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Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury,
transmitting a copy of a communication from the
Secretary of the Interior submitting an estimate of
an appropriation for the survey of lands in the
Indian Territory.

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SURVEY OF LANDS IN INDIAN TERRITORY.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SUBMITTING AN ESTIMATE OF AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SURVEY OF LANDS IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

DECEMBER 15, 1897.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
December 15, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, of the 14th instant, submitting an estimate of appropriation, in the sum of \$30,000, for completing the survey of lands in the Indian Territory, the same to be included in the urgent deficiency bill.

Respectfully, yours,

L. J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 14, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a communication from the Director of the Geological Survey dated the 11th instant inclosing an estimate of \$30,000 for the completion of the survey of the Indian Territory exclusive of the Chickasaw Nation. The Director therein states that this additional sum is needed for the completion of the field and office work, and inasmuch as the present appropriation is so nearly exhausted, a new appropriation must become available before the end of January, 1898, unless the work is to be stopped. And, moreover, it is highly desirable that the work should be continued without interruption in order that the surveyors may escape the malarial fever in the swamps of the Red River Valley by surveying that region during the winter season.

I concur in the views as set forth by the Director, and most earnestly recommend that Congress be requested to provide an urgency deficiency appropriation for this purpose.

Respectfully,

THOS. RYAN,
Acting Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
Washington, D. C., December 11, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith an estimate of \$30,000 for the completion of the survey of the Indian Territory, exclusive of the Chickasaw Nation.

At the extra session of the Fifty-fifth Congress there was appropriated for this purpose \$100,000. Of that sum there remained on hand on December 1, \$11,761.06. Thirty thousand dollars additional is needed for the completion of the field and office work, and inasmuch as the present appropriation is so nearly exhausted a new appropriation must become available before the end of January, 1898, unless the work is to be stopped. It is, moreover, highly desirable that the work should be continued without interruption in order that the surveyors may escape the malarial fever in the swamps of the Red River Valley, by surveying that region during the winter season.

In the original memorandum relating to the proposed surveys of the Indian Territory, which was transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior on January 11, 1895, the opinion was expressed that the Geological Survey could make the land surveys necessary in the Indian Territory, and also a topographic map, at an expenditure not greater than would be required under the rates allowed in the sundry civil bill for 1894-95 to contractors for making the land surveys only, the cost of making a topographic map in areas similar in character to the Indian Territory having been found to be from \$3 to \$12 per square mile.

The first estimate for the survey of the Territory, exclusive of the Chickasaw Nation, was \$500,000. This was based upon such information as was then at hand in relation to the topography and the distribution of forest and undergrowth. As the work advanced, it became evident that there was more ground covered with dense undergrowth in the valleys of the Arkansas and Canadian rivers, a larger area covered by forest, and much more hilly and mountainous territory than had been provisionally estimated for.

There has been more work done in the Territory, in the areas under consideration, than was originally planned. This additional work includes iron monuments set at every township corner, upon the brass cap of which have been stamped the usual marks of the township corners, and, in addition, the elevations above sea level as determined by the running of lines of spirit levels from the base monument at Fort Smith, Ark. This work, when completed, will have necessitated the setting of 1,300 posts and the running of 4,000 miles of spirit levels. The cost of the posts, transportation, and setting will be about \$2,000, and that of the spirit-level lines about \$3.75 a mile, or about \$15,000 for the 4,000 miles.

Instead of the usual number—three copies—of the land office plats, there have been transmitted to the General Land Office twenty copies, thus providing for future demands in connection with the subdivision of land and the settlement of land questions in the Territory.

The topographic map resulting from the surveys in progress in the Territory will be one of the best yet made in the central region of the United States, and if it had been undertaken independently of the land survey would have cost, at a low estimate, \$120,000. It will, indeed, be one of the best in existence of the entire area of any Territory or State in the Union, with the exception of the maps of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, and portions of other States, which were made on a more detailed scale.

A detailed survey will have been made of the changes in the southern boundary line of the Territory caused by the shifting of the channel of the Red River, and all boundaries have been surveyed between the areas claimed by the different Indian nations.

In the memorandum which was submitted to the Secretary of the Interior and by him forwarded to Congress under date of March 17, 1897, it was stated that if the work in the Territory should be suspended, it would be at a considerable loss to the Government. It was suspended for nearly three months, and the direct loss resulting from the disbanding of parties and the reorganization of the force and starting of work has been calculated by the surveyor in charge to be fully \$12,000, in addition to which there is the indirect loss growing out of the loss of time incident to the breaking in of new men upon the resumption of operations.

On the basis of the surveys that have been actually made, and a full knowledge of the forty townships that remain to be subdivided, and of the clerical and drafting work still to be done, the cost of making the land surveys of the Territory under the provisions of the sundry civil bill of 1894-95 and the amounts allotted for inspection and office work by the regulations of the General Land Office would have been \$555,000. Up to the present time there has been appropriated \$500,000 for the surveys (exclusive of the Chickasaw Nation), and the \$30,000 is expected to complete it.

SUMMARY.

Cost of mapping the Indian Territory (exclusive of Chickasaw Nation) under the contract system, \$555,000; cost of present survey, complete, \$530,000; saving to the Government by the adoption of the present method, \$25,000.¹

Indirect saving to the Government by the production of a topographic map, \$115,000.

There is also saved eventually a large but indeterminate amount due to the erection of permanent iron monuments at all township corners.

The estimate for resurveying the Chickasaw lands was \$141,500, and that amount was appropriated for the purpose. This survey is now well under way, and it is expected that the field survey of the Chickasaw Nation will be completed by July 1, 1898, and if the appropriation of \$30,000 is made for the completion of the other areas, the entire area of the Territory will then be finished.

The accompanying map shows the condition of the surveys to December 1, 1897.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

CHAS. D. WALCOTT, *Director*.

The Honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

¹ Eight thousand dollars was appropriated in the deficiency bill approved July 19, 1897, of which \$7,373.24 was used to pay expenses incurred for the care of stock, storage, salary of permanent assistants in charge, etc. This expense was not incurred in the course of the regular work of the survey, but was caused by the suspension from March to June, 1897.

Additional estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, by the Indian Department.

For surveying lands in the Indian Territory:

For completion of the survey of the lands in the Indian Territory, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be immediately available (act March 2, 1895, vol. 28, p. 900, sec. 1; act June 7, 1897, vol. 30, p. 85, sec. 1). \$30,000
 Total amount to be appropriated under each head of appropriation..... 30,000
 Amount appropriated for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1898... 100,000