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Support of certain Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting estimates of appropriations for the support of certain Sioux and Chippewa Indians.

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SUPPORT OF CERTAIN INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, SUBMITTING ESTIMATES OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF CERTAIN SIOUX AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS.

FEBRUARY 21, 1899.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., February 21, 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 this date, submitting estimates of appropriations for inclusion in the deficiency bill for the following objects:

Support of Sioux of Devils Lake	\$10,000
Support of Chippewas, Turtle Mountain Band.....	15,000

Respectfully, yours,

L. J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 21, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of this date, in which he reports the destitute condition of the Devils Lake Sioux and the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indians in North Dakota, numbering, approximately, 3,200 souls. The Commissioner states that the condition of these Indians is most deplorable, and that immediate relief to prevent starvation and death from freezing is absolutely necessary. The Commissioner recommends that an amendment to the deficiency bill providing for an appropriation of \$10,000 for the Devils Lake Sioux and \$15,000 for the Turtle Mountain Chippewas be inserted before the passage of the bill.

The recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs meets

with my approval, and the estimate is forwarded through your Department for the appropriate action of Congress.

Respectfully,

THOS. RYAN,
Acting Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, February 21, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a communication from F. O. Getchell, United States Indian agent for the Sioux of Devils Lake and Turtle Mountain bands of Chippewas, N. Dak., in which he reports the destitute condition of the Indians under his charge, numbering, approximately, 3,200 souls. He states that the condition of these Indians is most deplorable, and that they need immediate relief to prevent starvation and death from freezing.

The condition of these Indians is known to this office, and I inclose herewith a proposed amendment to the deficiency bill, providing an appropriation of \$10,000 for the relief of the Indians of Devils Lake and \$15,000 for the relief of the Chippewas, Turtle Mountain Band, with the recommendation that relief be granted by Congress.

Very respectfully,

A. C. TONER,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. JOSEPH G. CANNON,
*Chairman Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives.*
(Through the Secretary of the Interior.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 20, 1899.

GENTLEMEN: In the matter of House amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. M. N. Johnson, to the bill (H. R. —) making appropriations to supply certain deficiencies in the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, for the immediate relief of the Devils Lake Sioux of North Dakota, and the immediate relief of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, all of the Devils Lake Agency, N. Dak., I wish to make the following statement of facts, to wit:

First. The Devils Lake Sioux are composed of three bands, formerly known as Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Pabaksa bands. These bands were cut off from the annuities of the treaty of 1851 by the act of 1863, and have never since received annuities and have subsisted by their own endeavors and by, from time to time, appropriations by the National Government. By a mistake in survey 64,000 acres of land were cut off from the west end of their present reservation, for which they were paid at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, and the proceeds, \$80,000, were expended for them in the purchase of stock, the building of houses, and some machinery.

The exact date of this transaction I can not now without references give you. Suffice it to say that it was long enough ago for the houses to be badly rotted, the stock perished, and the farm machinery either entirely useless or badly out of repair. This band of Indians have taken lands in severalty, and are endeavoring to support themselves by farming, but, owing to the facts above stated, are doing but poorly. Formerly there was considerable wood on portions of the reservation. This was allotted as impartially as possible, and, of late years, owing to poor crops (occasioned by poor farming and inadequate teams and machinery), they have depended upon this timber for at least 75 per cent of their support, until at the present time many allotments are entirely stripped of the timber and that on the balance is rapidly disappearing. Unless some remedy is immediately applied the timber on the Devils Lake Agency will, within I should say the next four years, be entirely consumed, and the Indians of said reservation, numbering 1,050, become a total charge upon the Government.

The annual appropriation for this band is \$10,000 for maintenance and seeds. Out of said amount at least \$2,800 is paid annually in salaries. We have 114 people out of said number 60 years of age and over, who are totally dependent for rations; no clothing is issued them; their condition is truly pitiable. These people believe that they have at least five causes of complaint, which, if properly adjusted, would give them at least as ample resources as the bands of Sisseton, Pine Ridge, and Standing Rock. They have asked that an inspector be sent them with authority to investigate their matters and to make a treaty with them; pending which the relief asked in the measure referred to is an urgent necessity.

Second. The Turtle Mountain band of Chippewas of the Turtle Mountain Agency, numbering about 2,200 people, also under my charge, have no other resources than \$13,000 annually appropriated by Congress for their maintenance and seeds; have a treaty (made in 1892) pending action by Congress; are confined to a reservation consisting of but two Congressional townships, two-thirds of which is either slough, lake, or stony hill, and totally unfit for farming purposes. This last year they had a total failure of crop, consequently are totally dependent upon the Government for subsistence, and the appropriation already made and available is entirely inadequate to meet their present needs.

Yours, respectfully,

F. B. GATCHELL,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMITTEES ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
United States Senate and House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Amendment.

That the following sum be, and is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply certain deficiencies in the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine: Ten thousand dollars, to be made immediately available for the relief of the Devils Lake Sioux of North Dakota upon the Devils Lake Indian Reservation, in the State of North Dakota; also, fifteen thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, to be also immediately available, for the relief of the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa Indians in said State of North Dakota, for subsistence and other necessaries, and for the expenses incurred by them and their delegation to Washington, District of Columbia, regarding their claim for unceded lands, as the Secretary of the Interior may deem proper.

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