertising land for sale, having guardians appointed for minor Indians, etc., we estimate at \$6,500.

The cost for fiscal year beginning July 1, 1895, we estimate at \$7,500. This is presuming that the work will not continue longer than December 31, 1895.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES J. ANDERSON,  
JOHN W. RENFROE,  
ROSS J. ALEXANDER,  
*Puyallup Commissioners.*

HON. D. M. BROWNING,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Secretary's Office, December 13, 1894.*

The appropriation recommended herein is required to enable the Puyallup Commission to continue its work, and the amount asked for should be incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1896—this amount to be reimbursable from the proceeds of sales of the lands of the Puyallup Indians, and to be immediately available.

Respectfully,

W. C. POLLOCK,  
*Chief Indian Division.*

ITEM.

For continuing the work of the Puyallup Indian Commission appointed under the act of March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-three (twenty-six Statutes, six hundred and twelve), to select and appraise such portions of the allotted lands within the Puyallup Indian Reservation, Washington, as are not required for homes for the Indian allottees; and also that part of the agency tract exclusive of the burying ground not needed for school purposes, and for the purpose of defraying the expenses of said commission the sum of fourteen thousand dollars, to be reimbursed to the United States out of the proceeds of the sale of the agency tract and allotted lands, as provided in said Act, to be immediately available.

