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Payment to certain of the Alsea Indians of Oregon. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relating to the payment to certain of the Alsea Indians of Oregon their pro rata share of an appropriation placed in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of said Indians' permanent fund.

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PAYMENT TO CERTAIN OF THE ALSEA INDIANS OF
OREGON.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATING TO

THE PAYMENT TO CERTAIN OF THE ALSEA INDIANS OF OREGON
THEIR PRO RATA SHARE OF AN APPROPRIATION PLACED IN
THE TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE CREDIT OF
SAID INDIANS' PERMANENT FUND.

DECEMBER 5, 1898.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be
printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 2, 1898.

SIR: In the act of Congress of August 15, 1894 (28 Stat., 286-323), making appropriation for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department for the fiscal year of 1895, an agreement with the Alsea and other Indians of the Siletz Reservation, in Oregon, was ratified and the sum of \$100,000 appropriated and placed in the Treasury to the credit of the said Indians as a permanent fund, in part compensation for the lands ceded by the Indians under the said agreement.

In section 15 of said act it was provided:

That in case the Secretary of the Interior may at any time be satisfied that any of said Indians are fully competent and capable of managing and taking care of their full pro rata of said purchase money, and that it will be to their interest to receive the same, and that other portions of said Indians are not so capable and competent, then he shall recommend to Congress that sufficient amount of such principal sum so held in trust as provided in section two of this agreement shall be appropriated to pay the full pro rata of such competent and capable Indians of such principal fund, and when the same shall be paid and receipted for personally by each Indian so paid, then such Indians shall have no further interests in said trust fund.

Recently certain of these Indians have made application to have paid to them their pro rata shares of the fund in question. Upon receipt of this application I caused an Indian inspector of this Department to visit the Indians interested and to carefully investigate their condition. I am now in receipt of his report, in which he represents that they are intelligent and have as good business ability as the majority of white persons living in that vicinity, and that they are

fully competent and capable to manage and take care of their full pro rata shares of the said purchase money, and that it will be to their interest to receive the same. He states, further, that many of them are old, have no children, and that unless their money is paid to them soon they will not live to enjoy it or receive any benefit from it in their lifetime; that if they can get it all at once, families would be enabled to make needed repairs to their homes, many of which were once good ones, and to buy new farm implements and other things necessary for their comfort and welfare.

He recommends that payment in full be made to 306 individuals, whose names he submits in a schedule accompanying his report, of the 551 Indians who were parties to the agreement.

The matter has been considered by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and he concurs in the recommendation of the inspector that payment in full should be made to the 306 individuals named in the schedule submitted by the inspector.

These Indians are now citizens and taxpayers of the State of Oregon, and I am satisfied from the information I have that the 306 named in the schedule submitted by the inspector are fully competent and capable to manage and take care of their full pro rata of the said permanent fund, and that such pro rata fund ought to be paid to them now.

I therefore have the honor to inclose a draft of an item to be incorporated in the next Indian appropriation bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to pay, immediately upon the passage of the act, to such members of the tribe as may be found fully "competent and capable" their pro rata shares of the said permanent fund, and to urgently recommend that the item be so incorporated and enacted into law.

Very respectfully,

C. N. BLISS, *Secretary*.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Draft of proposed item to be embodied in Indian appropriation bill for fiscal year ending June 30, 1900.

The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed, on the passage of this act, to pay to such Alsea and other Indians on the Siletz Reservation, in Oregon, parties to an agreement made October thirty-first, eighteen hundred and ninety-two, ratified by the act of Congress approved August fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-four (Twenty-eighth Statutes, page three hundred and twenty-three), as shall be found to be competent and capable of managing and taking care of their own affairs their pro rata shares of the permanent fund of one hundred thousand dollars, appropriated by the said act of August fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-four, and now to their credit in the Treasury of the United States.