

BUREAU OF CATHOLIC MISSIONS FOR SUPPORT AND EDUCATION OF INDIAN PUPILS.

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

WITH INCLOSURES,

Asking an appropriation of \$2,000 to Bureau of Catholic Missions for support and education of Indian pupils on Flathead Reservation, Montana.

DECEMBER 12, 1884.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 11, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of the 10th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with inclosures noted therein, relative to a claim in the sum of \$2,000, presented on the part of the Bureau of Catholic Missions of this city, on account of the support, education, &c., of twenty additional Indian pupils at the boys' school on the Flathead Reservation in Montana, under its control, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, in excess of their contract for said year.

The correspondence fully explains the nature of the transaction, and an item in the sum above named is herewith submitted for incorporation in the Indian appropriation bill of the current session, or such other bill as may be deemed proper, to provide for the settlement of the said claim.

The matter has the recommendation of the Commissioner.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, December 10, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith copies of two letters, dated June 27 and November 28, 1884, respectively, from the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions of this city, requesting payment of \$2,000 on ac-

count of the support and education, &c., of twenty Indian pupils at the Indian Industrial Boys' School on the Flathead Reservation in Montana, the same being in excess of the number provided for by contract with this Department during the last fiscal year. In view of the statement submitted by the Catholic Bureau, I am of the opinion the request should be granted, and herewith respectfully submit an item for insertion in the appropriation bill for the current and contingent expenses of Indian Department, &c., for the year ending June 30, 1886, and respectfully recommend that the same be forwarded to Congress for that purpose.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

THE BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS,
No. 1101 G STREET NORTHWEST,
Washington, D. C., June 27, 1884.

SIR: I desire to invite your very special attention to the matters following, to wit: On June 14, 1883, the late Rev. J. B. A. Brouillet, as director of this bureau, requested the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in due course, for a contract to support, educate, and maintain 50 Flathead Indian boys at the Flathead Indian mission in Montana for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884. On July 2, 1883, the said father received from the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for execution, a contract for said 50 boys in his letter of June 30, 1883.

On July 5, 1883, said father executed and returned to the honorable Commissioner said contract.

On July 14, 1883, said father transmitted a copy thereof to Rev. Father Van Gorp, then superintendent of said Flathead Indian school, who governed himself accordingly, and made fitting accommodations to execute the same according to the contents and tenor thereof.

About that time the secretary of this bureau, Mr. Charles S. Lusk, called in person on the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to ascertain whether this contract (as well as those for other Indian schools in other portions of the Indian country then under the direction of this bureau) had been duly executed by the honorable Commissioner, when he learned that it had not been, but only because Miss Cook, of said bureau (whose duty, among other things, was to verify the contract), was then absent from the office on leave, and that the honorable Commissioner did not deem it best to execute the same until she returned and duly verified the said contract.

Mr. Lusk then asked the honorable Commissioner if there was any doubt as to all of said contracts being duly signed upon Miss Cook's return, and was informed that there was none.

By the date of Miss Cook's return from said leave the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs had received a report regarding said Flathead Indian school from Inspector Benedict, in which report said inspector recommended that only 30 boys be allowed in the contract for 1883-'84 for that particular school, and upon the plea that said school was a "money-making institution," &c.

On August 24, 1883, this bureau received a letter from the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated August 21, 1883, stating that, owing to said report and said recommendation of said inspector, he had decided not to sign a contract for 50 boys, but to substitute a contract for only 30 boys, which contract be inclosed for execution.

On September 17, 1883, this bureau filed with the honorable Commissioner a letter, dated September 7, 1883, of Father Brouillet (he then being absent on duty among the Indians in the West), and also a letter of Maj. Charles S. Jones, treasurer of this bureau, requesting the honorable Commissioner to retain said contract at 50 boys.

September 19, 1883, the honorable Commissioner decided that he could allow only 30 boys at said school, and requested that contract for that number be executed.

September 30, 1883, this bureau filed with the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs said contract for 30 boys, as executed by Rev. Father Brouillet.

October 11, 1883, this bureau received said contract, duly executed by the honorable Commissioner.

On December 31, 1883, I had a personal interview with you on this same subject, and, in the absence of any valid reason appearing to the contrary, you then seemed to recognize the rightfulness of my request for 20 additional boys at said school during

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the next half year, and suggested that my application be made in writing to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and on the same date this bureau asked for a supplemental contract for said 20 boys for the six months ending June 30, 1884.

On January 10, 1884, the honorable Commissioner refused to grant said request, but agreed to consider the question of an increase of boys at said school at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Without now inquiring into the motives that led up to the statements contained in Inspector Benedict's report, or that justified the expression therein contained, that said school was a "money-making institution," your Department fully knows that, even if that statement were true (which I deny), in no event could the money of said institution, if it had any, have ever been realized from the United States for the clothing, feeding, educating, and supporting of an Indian pupil at \$100 per year.

