

SCHOOL AT LEECH LAKE INDIAN RESERVATION, MINN.

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LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE  
INTERIOR REQUESTING AN INCREASE OF APPROPRIATION FOR  
THE SCHOOL AT LEECH LAKE INDIAN RESERVATION, MINN.

JANUARY 4, 1899.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be  
printed.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, D. C., January 3, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, of the 23d ultimo, requesting that the appropriation contained in the Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1900 for the erection of a school building on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, Minn., be increased from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Respectfully, yours,

O. L. SPAULDING,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, December 23, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 19th instant, requesting that the estimate of \$20,000 incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, for the erection of school-house on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, Minn., be increased to \$50,000.

The recommendation of the Commissioner meets with my approval, and the same is forwarded through your Department for the appropriate action of Congress.

Respectfully,

C. N. BLISS, *Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, December 19, 1898.*

SIR: I am in receipt of a communication from Hon. Knute Nelson, United States Senate, relative to the condition of affairs at Leech Lake, Minnesota. He calls my attention to the fact that the Indian appropriation act for the fiscal year 1899 appropriates \$20,000 for the purpose of erecting a new school building at Leech Lake Reservation, Minn. The Senator also sends a letter from Superintendent Cressman, at Leech Lake, suggesting an increased appropriation, and he says that he desires this office to look into the matter; and if it be necessary to secure further appropriations he desires me, through the honorable the Secretary of the Interior to send him a letter recommending this additional appropriation. He says from what he knows of the situation he thinks Mr. Cressman is right, and more money should be appropriated for the school at that point.

In reference to this matter I have the honor to state that I cordially agree with Senator Nelson in the necessity for an additional appropriation at this place. The amount of \$20,000 is utterly inadequate to build a school of proper capacity for the Indians of that locality; the scholastic population is at least 300, and they should have school buildings of a capacity for at least 150. Judging by the standard of the new school buildings now in process of erection at White Earth, I do not think less than \$50,000 should be appropriated for this purpose. I also have personally investigated the condition of affairs at Leech Lake and feel satisfied it is a fertile field for Indian school work. A good school with a capacity of from 125 to 150 should be erected at this place. The amount of \$20,000 at present appropriated will not give anything like a school of sufficient capacity. The buildings should be of brick in that cold climate, and the necessary arrangements be made for proper sewer and water facilities, all of which will not cost less than \$50,000.

I, therefore, urgently recommend, based upon the reports in this office and my own personal experience, that the appropriation of \$20,000 in the act making appropriations for the fiscal year 1899 be increased by an additional appropriation of \$30,000 to be immediately available, making in all \$50,000 for a school at this place.

Very respectfully,

W. A. JONES, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.