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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, to the Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, accompanying a statement showing the indebtedness on account of the Indian service prior to July 1, 1873.

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Recommended Citation

S. Misc. Doc. No. 31, 43rd Cong., 1st Sess. (1874)

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LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TO THE

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,

ACCOMPANYING

A statement showing the indebtedness on account of the Indian service prior to July 1, 1873.

JANUARY 20, 1874.— Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 19, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith, for the consideration and action of Congress, a statement prepared in the Indian Office, showing the outstanding indebtedness for and on account of the Indian service prior to the 1st day of July, 1873, which statement is based upon vouchers now in said Office, and upon reports received there from various Indian agents.

A copy of a report, dated the 16th instant, is also herewith transmitted from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who states that said indebtedness, amounting to \$693,838.28, has been caused, principally, by the inadequacy of the appropriations heretofore made under the several heads named in the statement; and the greater part of it, as will be seen by reference to the list, is on account of collecting upon reservations and subsisting Apache Indians, in Arizona and New Mexico.

The attention of Congress is invited to the subject, and an appropriation to satisfy the demands upon the Department on account of said indebtedness is respectfully recommended.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

Hon. WM. A. BUCKINGHAM,

Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 16, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a list or statement showing the outstanding indebtedness incurred for and on account of the Indian

service prior to the 1st day of July, 1873. This statement is, with few exceptions, hereinafter referred to, based upon vouchers now in this Office, and upon reports received from the various Indian agents.

This indebtedness amounts, in the aggregate, to \$693,838.28, and has been caused principally by the inadequacy of the appropriations heretofore made under the heads named in the statement. Most of it, as will be seen by reference to the statement, is on account of the Apaches, in Arizona and New Mexico. The policy regarding these Apaches has been to bring them, peaceably or by force, upon reservations; and by feeding them and properly providing for their wants and necessities, keeping them quiet, and, as much as possible, from depredating on the citizens of the Territories named. Whenever they leave the reservations, they are hunted down by the military and either killed or captured and brought back to the reservations. If not fed, therefore, by the Government, they must either starve on the reservations or be killed off them. The Department has endeavored to keep them on the reservations, by feeding and clothing them; and, in doing this and inaugurating and carrying on the requisite work of improvement on the several reservations, of which there are at present five, with a view to making the Indians, in time, self-sustaining, more funds than have heretofore been appropriated for the purpose have been absolutely necessary. This Office has heretofore labored under great disadvantage in preparing and submitting estimates for the service, in connection with these Apaches, for the reason that the number of Indians to be provided for has never been known to the Office at the time the estimates were being prepared.

The item of \$13,942.03 is required to enable the accounting officers of the Treasury to settle the accounts of late Superintendent E. B. Taylor. This amount of money was used by the late superintendent in connection with the removal, &c., of the bands of Sioux named in the statement, from funds belonging to other Indians, and its appropriation is not only necessary for the settlement of said accounts, but also that the money may be used for the benefit of the Indians entitled to it.

The item of \$502.80 is an amount that belongs to the Indian-class of the Kickapoos, but which was erroneously paid to the citizen-class.

The \$2,125, asked to be appropriated, is required to pay for transportation already furnished to certain Cherokee Indians, who have been removed from North Carolina and Tennessee to the Indian Territory.

The item of \$3,503.65 belongs to certain Eastern or North Carolina Cherokees, that amount having been used from their funds by late Special Agent Swetland in defraying expenses connected with the payment made to said Indians in 1869.

The other items are deficiencies in the appropriations named, the amounts appropriated not having proved sufficient for the actual necessary wants of the service.

As this indebtedness has been accruing for some time, and the parties to whom it is justly due are in want of their money and urgently pressing this Office for payment, I respectfully recommend that the special attention of Congress be invited to the matter, with the view of having an appropriation made at the earliest day practicable.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW'D P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Statement of outstanding indebtedness for and on account of the Indian service prior to June 30, 1873.

Title of appropriation.	Amount.
Collecting and subsisting Apaches of Arizona and New Mexico.....	\$423, 426 32
Subsisting of the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Apache, Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita Indians.....	54, 278 10
Subsisting, clothing, &c., of Sisseton, Wahpeton, Medawakanton, and Wahpakoota bands of Sioux.....	13, 942 03
Incidental expenses Indian service in Arizona.....	45, 731 83
Incidental expenses Indian service in California.....	12, 753 04
Incidental expenses Indian service in Dakota.....	1, 119 57
Incidental expenses Indian service in Montana.....	14, 509 08
Incidental expenses Indian service in Nevada.....	2, 043 14
Incidental expenses Indian service in New Mexico.....	33, 153 85
Incidental expenses Indian service in Oregon.....	37, 907 48
Incidental expenses Indian service in Utah.....	5, 395 36
Incidental expenses Indian service in Washington Territory.....	4, 836 34
Fulfilling treaty with Flatheads and other confederated tribes.....	1, 275 44
Fulfilling treaty with Mixed Shoshones, Bannocks, and Sheep-eaters.....	8, 737 75
Fulfilling treaty with Blackfeet, Bloods, and Piegans.....	9, 757 01
Fulfilling treaty with Sioux of different tribes, including Santee Sioux of Nebraska.....	18, 840 49
To replace money erroneously paid to certain Kickapoo Indians.....	502 80
Transportation of North Carolina Cherokees.....	2, 125 00
Payment to North Carolina Cherokees.....	3, 503 65
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	693, 838 28