

LANDS IN SEVERALTY TO CROW INDIANS, MONTANA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of an appropriation of \$2,000 for completing the allotment of lands in severalty to the Crow Indians in Montana.

FEBRUARY 3, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 29, 1886.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, an estimate of appropriation received from the Secretary of the Interior in the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of completing the allotments of lands in severalty to the Crow Indians in Montana, contemplated in the agreement made with said Indians June 12, 1880, as ratified by act of Congress April 11, 1882.

Respectfully, yours,

D. MANNING,
Secretary.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 25, 1886.

SIR: In pursuance of the provisions of section 2 of the act of July 7, 1884 (23 Stat., 254), I have the honor to transmit herewith for presentation to Congress copy of a letter of 23d instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inclosing, with accompanying papers relating to the subject, an item of appropriation in the sum of \$2,000, for the purpose of completing the allotments to the Crow Indians, contemplated in the agreement of June 12, 1880 (22 Stat., 42).

The matter has the approval of this Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary.

THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 23, 1886.

SIR: The agreement with the Crow Indians, made June 12, 1880, confirmed by act of Congress approved April 11, 1882 (22 Stat., 42), provides for the allotment of their lands in severalty, and the issuance of patents therefor, as soon as the necessary laws are passed by Congress.

The second section of the act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to cause a sufficient quantity of the land on the reservation to be surveyed, and directs him, upon completion of said survey, to cause allotments of land to be made to each and all of the Indians of the Crow tribe.

The necessary surveys having been made, you, on the 21st of October, 1885, appointed Mr. George R. Milburn a special agent to make the allotments, as contemplated by the agreement, the employment being limited to sixty days.

On the 24th of October, 1885, instructions were given him by this office, and he immediately proceeded to the Crow Reservation and entered upon the work.

From various reports received from Special Agent Milburn, it appears that he has been unable to get assistance from the agent, as none of the force at the agency could be spared, and has been obliged to hire a team at his own expense.

From this and other causes he has been unable to complete the work within the specified time, and there are no funds available for his further employment.

Inspector Armstrong, in a report dated November 6, 1885 (returned to the Department November 21, 1885), states that the work of making allotments to these Indians should be pushed as rapidly as possible, as they are anxious to locate on their allotments and commence building.

Agent Williamson, in an indorsement upon a communication from Special Agent Milburn, dated December 10, 1885, urges the employment of interpreters to assist him (Milburn), and concurs with him as to the importance of the work.

The United States has agreed to make these allotments, and nothing seems to be needed to carry out the agreement except the necessary funds.

Agent Williamson, having been instructed to submit an estimate of the amount required to complete the work, reported under date of January 15, 1886, that it was impossible for him to submit such an estimate, but forwarded a communication from late Special Agent Milburn (copy herewith) placing the amount at \$2,000.

I have therefore prepared the draft of an item to be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill providing for an appropriation of \$2,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purpose of completing the allotments to the Crow Indians as contemplated in the agreement of June 12, 1880, the same to be immediately available, and have the honor to recommend that the same be submitted to Congress with request for favorable action.

I inclose copy of this report, copy of the proposed item, and copy of Special Agent Milburn's letter of December 10, 1885.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

FORT CUSTER, MONT., *January 13, 1886.*

SIR: Acknowledging by your reference the letter from the honorable the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated January 4, 1886, wherein you are required to make a detailed estimate of the cost of completing the allotments of lands to the Crows, and in accordance with your request and as a courtesy to you, I respectfully submit the following:

The work will require, as has been repeatedly explained to the Department by the inspector (General Armstrong), yourself, and myself, a team, an interpreter, and an individual whose knowledge of surveying and land matters shall not be ordinary. The latter individual must be one acquainted with the Indians and their habits; he must know agricultural land from desert land.

Ten allotments per day for a man not qualified as above (with every facility given him) will be a large rate to expect of him, as he must study up the survey (owing to its present condition, notwithstanding I have done much to restore it) and study the Indians as well, 2,000 allotments (10 per day) two hundred days:

Interpreter, 200 days, at \$2	\$400
Special agent, 200 days, at \$8.....	1,600
Total	2,000

This contemplates that the Government furnish a team and forage.

If the Government will furnish me a competent interpreter, a team, wagon, and forage, I can allot all the surveyed lands and guarantee the work for \$600.

If the Government had furnished me team and interpreter, as agreed with me before I left Washington, and had furnished the necessary plats in season the work would have been very far advanced towards completion at the present day.

Very respectfully,

GEO. R. MILBURN.

Post-office, Miles City, Mont.

General H. E. WILLIAMSON,
Indian Agent.

Allotments of Crow Indian lands in Montana.

To enable the Secretary of the Interior to make allotments of lands in severalty to the Crow Indians in Montana as contemplated in the agreement with said Indians made June 12, 1880, ratified and confirmed by act of Congress approved April 11, 1882, \$2,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, the same to be immediately available.