

ADDITIONAL SUBSISTENCE FOR INDIANS.

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*A communication from the Secretary of the Interior in reference to an appropriation of \$150,000 for the purchase of additional subsistence, seeds, etc., for such Indians as may require it.*

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JANUARY 5, 1891.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
January 3, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 26th ultimo, submitting an estimate of appropriation for \$150,000 for the purchase of additional subsistence, seeds, and other articles necessary to keep such Indians as may require aid from suffering, to be used at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior.

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, D. C., December 24, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to state that owing to the failure of crops throughout certain portions of the West, and decreased appropriation for certain Indian tribes, great suffering for want of food will be experienced during this winter and the coming spring unless aid is extended by the Government for the remaining months of the current fiscal year.

The tribes appealing to the Government for help are principally the Yankton Sioux, of South Dakota, the Arickarees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans, at Fort Berthold Agency, N. Dak., the Northern Arap-

ahoos, of Wyoming, and the Sisseton and Devils Lake Indians of North and South Dakota.

The agent at Fort Berthold Agency, under date of December 8, states that—

On account of the almost total failure of crops on his reservation this year, these Indians will require an additional supply of beef cattle. We have already received by contract 150,000 pounds gross beef and I would respectfully recommend that 50,000 pounds additional be purchased. It will be absolutely necessary for the Government, in order to keep these Indians above want, to supply additional food before the end of the current fiscal year.

Under date of the 11th instant General Miles, of the Army, addressed a telegram to the Adjutant-General of the Army in reference to the Yankton Indians, of which the following is an extract:

The following is the substance of a report from Captain Conrad, commanding Fort Randall, dated 6th instant: "Proceeding on 2d instant to Yankton Indian Agency, remaining there until next day, witnessed issue rations to Indians. There are 1,708 actual rations received by each Indian. For seven days, fresh beef, 3 pounds; flour, 1½ pounds. No coffee or sugar issued for nearly a year. \* \* \* Rations gradually reduced, forcing Indians to become self-supporting to some extent. Indians suffered much past season on account of drought, failure of crops. If something is not done speedily these wards of the nation will perish by famine this winter. Rations now issued for seven days barely enough for two days. Within our knowledge during eight years' service at post, Indian lodges at White Swan have been saved from suffering by refuse of soldiers' table. Can get little from this source now; but one company at post." \* \* \*

The Sisseton Indians are clamoring for help, as well as the Indians at Devils Lake Agency and other points.

By the last Indian appropriation act the sum of \$25,000 was appropriated—

To supply food and other necessities of life, in cases of distress, among the Indian *not having treaty funds*, arising from emergencies not foreseen or otherwise provided for, to be used at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior.

This fund is only applicable for the relief of Indians when in an actual state of distress and is confined to the relief of Indians not having treaty funds. But at this time Indians who are supported both from treaty and gratuity funds are asking for help during the remainder of the fiscal year, and this office will not be able to grant relief unless Congress provides an additional relief fund to prevent actual starvation during this winter and the ensuing spring.

I am of the opinion that a relief fund should be furnished by Congress, so as to enable this Department to assist all Indians who require aid this winter, not only with food, but also in the purchase of seeds and other articles required for planting in the spring, and to grant immediate assistance when required; and I submit herewith a draft of an item to be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill, with the recommendation that it be forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for the action of Congress, proposing an appropriation of the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose mentioned.

Very respectfully,

T. J. MORGAN,  
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, December 26, 1890.

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for the favorable action of Congress.

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
Secretary.

ADDITIONAL SUBSISTENCE FOR INDIANS.

*Proposed item to be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill, for the relief of Indians.*

For the purchase of additional subsistence, seeds, and other articles necessary to keep such Indians as may require aid from suffering, to be used at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior..... \$150,000

