

INDIAN AGENT, MACKINAC.

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of additional compensation to the Indian agent at the Mackinac Agency, Michigan, for the next fiscal year.

MAY 12, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 11, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of letter of the Secretary of the Interior of the 8th instant, submitting an item of appropriation for \$500, as additional to the salary of the Indian agent at the Mackinac Agency, Michigan, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Acting Secretary.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, May 8, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, with my approval, an item of appropriation for \$500 as additional salary to be paid the United States Indian agent at Mackinac Agency, Michigan, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, and to request that the same be forwarded to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, to be inserted in the sundry civil bill now under consideration.

Very respectfully,

L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, May 4, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to call your attention to the fact that the salary of the Indian agent at Mackinac Agency, Michigan, is only \$1,000, which amount I consider insufficient for the important duties to be dis-

charged by the person in charge of said agency. The agent has charge of about 9,500 Indians, on three reservations, at L'Anse, Isabella, and Pottawatomie of Huron. About 4,000 Indians are on the reservations, and the balance scattered on various portions of the agency. He has also the supervision of ten Indian schools, and to visit these schools and the various reservations requires nearly 1,500 miles of traveling. All the Indians at Mackinac are entitled to lands in severalty.

It has now been reported to this office that for many years extensive frauds have been perpetrated against the Indians at that agency, in unlawfully cutting timber and obtaining their lands, and it will require a thorough investigation to get at the truth of these charges. Nearly one hundred contested Indian homestead cases are pending in the General Land Office, in many of which the agent will be called upon to make special investigations. To properly perform these important and various duties, the agent must not only be a practical business man, but also have a knowledge of the law practice in the State court, and of land titles, and land business in general.

A person competent to discharge these duties properly and for the best interest of the service cannot be had for the meager salary of \$1,000 per annum, especially as the agent must necessarily devote his whole time to official business and give up or neglect whatever outside business he may have.

In view of the foregoing, I have the honor to inclose herewith an item of appropriation for \$500 additional salary to be paid the agent of Mackinac Agency, for the fiscal year 1887, and respectfully recommend that the same be forwarded through the proper channels, to the Committee on Appropriations of the House, and ask it to be inserted in the sundry civil bill now under consideration before said committee.

I also inclose copy of a letter from the Hon. E. B. Winans, House of Representatives, on the subject.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., April 29, 1886.

SIR: It has come to my knowledge that unlawful possession and illegal depredations have been and are now being made on the Indian lands in Michigan. This has been partially brought to light by the present Indian agent at Mackinac, whose salary is \$1,000 per annum, not a sufficient sum to enable him to fully investigate and expose said unlawful practices. I have asked Hon. S. J. Randall, chairman of appropriation committee, to provide a further allowance of \$500 per annum. He signifies his willingness to do so, provided you approve and recommend the increase. If you agree with me in this, please do so.

I am, very truly, yours,

EDWIN B. WINANS.

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

Item of appropriation to be inserted in the sundry civil bill.

That the sum of \$500 be, and is hereby, appropriated for the payment to the Indian agent at Mackinac Agency, Michigan, as salary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, in addition to the sum of \$1,000 appropriated in the act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian service for the fiscal year 1887.