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Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting urgent deficiency estimates relating to the Indian Service.

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DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION FOR INDIAN SERVICE.

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 URGENT DEFICIENCY ESTIMATES RELATING TO THE INDIAN SERVICE.

JANUARY 5, 1898.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
 Washington, D. C., December 30, 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 20th instant, and its inclosure, submitting urgent deficiency estimates of appropriations, as follows:

Surveying and allotting Indian reservations, 1898	\$8,000
Pay and expenses of Ute Commission	12,660

Respectfully, yours,

L. J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
 Washington, December 20, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for appropriate action, a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, wherein he recommends that Congress be requested to make an urgent deficiency appropriation for—

Surveying and allotting Indian reservations, 1898	\$8,000
Pay and expenses of Ute Commission	12,660

Total	20,660
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The reasons set forth in the Commissioner's letter in support of his request for these urgent deficiency appropriations meet with my approval, and I earnestly urge upon Congress an early and favorable consideration of the recommendation herein made.

Respectfully,

C. N. BLISS, *Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, November 30, 1897.

SIR: In reply to your verbal request for information as to the allotting agents now engaged in the field, the probable time required to complete the work in each case, and the amount of money required to carry them to the end of the fiscal year, I have the honor to state that the following special agents are employed in making allotments under the act of February 8, 1887 (24 Stats., 388), their salary and expenses being payable from the appropriation for "Allotments under act of 1887, reimbursable," viz:

John K. Rankin, on the Klamath Reservation, Oreg. It will probably require until the end of the fiscal year to complete the work; possibly longer. Amount of money required for this fiscal year, \$6,348.

Helen P. Clarke, on the Otoe Reservation, Okla. As the work on this reservation is the revision of allotments made some three or four years ago, it is difficult to estimate the length of time required, but it is safe to assume that it will take nearly all the remainder of the fiscal year, requiring some \$4,700.

John T. Wertz, on the Wind River Reservation, Wyo. From the weekly report of the special agent and his predecessor, it appears that 1,365 Indians have been allotted, leaving 381 to be allotted. At the average rate per week heretofore made, it would require something over a year to complete the work. Amount of money required for this fiscal year, \$3,515.60.

The following allotting agents are paid from the appropriation for "Surveying and allotting Indian reservations, 1898:"

William A. Winder, on the Rosebud Reservation, S. Dak. It will require at least two years to complete the work. Money required for this fiscal year, \$5,416.

George A. Keepers, engaged in allotting lands to nonreservation Indians. Duration of work indefinite, but will extend beyond this fiscal year. Amount of money required, \$2,022.

W. E. Casson, same as Keepers. Money required, \$3,500.

James Jeffreys, Ross Guffin, and H. P. Myton constitute the Ute Commission, and they are now engaged in allotting lands to the Uncompahgres in Utah. It will doubtless require until the 1st of July to complete the work.

A balance of some \$2,500 remaining from an old appropriation for pay and expenses of the Ute Commission has been applied to the payment of the per diem and expenses of these Commissioners, which it will do up to about the present time. After this appropriation is exhausted the only one available is that above referred to—"Surveying and allotting Indian reservations, 1898."

It is estimated that the per diem of the Commissioners and clerk, including all incidental expenses, and of the surveying corps, will

amount to \$55 per day, or \$11,660, from December 1, 1897, to June 30, 1898, to which should be added from \$500 to \$1,000 for contingent expenses, making the maximum amount required \$12,660.

It may be remarked that upon the 1st of January the balance of the appropriation for surveying and allotting Indian reservations will be but little, if any, in excess of \$3,000, while under this estimate the sum of \$10,938 will be required exclusive of that needed for the Ute Commission.

It will be seen from the foregoing that unless further appropriations are made the allotment work, except that being performed by Special Agents Rankin, Clarke, and Wertz (under the act of 1887, reimbursable), will have to be suspended after the 1st of January or sooner. This, of course, would be very detrimental to the public interests, and the Indian service as well.

I therefore have the honor to recommend that prompt steps be taken to procure further appropriations in the urgent deficiency bill as follows:

For surveying and allotting Indian reservations, 1898.....	\$8,000
For pay and expenses of Ute Commission.....	12,660

I desire to call special attention to the fact that Congress made no provision for the expenses of allotting lands to the Uncompahgres, and yet it is contemplated that the allotments shall be made by the 1st of April next. The failure to do so caused no little embarrassment to the Department, and it now becomes imperatively necessary to ask for the needed funds to carry on the work.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. C. TONNER,
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

