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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting Letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated April 15, 1880, relative to erroneous surveys in the former Sioux Indian Reservation west of Big Stone Lake, in Dakota, submitting estimate for re-survey, and recommending favorable consideration of the Senate.

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LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated April 15, 1880, relative to erroneous surveys in the former Sioux Indian Reservation west of Big Stone Lake, in Dakota, submitting estimate for re-survey, and recommending favorable consideration of the Senate.

APRIL 19, 1880.—Referred to the Committee on Public Lands and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 17, 1880.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated April 15, 1880, relative to erroneous surveys in the former Sioux Indian Reservation west of Big Stone Lake, in Dakota, and submitting an estimate for \$4,000 for said re-survey.

I respectfully recommend the matter to the favorable consideration of the Senate.

Very respectfully,

C. SCHURZ,
Secretary of the Interior.

Hon. WILLIAM A. WHEELER,
President of the United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
GENERAL LAND-OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., April 15, 1880.

SIR: This office is in receipt, by reference from Hon. G. G. Bennett, Delegate from Dakota, of a letter addressed to him by W. M. Evans, bearing date the 12th ultimo, relating to fraudulent or erroneous surveys of public lands embraced within the limits of the former Sioux Indian Reservation, lying to the west of Big Stone Lake, in Dakota.

An examination of the case in connection with information recently furnished by Messrs. Burdock & Kline and P. M. Ivist, surveyors of that locality, and others, discloses the fact that seriously erroneous, if not wholly fraudulent, returns have been made to this office of the public land surveys within the aforesaid reservation.

The surveys above referred to were made by Deputy C. C. P. Meyer, in 1865, and payment for the same was made from proceeds of sale of Indian lands.

It is now ascertained that titles to lands anywhere within the limits of the reservation cannot be perfected until a correct survey and subdivision of the lands embraced therein has been made. This work may also involve the retracement of the west boundary of the reservation.

The cost of the public land survey by Meyer was \$3,177.36. The cost of the re-survey, which will embrace lands not surveyed by Meyer, and retracement of boundary, is estimated at \$4,000.

There being no law authorizing the application of public funds to the prosecution of re-surveys of public lands, the re-survey, if done at the expense of the government, must be provided for by act of Congress.

As an early adjustment of the serious difficulties that have grown out of the erroneous survey is important, and with intention to prevent further complications arising from the same cause, I have the honor to transmit herewith an estimate of appropriation (in duplicate) of \$4,000 for said re-survey, with the recommendation that the same may be submitted to Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

J. A. WILLIAMSON,
Commissioner.

Hon. CARL SCHURZ,
Secretary of the Interior.

Estimate of appropriation required for the re-survey of lands within the Sioux Indian Reservation west of Big Stone Lake, Dakota, and retracement of the west boundary of the reservation.

For the re-survey of lands within the Sioux Indian Reservation west of Big Stone Lake, in the Territory of Dakota, retracement of the west boundary of the reservation, and closing the lines of public surveys thereon	\$4,000
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J. A. WILLIAMSON,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
General Land Office, April 15, 1880.