

MEDAWAKANTON BAND OF SIOUX INDIANS, MINNESOTA.

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of appropriation for support of the Medawakanton band of Sioux Indians.*

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MARCH 20, 1888.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *March 19, 1888.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of the 16th instant, forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior, with his approval, submitting an estimate of appropriation in the sum of \$20,000 for support of the Medawakanton band of Sioux Indians in Minnesota.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,  
*Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., March 16, 1888.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith copy of a letter from Hon. John L. McDonald, member of Congress from Minnesota, together with copy of a letter from Bishop Whipple, in relation to a band of Medawakanton Sioux residing in Minnesota, and respectfully recommend that the inclosed item of appropriation be transmitted to the chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the House, and of the Committee on Appropriations in the Senate, with your favorable recommendation, to be added to the Indian appropriation bill now before the House committee.

Very respectfully,

J. A. C. ATKINS,  
*Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Indorsement.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
March 17, 1888.Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury,  
for transmission to and for the favorable consideration of Congress.WM. F. VILAS,  
Secretary.

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*Item to be added to the Indian appropriation bill.*

For the support of the full-blood Indians in Minnesota, belonging to the Medawakanton band of Sioux Indians, who have resided in said State since the 20th day of May, A. D. 1886, and severed their tribal relations, \$20,000, to be expended by the Secretary of the Interior in the purchase, in such manner as in his judgment he may deem best, of agricultural implements, cattle, horses, and lands, and in making improvements thereon: *Provided*, That of this amount the Secretary, if he deem it for the best interests of said Indians, may cause to be erected for the use of the said Indians, at the most suitable location, a school-house, at a cost not exceeding \$2,000: *And provided also*, That he may appoint a suitable person to make the above-mentioned expenditures under his direction, the expenses of the same to be paid out of this appropriation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, UNITED STATES,  
Washington, D. C., March 14, 1888.

SIR: I desire to call your attention to the importance and necessity of an appropriation by the present Congress to aid the Indians of the Sioux tribe who long ago have severed themselves from their tribes and located among the whites throughout the State of Minnesota in becoming completely self-supporting.

My purpose is to ask an appropriation of \$20,000, as suggested by Bishop Whipple, in his letter hereto attached and submitted, and I respectfully request your recommendation that this appropriation be made. I do not hesitate to join with Bishop Whipple in asking that this sum be appropriated. The limits of this letter will not allow me to enter into any argument; I will make that to the House, as you are already informed. I will merely say that we have given the most of them some land and houses thereon, but this is but the beginning of what is necessary to enable them to settle down and live in a civilized way. They must have more implements and stock with which to work their land; and, in some instances, they must have more land than has been allotted to them. You have a substantially correct list of these Indians, and know that the sum of \$10,000, appropriated last year, is not enough to do a permanent good for them, and that is what we now desire.

This is due to these Indians in all justice; they were friendly to the whites in the terrible war and outbreak of their powerful tribe in 1862, and it was this—the enmity of the hostiles—that compelled them to leave their tribe, their reservation, and right to annuities, and come and live among the people I represent. Every dictate of humanity and gratitude must prompt us to echo the sentiments so feelingly expressed by Bishop Whipple, and to ask our nation's representatives to do this much for this poor people.

How the money shall be expended is for subsequent consideration. I favor its being expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

Very respectfully,

J. L. MACDONALD,  
*Member of Congress, Minnesota.*

Hon. J. D. C. ATKINS,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

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FARIBAULT, MINN., *December 9, 1887.*

MY DEAR MR. MACDONALD: I write to ask your kind interest in behalf of the scattered Sioux of our State. You know these men are homeless largely on account of their devotion to us during the Sioux war. Their annuities were confiscated and they thrust out of home, while their friendship for us made them afraid to go to the mission. Congress has made appropriations for them twice—the first in money, which was of no use beyond their temporary support. The second was used in part to buy lands, etc., near Shakopee, Redway, and Wabuska, where they secured poor land and had no one to guide them. Good Thunder, the Chushau hero, who was chief of scouts under Sibley, purchased land near their old home. He gave 20 acres for a mission house, and I have built a mission house with a room attached large enough for worship. There are 23 families here, and all are industrious and doing well, although some who have only 5 or 10 acres of land ought to have more. The land is good, plenty of timber, and a few miles away grass land can be had cheap. I believe that if Congress will appropriate \$20,000 for the purchase of land, agricultural implements, and to build a school-house not to cost over \$1,000 with furniture, books, etc., we can remove all of these scattered Sioux and have a model Christian village. The missionary I have paid myself from my deep love for men who showed such heroism in the war. Will you show this to Judge Wilson, Rice, and other members, and if you will secure this I shall give you all my life-long gratitude. You all know my devotion to this poor people. Many of the infirmities which have made me an old man before my time have been earned in their service. I do honestly believe that these friendly Sioux deserve, as no others, the kindness of the Government. Please all of you try to get this, and our Heavenly Father, who never forgets a deed of love to His poor children, will repay. With kind regards to my good friends, Mr. Rice and Judge Wilson, Mr. Nelson and Lind,

Your friend,

H. B. WHIPPLE,  
*Bishop of Minnesota.*