This institution, so called, among the Flatheads and allied tribes, has been in existence for nearly forty years, and has doubtless gathered around it all the external signs of thrift, progress, and success. This tribe of Indians now live in houses that the United States never erected; they now till the soil with implements which the United States never bought; they now own herds and now tend flocks the United States never supplied; their children are now taught in schools by teachers whom the United States only partially compensated, and in school buildings for the erection of which the United States never contributed a dollar. And the broad principles of right and morality taught these Indians have imbedded their flukes deep into the very hearts and souls of said Indians with but little assistance from the United States, and to such an extent that this bureau can give the lie to Inspector Benedict's reports by simply referring to the official statement of Senator Vest, of Missouri, whose report on his visit to said school we refer to and make part of this communication, and of his remarks in the Senate on this same subject, copy of which we also inclose you herewith. Nay, more: that there were Flathead Indian boys then and there to be educated is conclusively shown by the monthly school reports now of record in the office of the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and which records show that the attendance of boys at said school was as follows:

September, 1883.....	45
October, 1883.....	51
November, 1883.....	50
December, 1883.....	48
January, 1884.....	51
February, 1884.....	53
March, 1884.....	52
April, 1884.....	52
May, 1884.....	52
June, 1884.....	50

Making an average attendance for the ten months, or school year, of 50.4.

In addition thereto, the report of Indian Inspector Howard, subsequently made, does not substantiate said Benedict's statement. But, Mr. Secretary, this is not the principle or material factor in this case.

After this bureau had signified to Father Van Gorp the outline of his duty for the next year, to educate and maintain and support 50 boys, it was done, and done promptly; and had any instruction or intimation from this bureau been subsequently sent to that mission that the fathers then in charge had to return to their parents any 20 of said 50 boys, and thereby discriminate in favor of any 30 thereof, this bureau believes that it would have led up to serious disaffection, suspicion, and trouble, the consequences of which this bureau could not and would not be a party to, and might have led to results among those Indians that no \$2,000 out of the Federal Treasury could have affected. In the interest of peace and harmony, and to keep faith with the Indians themselves (a rule which the fathers in the Indian country never infract, come what may), the fathers went on in good faith, and educated, supported, clothed, and fed 50 Indian boys, as the sisters had done in regard to the 50 girls; and they and we trusted that time and truth at the end of the year would bring with them their own vindication. This vindication has come, a vindication so full, clear, and overwhelmingly conclusive as to render Inspector Benedict's report unworthy a place in your public archives.

Evidence which you will respect shows that there were Indian boys to be educated^m and the policy, nay, the principle, of your administration is to educate all who are capable of receiving education, and your records show that in good faith full 50 boys have been educated instead of 30; and in view of all these premises I plead, in the name of equity, in the name of right and of fair dealing, that you will recognize in this case the principle that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," and that as these fathers have educated, clothed, fed, and maintained, during the year ending June 30, 1884, 50 Flathead Indian boys at their said school, and have received the minimum compensation for only 30 thereof, you will now cause such steps to be taken as

shall secure for them a compensation for the maintenance and support of the remaining 20 Flathead Indian boys at the same rates at which the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs has already compensated them for the 30.

In all the foregoing, I believe the honorable Commissioner acted conscientiously and from all the best information he then had before him; but his information, I submit, was not then correct. Had he known at the beginning of the year to be true that which at the end of the year he is forced to admit to be true, there would have been no necessity for this or any like communication to you on this subject; and all of which is now respectfully submitted for your early and faithful consideration, and in the hope that no injustice be done those benefactors of humanity who, in the fastnesses of the Rocky Mountains, have heretofore aided, and are now aiding, you and the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs to administer the trust of the people in all that relates to the Indians confided to your keeping and under your supervision and control, in the interest of peace, civilization, and of the general welfare.

I am, Mr. Secretary, very truly, your obedient servant,

JOHN MULLAN,
Commissioner.

Hon. H. M. TELLER,
Secretary of the Interior.

THE BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS,
NO. 1101 G STREET,
Washington, D. C., November 28, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the commissioner of this bureau, Capt. John Mullan, in a letter dated June 27 last, asked the honorable Secretary of the Interior to pay the Flathead Boys' Industrial School the sum of \$2,000 for supporting and educating 20 Indian pupils in excess of the contract number during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884; that this letter being referred to you, you, in a letter dated September 19 last, declined to grant such request, and that, in an interview subsequently held with you by the officers of this bureau, you agreed to recommend the payment of such claim by Congress.

I therefore now submit for your consideration the inclosed proposed amendment to the general deficiency bill, providing for the payment of such claim, and would respectfully ask, if it meets with your approval, that you transmit it to Congress with a favorable recommendation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. S. LUSK,
Secretary.

Hon. H. PEICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

AMENDMENT to be proposed to the bill making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, &c., for the year ending June 30, 1886, and for other purposes.

For payment, out of the unexpended balance of the appropriation for support of schools for the year 1884, to the Indian Industrial School for Boys on the Flathead Indian Reservation, for clothing, subsisting, maintaining, and educating 20 Indian pupils in excess of the number provided for by contract with the Indian Department, during the twelve months beginning July 1, 1883, and ending June 30, 1884, \$2,000.