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Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior submitting an estimate of appropriation for buildings for additional schools at points on the Chippewa Reservations in Minnesota.

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BUILDINGS FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS, CHIPPEWA
RESERVATIONS, MINN.

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE
INTERIOR SUBMITTING AN ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION FOR
BUILDINGS FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS AT POINTS ON THE
CHIPPEWA RESERVATIONS IN MINNESOTA.

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

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., January 20, 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 19th instant, submitting an estimate of appropriation for inclu-
sion in the Indian appropriation bill now pending, as follows:

For additional amount for buildings for additional schools at points on the Chip-
pewa reservations in Minnesota, to be selected by the Commissioner of Indian
Affairs, twenty thousand dollars, to be immediately available and to be reimbursable.

Respectfully, yours,

O. L. SPAULDING, *Acting Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 19, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication from
the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 18th instant, in which
he recommends that Congress be requested to make an additional
appropriation of \$20,000 for buildings for additional schools at points

on the Chippewa reservations in Minnesota, to be selected by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, said amount to be immediately available and to be reimbursable from the funds of said Indians.

The recommendation of the Commissioner meets with my approval, and his letter, together with the draft of an item of appropriation to follow Senate amendment to the Indian appropriation bill, at the end of line 8, page 15, is respectfully forwarded through your Department for the appropriate action of Congress.

Very respectfully,

THOS. R. RYAN, *Acting Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 18, 1899.

SIR: Inclosed is respectfully forwarded a communication from Senator Knute Nelson, of the 17th instant, in regard to a communication addressed him by Rev. J. A. Gilfillan, relating to the lack of school facilities of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota.

As the Senator says, Mr. Gilfillan's personal familiarity with the whole subject entitles his recommendations to great weight. The three central points, White Earth, Leech Lake, and Red Lake, after many years of delay, are now in process of being provided with suitable school buildings, one of which, it is hoped, will be completed during the coming summer; the other two may be ready by the next school year, yet it is doubtful. The recommendation that small schools be given for outlying settlements seems to be a very wise one, and, in view of the inadequacy of the buildings now proposed to accommodate even one half of the Chippewa children of school age, it is respectfully recommended that an appropriation be asked for establishing four new schools, to cost \$5,000 each for the buildings. Of course the buildings will be small and lack many of the modern appliances, but they will not only afford a comfortable, respectable home for, say, thirty or forty children, but will be a center of enlightenment and civilization for the Indians in the vicinity of the schools.

The points named by Mr. Gilfillan are much nearer railroads than they were many years ago; lumber is cheap, and fuel is plenty. The building at Pine Point, which was erected by Mr. Gilfillan himself and afterwards bought by the Government and been in use for years, cost only \$5,000, and transportation was then more expensive than it would be now. It is the only school the Indians have had at that point. If the Government waits to get from \$30,000 to \$50,000 appropriations for all its school plants it will lose, as it has done in the past, a whole generation of school children. In such a case as this the saving of time is the highest economy.

This appropriation would not be taken from the United States funds, but would be reimbursable from funds belonging to the Indians, which can never be put to better use than to the educating at this time of their ignorant, neglected children.

Even though it is pretty late, it is respectfully recommended that this matter be submitted to the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and the Indian Committee of the House.

An item to be inserted in connection with the \$30,000 appropriation for the Leech Lake School in the Indian appropriation bill is herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. A. JONES, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Item of appropriation to follow Senate amendment to Indian appropriation bill, at the end of line 8, on page 15.

For additional amount for buildings for additional schools at points on the Chippewa reservations in Minnesota, to be selected by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, twenty thousand dollars, to be immediately available and to be reimbursable.

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