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Appropriations for salaries in the Indian Office. Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting an amended estimate of appropriation, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior, for salaries in the Indian Office.

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APPROPRIATIONS FOR SALARIES IN THE INDIAN OFFICE.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An amended estimate of appropriation, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior, for salaries in the Indian Office.

JANUARY 16, 1895.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 15, 1895.*

SIR : I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 12th instant, amending his estimate on page 55, of the Book of Estimates for 1896, for "salaries, Indian Office," so as to provide in that office for two clerks of class three in lieu of two clerks of class two, for reasons stated in said communication.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. HAMLIN, *Acting Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 9, 1895.

SIR: I have the honor to state that there are clerks in the land division of this office, which is really the law division of the office, whose duties require a high order of intelligence and learning in the law. Two of these clerks receive now but \$1,400 each per annum. They are graduates in law, duly licensed members of the bar, and the work upon which they are respectively engaged is of an important and intricate character, and usually involves consideration of legal questions.

I know that their legal training and knowledge constitute a material aid to them in the discharge of their respective duties, and feel that the compensation paid them is not commensurate with the services required of and rendered by them.

I am constrained to the opinion that there are persons filling similar positions in other Bureaus of this Department and in other Executive Departments of the Government of whom no greater qualifications are required and who are classed as law clerks and paid salaries from \$1,800 to \$2,500.

By reason of their familiarity with the customs, laws, and matters of fact peculiar to Indian affairs, which can be acquired only by years of actual experience, they are fairly and justly entitled to an increased compensation, and there is no prospect of securing such increase, at least for a long time to come, through the usual methods of promotion when vacancies occur in the higher grades.

I am forced to the conclusion that the only practicable way, apparently, of securing within reasonable time a portion at least of the further compensation fairly earned by them is by increased appropriations.

I therefore have the honor to recommend that Congress be asked through the regular channels to so amend the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill now before that body as to provide for the substitution of two clerks of class 3 in this office for two clerks of class 2, with the view of their promotion to the higher grade. This amendment would involve an increased expenditure of only \$400 per year, which, though small and insignificant, will be of material assistance to them and a recognition in some measure of the valuable services rendered by them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. M. BROWNING, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, *January 12, 1895.*

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

HOKE SMITH, *Secretary.*

