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### Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting estimate of appropriation for surveys in Indian reservations.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*Estimate of appropriation for surveys in Indian reservations.*

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FEBRUARY 23, 1888.—Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*February 21, 1888.*

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 20th instant, submitting an estimate of appropriation in the sum of \$10,000 for examination of surveys of Indian reservations for the current fiscal year, to enable the more speedy execution of the allotment act, which he requests may be provided in the urgent deficiency bill now pending before Congress.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,  
*Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE UNITED STATES SENATE.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, February 20, 1888.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith an additional estimate of appropriation of \$10,000 for examination of surveys of Indian reservations for the fiscal year 1888, submitted by the Acting Commissioner of the General Land Office, and to request that it be transmitted to the Senate to be incorporated in the urgency deficiency bill now pending.

I desire to call attention to the fact that this estimate does not relate to nor embrace the same subject for which an appropriation of the same amount has already been included in the urgency deficiency bill which has just passed the House of Representatives. That is designed to provide for the examination of surveys of the public lands; this for the examination of surveys on Indian reservations, to enable the more speedy execution of the allotment act of March 3, 1887.

Very respectfully,

WM. F. VILAS,  
*Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

*Additional estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending  
30, 1888, by the General Land Office.*

### Surveying the public lands:

Examination of surveys of Indian reservations. To enable the Commissioner of the General Land Office to cause to be examined before acceptance of the surveys of certain Indian reservations, surveyed under his direction, to determine whether the work has been properly done or not, and to prevent payment for fraudulent or fictitious surveys; to be immediately available (submitted)..... \$10,000  
(See exhibits herewith marked A and B.)

### EXHIBIT A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
Washington, D. C., February 7, 1888.

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 1st instant in response to the suggestions contained in office letter E, of the 13th ultimo, relative to the status of certain surveys of Indian lands heretofore authorized by the Department under the provisions of the act of February 8, 1887. A copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated January 26 last, regarding the same subject, is inclosed.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs states that he does not feel warranted in recommending the acceptance of pending returns of surveys with Indian reservations without the usual examination of the work in the field, as required under the existing rules of this office, and suggests that Congress be asked for additional appropriations sufficient to cover all deficiencies, so that the work of examinations can be completed without further delay.

In reply I have the honor to inform you that this office has already submitted to Congress through the Department an estimate for an appropriation of \$10,000 for an existing urgent deficiency in the appropriation for examinations of surveys in the field for the current fiscal year, and the same, I am informed, is now pending before the House Committee on Appropriations.

It is proper to state, however, that said estimate was intended to relate only to examinations in the field of work executed under contracts for the survey of public lands proper, and not for surveys of lands for allotment within Indian reservations and for boundaries, as authorized by the Department and executed under the direction of this office.

In compliance with the views and suggestions of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which have received your approval, I submit herewith a supplemental estimate of \$10,000 for a deficiency appropriation for examinations in the field of work executed under contracts (authorized by the Department and approved by this office) for the survey of lands for allotments within Indian reservations, and of Indian reservation boundaries, said appropriation to be made immediately available.

Referring to office letter E of the 2d instant, transmitting a copy of a letter dated January 20, 1888, from the United States surveyor-general for Montana relative to the pending returns of surveys on the Rosebud and Tongue Rivers in Montana, I would further state that the liability of contract No. 206, dated June 24, 1886, with George T. Lamport, for said surveys, is payable from the appropriation for the survey of the public lands for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, which appropriation will lapse into the Treasury on July 1, 1888.

Judging from the time heretofore usually consumed in making preparations for and examinations of surveys in the field under ordinary circumstances, the question is presented for consideration whether or not, in the event of an immediately available appropriation being made by Congress, the work in the field could be completed, reported upon by the examiner, and acted upon by this office prior to the expiration of the current fiscal year.

In view of the statements of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that the "completion of the surveys of Indian reservations heretofore contracted for is of the greatest importance, and an absolute necessity for the progress of the work of making allotments during the coming season," the matter of the pending returns of surveys on the Rosebud and Tongue Rivers in Montana is respectfully submitted.

It is further suggested, pending action by Congress on the supplemental appropriation referred to, that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs could probably obtain additional and authentic information as to the surveys executed on the Rosebud and Tongue Rivers in Montana from the local Indian agent having jurisdiction over the lands; which report, if satisfactory, in connection with the submitted favorable re-

port of the surveyor-general, might warrant exceptional action as to those returns, by reason of existing circumstances as stated.

Inclosed herewith is the formal estimate for said appropriation, prepared in duplicate.

Very respectfully,

S. M. STOCKSLAGER,  
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

*Statement of approved contracts awarded by United States Surveyors-general for surveys of boundaries of Indian reservations and for allotments of lands within Indian reservations.*

ARIZONA.

