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**Sioux Indian appropriation. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, inclosing communications from the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs asking that appropriations be made to fulfill the assurances made to the Sioux Indians by the late Sioux Commission, together with a draft of the items of appropriations required.**

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SIoux INDIAN APPROPRIATION.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

INCLOSING

*Communications from the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs asking that appropriations be made to fulfill the assurances made to the Sioux Indians by the late Sioux Commission, together with a draft of the items of appropriations required.*

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DECEMBER 4, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
December 3, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication received from the honorable Secretary of the Interior, inclosing a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and other papers connected therewith, asking that appropriations be made for the fulfillment of assurances made to the Sioux Indians by the late Sioux Commissioners.

A draft of the items of appropriations required is also submitted herewith.

Respectfully, yours,

W. WINDOM.  
*Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, December 1, 1890.

SIR: Referring to office letter of the 29th ultimo, recommending that Congress be urged to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purchase of additional beef, or other necessary articles, for the Sioux Nation of Indians, in fulfillment of the assurances made to them by the late Sioux Commission, I now have the honor to recall to your attention certain other assurances given the Indians by the commissioners, which good faith alike demands should be speedily fulfilled, and to

recommend that Congress be asked to make the necessary appropriations therefor.

#### PAYMENT FOR HORSES.

In the act of March 2, 1889 (25 Stats., 888), recently submitted to the Indians for their acceptance, and which by virtue of their acceptance and assent thereto became a law on the 10th day of February last, there is a provision (section 27) for the payment of \$28,200, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to individual members of the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands, for horses taken from them by the Government in 1876, at the rate of \$40 per head. It appears that this matter was much talked of in the councils and private talks with the Indians of other bands, whose claims, in some instances, at least, are undoubtedly more deserving than those of the two bands mentioned.

Upon this subject the commissioners in submitting their final report said:

Section 27 of the bill, providing for the payment at the rate of \$40 each for the horses taken from the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Sioux in 1876, was constantly alluded to by the Indians in the general councils, though perhaps oftener in private talks with the commissioners.

It was well understood by the Indians that the ponies had been taken to prevent these bands going on the war path; while at other agencies, notably Cheyenne River and Standing Rock, large numbers had been taken from the Indians, about whose loyalty there was no question, as a precautionary measure, or, in other words, to prevent their possible use by war parties. These ponies were, it seems, sold at auction by the War Department, and the proceeds, after deducting all expenses, expended in the purchase of cows and bulls. It appears that the gross proceeds of these sales amounted to some \$27,000. The number of ponies taken can not be definitely stated, but General Carlin reports that from October 22, 1876, up to September 27, 1877, 1,966 were taken from the Indians at Standing Rock. Indian Agent Cravens (Cheyenne River) reports between 2,000 and 2,200 taken at his agency. There was also a large number taken at Fort Keogh. If the whole number taken is estimated at 5,000, which we believe to be under rather than an over estimate, it will be seen that the average sum realized was about \$5.50 for each animal. About \$20,000 of the amount realized from the sales of the ponies was expended in the purchase of 965 cows and young heifers and 17 bulls. Of the balance, over \$6,000 went in payment for expenses attending sale, forage for animals, hire of herders, etc.

It is within the knowledge of the commission that many of the Indians who were at the time, and are now, among the most progressive on the reservation lost considerable herds, and for which they have received no adequate compensation. If Red Cloud and his band, who were notoriously disaffected, are to be paid for their losses, then certainly the other bands of Sioux, whose claims are more equitable, should also be reimbursed. \* \* \*

An appropriation should be made to pay what is due for the ponies taken in 1876 and 1877 by the Government from the Indians at the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Agencies.

#### INEQUALITY IN THE SIZE OF RESERVATIONS.

The Indians of the Crow Creek Reservation, although having an equal interest with all the other Indians in the Great Sioux Reservation, were, by the terms of the act as submitted to the various bands for acceptance, given very much less land per capita than was given to the Indians of the other reservations. The Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Standing Rock Indians got more than twice as much, the Cheyenne River Indians nearly four times as much, and their nearest neighbors, the Lower Brulé Indians, got 182 acres more per capita, and yet the Crow Creek Indians have shown the greatest advancement in civilization of any of the Indians, and made better use of their land than have any of the others. The discrepancy in the apportionment was so great

as to call for special recommendation on the part of the commissioners, as follows:

We are without information as to the reasons for the great inequality in the per capita size of the several diminished and separate reservations.

The per capita amount of land in the entire Great Sioux Reservation is about 906 acres. Yet in the division we find that the per capita allowed to Pine Ridge is about 563 acres; to Rosebud about 550 acres; to Standing Rock about 665 acres; to Cheyenne River about 972 acres; to Lower Brulé about 442 acres, and to Crow Creek about 260 acres.

Thus it will be seen that Cheyenne River has a per capita quantity left, 66 acres greater than it had before nearly one-half of their lands were sold, while the Crow Creek Indians, who, in fact, have made the greatest advancement, have not enough land allotted to them to cover the amount to which they are entitled under the act, if they should take their allotment in grazing land.

