

OMAHA LANDS, NEBRASKA.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of an appropriation for the expense of making sale of the Omaha lands in Nebraska.

JANUARY 26, 1885.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
January 23, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith, for the consideration of Congress, an estimate of appropriation received from the Secretary of the Interior for \$1,000, to enable the Secretary of the Interior to carry into effect certain provisions of the act of August 7, 1882, respecting the sale of the Omaha lands in Nebraska, and further extending the time of payment therefor.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES E. COON,
Acting Secretary.

The Hon. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 20, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for presentation to the Congress, as directed in section 2 of the act of July 7, 1884 (Pamph. Ed. U. S. Stats., p. 254), copy of communication of the 19th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, submitting an item in the sum of \$1,000, intended for incorporation in the Indian appropriation bill now pending before the Congress, "To enable the Secretary of the Interior to carry into effect certain provisions of the act of August 7, 1882, respecting the sale of the Omaha lands in Nebraska," also further extending the time of payment for lands, &c.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,
Acting Secretary.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, January 19, 1885

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the letter, dated January 10, 1885, from Hon. E. K. Valentine, of the House of Representatives, submitting a draft of an item intended for insertion in the House appropriation bill providing for the support of the Indians for the coming fiscal year, the object of which is to secure the means necessary to enable the Department to appraise and sell the unallotted lands in township 24, range 7 east, as provided in the last clause of section 2 of the act entitled "An act to provide for the sale of a part of the reservation of the Omaha tribe of Indians, in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes," approved August 7, 1882 (Stat. 22, p. 341).

There are two additional provisions in the item submitted by Mr. Valentine, one extending the time of payment as now required by law on the lands that have already been sold under the provisions of said section 2, as well as the lands that may be sold in said township 24, range 7; and another authorizing the appraisal and sale of a tract of about 50 acres in township 25, range 6 east, within the reservation upon condition that the purchaser thereof shall erect and maintain a flouring-mill thereon.

The said item having been referred for the action of this office, I have to say that I approve of the first measure, because the provision of the act of August 7, 1882, to which it refers, cannot be carried into effect until the necessary means are provided.

As regards the second measure, I would say that, in my opinion, it would be perfectly right to extend the time of payment, with the consent of the Indians, in the case of those who settled on the lands in good faith, with the full expectation of being able to make payment therefor as the law requires, but who, on account of the stress of hard times and the failure to get returns from their crops in time, now find that they will be unable to make their first payment at the date fixed by law.

But I do not think that the extension of time should be given to all, for, as evidenced by the fact that a goodly number have already made their entries and paid their first installments, a great many are amply able to comply with the present terms of payment, and should be required to do so; for which reason I submit that it should be left to the discretion of the Department to decide between those who should and those who should not be favored by an extension of time.

I have therefore had prepared, and herewith submit, a draft of an item containing such stipulation, and the further provision that the consent of the Indians shall be obtained to the proposed extension.

The third measure, which provides for the sale of a small tract of land within and on the confines of the present reservation, meets with my approval.

It will greatly benefit the Indians to have a mill in that locality, and I have no doubt they will readily give their consent to the disposal of the tract for that purpose. I have amended the item submitted by Mr. Valentine so that their consent is required.

I transmit herewith the item submitted by Mr. Valentine, together with his letter, and also the item (in duplicate) prepared in this office, and respectfully recommend that the latter item be transmitted to Congress, through the honorable Secretary of the Treasury.

Two copies of this report are also inclosed to accompany the same.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

ESTIMATE.

To enable the Secretary of the Interior to appraise and sell, in accordance with the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide for the sale of a part of the reservation of the Omaha tribe of Indians in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes," approved August seventh, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, that portion of said reservation in township twenty-four, range seven east, remaining unallotted on the first day of June, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, one thousand dollars: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Interior may in his discretion, and with the consent of the Indians, extend the time of payment for land as fixed by section two of said act, so that one-third of the purchase money shall become due and payable in two years from the date when the land shall be or has been thrown open to settlement, together with one year's interest on the amount of the first installment to be paid when entry is made, and the second installment of one-third shall become due and payable in one year, and the remaining one-third in two years from date of first payment, with interest, as provided in said act; and in case of default in either of said payments, or the interest thereon, the person thus defaulting for a period of sixty days shall forfeit absolutely his right to the tract which he has purchased and any payment or payments he may have made: *Provided further*, That, also, with the consent of the Indians, the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to cause to be appraised and sold, under such regulations, and upon such terms as to payment as he may deem to be most advantageous to the said Indians, that part or parcel of said reservation described as follows: All that portion of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section twenty-seven, and the west half of the northwest quarter of section twenty-six, in township twenty-five, range six east, lying east of the Sioux City and Nebraska Railroad, containing about fifty acres, more or less; conditioned, however, that the purchaser thereof shall erect, operate, and maintain a flouring mill thereon.

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