

MESSAGE
FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A letter from the Secretary of the Interior relative to providing for an agent for the Winnebago Indians.

FEBRUARY 9, 1886.—Read and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, dated 5th instant, inclosing the recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the insertion in the act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department for the year ending June 30, 1887, of an item providing for an agent for the Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin, at a salary of \$1,500 per annum.

The matter is respectfully submitted for the consideration and action of Congress.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *February 8, 1886.*

(Three inclosures.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 5, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated 27th ultimo, in which he incloses an item for insertion in the act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department for the year ending June 30, 1887, said item providing for an agent for the Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin, at a salary of \$1,500 per annum.

The Commissioner states that, with very few exceptions, the Indians, now numbering about 1,300, pay no attention to their homesteads, squander the money paid them by the Government, are making no advance toward civilization, and that he has no hope of any improvement in their condition until a permanent agent is placed in charge of them.

The matter is respectfully submitted to you for presentation to Congress.

I have the honor to be, with very great respect, your obedient servant,

L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 27, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to respectfully call your attention to the present condition of the Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin.

By an act passed for their relief, and to aid them in obtaining subsistence by agricultural pursuits, and to promote their civilization, approved January 18, 1881 (U. S. Stats. 21, p. 315), they were to be paid certain moneys, provided they first took up homesteads in that State, in accordance with sec. 15 of the act of March 3, 1875 (U. S. Stats. 18, p. 420); and, further, that the money so paid was to be used for the improvement of said homesteads.

Several payments have been made to these Indians under this act, but for the reasons stated in my report to you for the year 1885, page 42, and from additional information received, I am fully persuaded that under the present circumstances but little benefit is being derived by these Indians from this money, and that they are not making any advance toward civilization.

Special Agent J. L. Robinson, who made the last payment to them, says that, with one or two exceptions, they pay no attention to their homesteads, but squander the money in a few days for what is worthless or injurious to them, and go off to pick berries, hunt, or live a vagabond life until next payment.

I have no hope of any improvement in the condition of these Indians, who number now about 1,300, until a permanent agent is placed in charge of them, and I now renew, with increased confidence in its necessity, the recommendation in my report above referred to, that the necessary steps be taken toward laying the matter before Congress with a view of having a permanent agent provided for these Indians.

For this purpose there is inclosed herewith an item to be inserted in the act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of this Department for the year ending June 30, 1887.

Respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Instead of sixty-one agents, make appropriation for sixty-two, and insert the following item:

ITEM.

At the Winnebago Agency, Wisconsin, at \$1,500.