We, therefore, earnestly urge the importance of placing the Crow Creek Indians on a basis equal to at least the Lower Brulés, their near neighbors across the Missouri River. This may be done by returning to them some of the lands they have ceded or by giving them a money equivalent therefor. This, in the opinion of the commission, would be but a simple act of justice. The map of the different reservations furnished the commission by the Interior Department is herewith attached as an exhibit. \* \* \*

An appropriation of \$187,039 is recommended for the benefit of the Indians residing on the Crow Creek Reservation. The Crow Creek and Lower Brulé Indians are given less land per capita than those of any of the other reservations, as is shown in a former part of this report. The number of Indians upon the Crow Creek Reservation is as great as those on the Lower Brulé Reservation, yet the former are given 187,039 less acres of land than the latter. Estimating the land at \$1 an acre would give to them the amount asked for. The appropriation, if made, should be added to the "permanent fund" of the Crow Creek Indians, and expended for their benefit, as provided in section 17 of the act of March 2, 1889.

It may be proper to state as a matter of information, that the reservation set apart for the Crow Creek Indians will scarcely afford sufficient agricultural or grazing lands for the allotments (maximum size) provided in section 8 of the act.

#### THE SANTEE SIOUX.

At the Santee Agency there are a few Indians who, though entitled, have not yet received lands in severalty. Section 7, of the late Sioux act, provides for allotments for all such, to be taken on their reservation in Nebraska. All the lands of said reservation have already been allotted, and there are therefore no lands left for those who are yet without allotments.

The Sioux commissioners called particular attention to this matter, as follows:

Section 7 of the act presented reads as follows: "That each member of the Santee-Sioux tribe of Indians now occupying a reservation in the State of Nebraska shall be entitled to allotments upon said reserve in Nebraska," etc. The Santee Reservation is now fully occupied, and there are no lands left upon which to provide for those that are yet without land. We met this embarrassment by promising to recommend in our report that the Government will furnish lands elsewhere or pay those entitled to them a money equivalent. The commission feels that the simple statement is all that is needed to induce such legislation as will do full justice to the parties interested. Lands may be provided for them in the ceded territory in Nebraska, north of the Niobrara River. These Indians, relying upon the good faith of the Government, together with the Poncas and Flandreaus, with few exceptions, give their assent to the act. \* \* \*

Provision by law should be made to furnish lands or a money equivalent for the Santee Indians entitled to the same.

The Flandreau band of Santee Sioux, it should be observed, are authorized to take allotments on the Great Sioux Reservation, or in lieu thereof are to be paid at the rate of \$1 per acre for the land to which they would be entitled, and Congress at its last session appropri-

ated \$45,000 to pay those who may elect to take money in lieu of land. But no provision whatever has been made for the Santees who have no lands, nor the option to take lands either upon the diminished reservation or within the ceded territory.

I earnestly recommend that Congress be asked to make the necessary appropriations for the objects above indicated, to the end that any suspicion the Indians may entertain of bad faith on the part of the commissioners who, as agents of the Government, negotiated the recent agreement with them, whereby they ceded a vast area of country to the United States, or that the Government is less concerned in looking after their material interests since the acquisition of said territory, may be speedily and forever removed.

I have had prepared a draft of items of appropriation covering the foregoing recommendations, the wording of which is copied from the draft of a bill submitted by you to the President for transmittal to Congress on January 30 last.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. V. BELT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*December 2, 1890.*

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury with an urgent request for the early and favorable consideration of Congress.

J. W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

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*An item.*

To enable the Secretary of the Interior to pay to such individual Indians of the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Agencies as he shall ascertain to have been deprived, by the authority of the United States, of ponies in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-six, at the rate of forty dollars for each pony, and he is hereby authorized to employ such agent or agents as he may deem necessary in ascertaining such facts as will enable him to carry out this provision, and to pay them therefor such sums as shall be deemed by him fair and just compensation: *Provided*, That the sum paid to each individual Indian under this provision shall be taken and accepted by such Indian in full compensation for all loss sustained by such Indian in consequence of the taking from him of ponies as aforesaid: *And provided further*, That if any Indian entitled to such compensation shall have deceased, the sum to which such Indian would be entitled shall be paid to his heirs at law, according to the laws of the State of Dakota, two hundred thousand dollars.

For compensating the Indians of the Crow Creek Reservation for loss sustained by those Indians in receiving less land per capita in their diminished reservation than is received by the Indians occupying other diminished reservations, the amount to be added to the share of the permanent fund of the said Crow Creek Indians, and to draw interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, one hundred and eighty-seven thousand and thirty-nine dollars.

To enable the Secretary of the Interior to purchase lands for such of the Santee Sioux Indians in Nebraska as have been unable to take lands in severalty on their reservations in Nebraska by reason of the restoration of the unallotted lands to the public domain, thirty-two thousand dollars.