No. 5, dated January 8, 1887, with C. E. Walker, boundary White Mountain Reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 .....	\$277.50
No. 6, dated April 22, 1887, with C. H. Wallace, boundary White Mountain Reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 .....	2 550.00
No. 8, dated November 30, 1887, with L. D. Chilson, allotments within San Xavier and Salt River Reservations; appropriation of February 8, 1887..	5,000.00

CALIFORNIA.

No. 398, dated March 5, 1885, with William Minto, boundaries Mission Indian Reservation; appropriation of July 4, 1884 .....	3,000.00
No. 6, dated December 17, 1886, with A. T. Smith, Hoopa Valley Reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 .....	360.00

DAKOTA.

Nos. 18 and 19, dated April 30 and June 25, 1887, with H. J. Austin, allotments within Lower Brulé Reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 ..	6,400.00
No. 20, dated July 25, 1887, with P. and H. Heinze, allotments within Devil's Lake Reservation; appropriation of February 8, 1887 .....	4,500.00

IDAHO.

No. 118, dated April 2, 1887, with J. A. Clark, boundaries Lemhi and Nez Perce Reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 .....	1,200.00
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MINNESOTA.

No. 2, dated May 10, 1887, with William W. Ward, boundary and allotments White Earth Reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 .....	2,436.00
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MONTANA.

No. 206, dated June 24, 1886, with George T. Lamport, allotments on Tongue and Rosebud Rivers, Northern Cheyenne Reservation; appropriation of March 3, 1885 (public lands) .....	3,500.00
No. 207, dated April 18, 1887, with E. P. H. Harrison, boundaries Flathead Reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 .....	2,250.00

NEVADA.

No. 184, dated May 25, 1887, with Perry Powers, boundaries Pyramid Lake and Walker River Reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 .....	3,250.00
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OREGON.

Special, dated December 17, 1886, with J. A. McQuinn, boundaries and allotments, Warm Springs Reservation; appropriation of August 4, 1886 (public lands) .....	1,200.00
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Special, dated May 4, 1887, with Curran and Nolan, boundaries and allotments Umatilla Reservation; appropriation of March 3, 1885 .....	\$4,600.00
No. 530, dated May 4, 1887, with McQuinn and Campbell, allotments Warm Springs Reservation; appropriation February 8, 1887 .....	5,400.00
Special, dated June 14, 1887, with William Thiel, boundaries Klamath Reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 .....	1,800.00
No. 531, dated July 12, 1887, with Fenton and Maloney, boundaries Grand Ronde Reservation; appropriation of February 8, 1887 .....	2,900.00

## WYOMING.

No. 230, dated December 15, 1886, with F. S. Wood, boundaries Shoshone reservation; appropriation of May 15, 1886 .....	1,000.00
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## INDIAN TERRITORY.

Special, dated October 12, 1887, with H. C. F. Hackbusch, allotments Modoc and Ottawa Reservations; appropriation of February 8, 1887 .....	1,500.00
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The Department has also ordered additional surveys of boundaries and allotments in Indian reservations situate in California, Colorado, Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska, and Wisconsin, contracts for which have been authorized but not yet received at this office; total estimates aggregating about \$8,700.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. PARSONS,  
Principal Clerk of Surveys.

SURVEYING DIVISION, GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
February 6, 1888.

## EXHIBIT B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, January 28, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by Department reference "for consideration and recommendation," of the report of the Acting Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated January 13, 1888, as to the present status of surveys for allotments within Indian reservations in Montana, Oregon, and Dakota.

The Acting Commissioner states that the contracts and instructions for the surveys in Montana provide for the examination of the work in the field prior to the acceptance by that office of the returns of the surveys as submitted, and that as the available fund for such work is exhausted, no examination can be made until an additional appropriation becomes available.

He refers to office report of December 27, 1887, recommending that the resurveys of boundaries of reservations in Nevada be accepted without examination in the field, and suggests that the matter of the acceptance of the surveys described (certain standard lines and the exterior and subdivisional lines of six fractional townships in the Rosebud and Tongue River Valleys) without an examination in the field be submitted for the consideration of this office.

In reply to this suggestion, I have the honor to say that in view of the fact that the surveys referred to are all original and include important lines affecting the surveys of public lands, I do not feel warranted in recommending their acceptance without the usual requirements of the General Land Office.

In the case of the Pyramid Lake and Walker River Reservations the work done was that of retracing and re-establishing surveys of boundaries only, an examination of which was personally made by the Indian agent.

The Acting Commissioner, also, in view of the total inability of his office to make the examination provided for under the contracts, submits the matter for such additional instructions as you may deem warranted by the exigencies of this office.

As has heretofore been reported to the Department, the completion of the surveys of Indian reservations heretofore contracted for, is of the greatest importance, and an absolute necessity for the progress of the work of making allotments during the coming season.

I am of the opinion that Congress should be asked for appropriations sufficient to cover all deficiencies, so that the work can be completed without further delay.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. C. ATKINS,  
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.