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Appropriation for purchase of reindeer for Alaska. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting additional estimates of appropriation for purchase of reindeer for Alaska and instruction of natives in their management.

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APPROPRIATION FOR PURCHASE OF REINDEER FOR
ALASKA.

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 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES OF APPRO-
PRIATION FOR PURCHASE OF REINDEER FOR ALASKA AND
INSTRUCTION OF NATIVES IN THEIR MANAGEMENT.

FEBRUARY 9, 1899.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be
printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., February 8, 1899.

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 3d instant, submitting increased amounts for the following
appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, estimated for
on pages 275 and 276 of the Book of Estimates, viz:

Education of children in Alaska, from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Reindeer for Alaska, from \$12,500 to \$25,000.

Respectfully, yours,

L. J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 3, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication of this
date from the Commissioner of Education, requesting that the esti-
mates of appropriations for 1900, for reindeer in Alaska, be increased
from \$12,500 to \$25,000, and that that for education in Alaska be
increased from \$40,000 to \$60,000. The reasons given by the Commis-
sioner for requesting these increases are fully set forth in his communi-
cation.

2 APPROPRIATION FOR PURCHASE OF REINDEER FOR ALASKA.

The recommendation of the Commissioner of Education meets with my approval, and the same is respectfully forwarded through your Department for the appropriate action of Congress.

Respectfully,

C. N. BLISS, *Secretary*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
Washington, D. C., February 3, 1899.

SIR: In October last I had the honor to submit to your office a request for an appropriation of \$25,000 for the support of reindeer stations in Alaska, for the instruction of Alaskan natives in the care and management of the reindeer, and for the purchase and introduction of reindeer from Siberia for domestic purposes.

In the estimates of appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, page 276 (printed copy), only \$12,500 is asked. This will not be sufficient, for in addition to the usual work, the support of the reindeer stations, the instruction of apprentices, the enlargement and care of the herds now under the control of the Government, this Bureau is required during the coming fiscal year, in accordance with a pledge made by the Government, to return to the American Missionary Association at Bering Straits, and to Antisarlook and other Eskimo owners at Point Rodney, the reindeer which the Government borrowed in the winter of 1897-98 and their estimated increase, for the relief of the whalers near Point Barrow.

Antisarlook and Tautook were promised 220 deer and the American Missionary Association 432 head in the summer of 1896. Thus, in accordance with the agreement of the Government, 652 head were to be returned last summer, but only 161 were returned, leaving 271 head to be returned to the Congregational Mission and 220 to Antisarlook and Tautook, or 491 in all.

The only method of returning these deer is to purchase a corresponding number in Siberia and bring them to Alaska. This requires the additional sum of \$12,500, which is asked for this year, making \$25,000 in all.

Also, last October I submitted for your consideration the following estimate of the needs of education in Alaska for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900. In this estimate were three officials, at salaries amounting to \$4,230; rent, \$255; traveling expenses, \$421; 27 teachers, at \$19,192.49; supplies for 20 schools, \$1,251.48; fuel and lights for 20 schools, \$1,101.90; repairs on 20 schools, \$220.49; freight on the above, \$3,302.59, making an aggregate of \$29,974.95. This is upon the basis of the expenditures for the year ended June 30, 1898, and the \$30,000 is all needed for the schools that are already in existence. Since the discovery of gold and the rapid influx of miners into Alaska villages with a varying population of from 100 to 3,000 people are springing up through all that mining region, and it is estimated that during the last three years upward of 40,000 people have settled in Alaska. Some of the miners have brought their families with them and others would bring their families if they could be sure of school facilities. Congress has provided no way for taxation for school purposes. From every section urgent calls are being made for the establishment of new

schools. The following is a list of the additional schools needed, with estimated expense:

Place.	Number of children.	Cost of houses.	Cost of supplies.	Teachers' salaries.	Total expenses.
Kotzebue Sound.....	50	\$1,500.00	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$2,300
Unalaklik.....	100	1,500.00	300.00	500.00	2,300
Yakutat.....	75	1,500.00	300.00	500.00	2,300
Bethel.....	75	1,500.00	300.00	500.00	2,300
Carmel.....	75	1,500.00	300.00	500.00	2,300
Golovin Bay.....	75	1,500.00	300.00	500.00	2,300
St. Michael.....	50	2,500.00	500.00	1,200.00	4,200
Peavey.....	30	.....	500.00	1,200.00	1,700
Circle City.....	50	a 500.00	500.00	1,200.00	2,200
Rampart.....	50	3,000.00	500.00	1,200.00	4,700
Weare.....	30	.....	400.00	1,200.00	1,600
Dyea.....	75	2,000.00	250.00	900.00	3,150
Skagway.....	100	2,000.00	250.00	900.00	3,150
Kosoreffsky.....	100	.....	300.00	500.00	800
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35,300

a Repairs.

Thus the necessities of education in Alaska require for the coming year \$65,300. It is possible that the opening of schools at one or two places may be postponed for another year, reducing this estimate to \$60,000. In the estimates of appropriations (page 275) the amount asked for is \$40,000; but for the opening of additional schools, which are imperatively needed, \$20,000 additional is required, making \$60,000.

I am informed that it is proposed, in the coming Congressional legislation with regard to Alaska, to apply the receipts for high license, through the Secretary of the Interior, for the support of schools. If this legislation shall be consummated it will not be necessary to ask for an appropriation after this year; but in order to meet the present demands for schools this Bureau should have the \$60,000.

I have, therefore, the honor to ask that you will recommend to Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, the following appropriations:

Reindeer in Alaska, \$25,000 instead of \$12,500.

Education in Alaska, \$60,000 instead of \$40,000.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. HARRIS, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

