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Appropriation for the Indian Department. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, in relation to the act of July 15, 1870, making appropriation for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department.

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APPROPRIATION FOR THE INDIAN DEPARTMENT.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN RELATION TO

The act of July 15, 1870, making appropriation for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department.

JANUARY 12, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 10, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report dated the 26th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in relation to the item embraced in the act of July 15, 1870, making appropriation for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, "for the support of industrial and other schools among the Indian tribes *not otherwise provided for*, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, one hundred thousand dollars."

Of this appropriation there is remaining a balance which it is important should be placed at the disposal of this Department for the benefit of Indian tribes who are already provided for, but not to such an extent as to effect the objects contemplated.

I have therefore prepared, and herewith present for the consideration of Congress, the draught of a joint resolution to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to draw upon said appropriation, at such times, for such sums, and for such tribes and bands of Indians as, in his opinion, may be required in promoting education among them.

The subject is more fully set forth in the Commissioner's letter, to which I respectfully invite the attention of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

HON. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOINT RESOLUTION authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to expend the balance of an appropriation made for the support of industrial and other schools among Indian tribes.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized, in his discretion, to apply the balance on hand of the appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars, made by act of July 15, 1870, "for the support of industrial and other schools among the Indian tribes not otherwise provided for," &c., at such times, in such sums, and for such tribes and bands as, in his opinion, may be required.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 26, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the following item embraced in the act of July 15, 1870, (Statutes, 16, p. 359,) "making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department," &c., viz: "For the support of industrial and other schools among the Indian tribes not otherwise provided for, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, one hundred thousand dollars."

It is held by the Department that no portion of the amount so appropriated can be used for the support or benefit of schools among any band or tribe of Indians, having any provision therefor by treaty stipulation or act of Congress, however inadequate such provision may be. Nearly all the Indian tribes having no provision for schools are still nomadic, and consequently not yet ready to receive the benefits of education, while in the case of many of the tribes and bands which are provided, by treaty or otherwise, with industrial and other schools, and are, therefore, excluded from the benefits of the appropriation referred to, such provision is found to be partial and insufficient to effect the objects contemplated.

There is at present on hand of said appropriation the sum of \$93,717 91; and in order that it may be used with the largest results of good, I respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to modify the wording of the appropriation, so that the balance remaining may be applied under direction of the Secretary of the Interior, at such times, in such sums, and for such tribes and bands as, in his opinion, may be required in promoting education among the Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.