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Appropriations for Indian Tribes. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, recommending appropriations to fulfill treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes.

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APPROPRIATIONS FOR INDIAN TRIBES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RECOMMENDING

Appropriations to fulfil treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes.

JUNE 7, 1864.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., June 6, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith for the consideration of Congress a communication of the 17th ultimo from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, presenting the facts concerning the claim of the confederated tribes of Kaskaskia and Peoria, Piankeshaw and Wea Indians, arising out of the provisions of the 2d article of the treaty of May 30, 1854, with those Indians.

The proposition of the delegates of the tribe being considered just and equitable by this department, I recommend that the sum of three thousand one hundred and sixty-four dollars and fifty-one cents be appropriated for the purposes indicated in the Commissioner's letter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. USHER, *Secretary.*

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs; May 17, 1864.

SIR: In the cession to the United States under the treaty of May 30, 1854, with the Kaskaskia and Peoria, Piankeshaw and Wea Indians, provision was made in the second article thereof for a survey of the exterior boundaries of the trust lands of said tribe. In running and marking the same, an erroneous line was selected as the western boundary thereof, thereby leaving a strip of land about six miles long on the east of and adjoining the reserve of the Ottawas of Blanchard's Fork, containing 5,718 acres, which said strip or tract of land has been disposed of by the United States as public lands.

With a view to a settlement of this land, an agreement or treaty was made with said tribe on the 18th of August, 1860, by the terms of which the tribe

assented to the sale of the lands in question, on condition that the proceeds thereof "be paid over to them by the United States, to be applied to objects of a beneficial character by their agent, under instructions from the Secretary of the Interior."

This agreement or treaty, on being submitted to the Senate for its constitutional action thereon, was so amended as to charge the cost of the survey of the land to the tribe, and to place the balance found due, to the credit of the tribe, in the United States treasury, at the annual interest of five per cent., which interest to be paid under directions of the Secretary of the Interior, as other annuities.

To this amendment the tribe refused to give its assent.

The accredited delegates of the tribe under date of April 21, 1864, make the following proposition, viz :

"We will take \$1 25 per acre for said land, which amounts to \$8,397, and upon this we will credit \$5,747 64 we owe the government for surveying our other lands, which will leave only \$2,649 36, on which we will take 5 per cent. interest since the date of said agreement."

The amount necessary to be appropriated, should the foregoing proposition be accepted, will be as follows, viz :

Principal	\$2,649 36
Interest at 5 per cent. from August 10, 1860, to June 30, 1864, 3 years, 10 months and 20 days	515 15
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	3,164 51
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The cost of surveying their lands being correctly stated by the delegates, and considering the terms of their proposition to be just and equitable, should you approve the same, I respectfully recommend that the subject be laid before Congress, with the request that the sum of \$3,164 51 be appropriated for the purposes herein named.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. P. DOLE,
Commissioner.

Hon. J. P. USHER,
Secretary of the Interior.