

SUPPORT OF SIOUX OF DIFFERENT TRIBES, SUBSISTENCE  
AND CIVILIZATION.

---

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

*Transmitting an estimate of the appropriation to meet a deficiency in the appropriation for the support of Sioux Indians of different tribes, subsistence and civilization for the fiscal year 1891.*

---

DECEMBER 6, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
December 6, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, an estimate of appropriation in the sum of \$150,000 to meet a deficiency in the appropriation for "Support of Sioux of different tribes, subsistence and civilization," for the fiscal year 1891, submitted by the Secretary of the Interior on the 5th instant.

Respectfully, yours,

A. B. NETTLETON,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, December 5, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith an estimate of \$150,000, submitted by the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to meet a deficiency in the appropriation for "Support of Sioux of different tribes, subsistence and civilization, 1891," and to ask the favorable consideration of Congress thereon at the earliest practicable day.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE, *Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, December 4, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 1st instant, in regard to the importance, owing to the recent seasons of drought and from a military point of view especially, that for the present the Sioux Indians be allowed the rations prescribed in the agreement of February 28, 1877 (19 Stats., 254), and in compliance with the instructions contained therein I addressed a telegram to each of the agents of the following-named agencies, viz:

Cheyenne River, S. Dak.; Standing Rock, N. Dak.; Pine Ridge, S. Dak.; Rosebud, S. Dak.; and Crow Creek and Lower Brulé, S. Dak., of which the following is a copy:

By direction of the Secretary, owing to recent serious droughts, and from a military point of view especially, Sioux Indians for present will be allowed ration prescribed in article 5, agreement of 1877, and you are hereby directed to make issues of rations according to terms and conditions of that agreement, from quantities of supplies already furnished for the current fiscal year. Make immediate estimates showing deficiency required to issue prescribed ration to end of fiscal year, so that Congress may be asked to appropriate necessary funds therefor.

And I have addressed a letter to each, of which I transmit a copy herewith for your information.

In reply to your inquiry as to "the present amount of supplies being given to each Indian and what the increase will be, specifying the kind of additional food furnished," I submit the following statement:

*Statement showing the quantity of subsistence supplies on hand at the beginning of this fiscal year and purchased since that time under contract or in an open market for the Indians of the following-named agencies, the per capita allowance, the quantity called for by the agreement of 1877, and the deficiency.*

PINE RIDGE, S. DAK.

	On hand July 1, 1890.	Purchases for fiscal year 1891.	Total.	Amounts called for by agreement.	Defi- ciency.	Present per capita ration (gross).
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
Beef .....		4,890,000	6,033,804	5,941,500		3.04
Bacon .....	36,634	154,000				
Flour .....	14,719	815,300	830,019	990,250	160,231	.42
Coffee .....	146	74,000	74,146	79,220	5,074	.037
Sugar .....		116,400	116,400	158,440	42,040	.057
Corn .....	11,709	200,000	211,709	990,250	778,541	.16
Beans .....	11,151	56,000	67,151	59,415		.034

ROSEBUD, S. DAK.

Beef .....		4,487,900	6,512,024	5,852,775		3.33
Bacon .....	187,354	150,000				
Flour .....	69,896	720,000	789,896	975,462	185,566	.40
Coffee .....	18,805	60,175	78,980	73,037		.040
Sugar .....	9,698	115,000	124,698	156,074	31,376	.063
Corn .....	4,085		4,085	975,462	971,377	.002
Beans .....	31,543	75,000	106,543	58,528		.054

STANDING ROCK, N. DAK.

Beef .....	167,120	3,946,200	4,952,126	4,489,500		3.30
Bacon .....	17,373	122,417				
Flour .....	8,626	552,900	561,526	748,250	186,724	.37
Coffee .....	1,183	56,535	57,718	59,860	1,142	.039
Sugar .....	6,672	107,111	113,783	119,720	5,937	.076
Corn .....		28,000	28,000	748,250	720,250	.018
Beans .....	5,130	18,500	18,630	44,895	26,265	.012

Statement showing the quantity of subsistence supplies, etc.—Continued.

## CHEYENNE RIVER, S. DAK.

	On hand July 1, 1890.	Purchases for fiscal year 1891.	Total.	Amounts called for by agreement	Defi- ciency.	Present per capita ration (gross).
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Beef .....	496	3, 403, 715	3, 674, 697	3, 066, 000		3. 59
Bacon .....	10, 051	35, 030				
Flour .....	647	406, 000	406, 647	511, 000	104, 353	. 40
Coffee .....	459	24, 450	24, 909	40, 880	15, 971	.024
Sugar .....	11	42, 000	42, 011	81, 760	39, 749	.041
Corn .....	1, 141	30, 000	31, 141	511, 000	479, 859	.030
Beans .....	5, 753	27, 500	33, 253	30, 660		.032

## CROW CREEK AND LOWER BRULÉ, S. DAK.

Beef .....	197, 337	1, 955, 467	2, 531, 816	2, 272, 125		3. 40
Bacon .....	10, 102	61, 400				
Flour .....	87, 181	298, 000	385, 181	378, 867		.50
Coffee .....	2, 247	27, 200	29, 447	30, 295	848	.038
Sugar .....		45, 000	45, 000	60, 590	15, 590	.059
Corn .....	26, 325	60, 000	86, 325	378, 687	292, 362	.11
Beans .....	2, 963	16, 000	18, 963	22, 721	3, 758	.025

## RECAPITULATION

Quantities of additional supplies necessary to be purchased to make issue of full ration as per agreement of 1877.

Agency.	Beef or bacon.	Flour.	Coffee.	Sugar.	Corn.	Beans.
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Pine Ridge .....		160, 231	5, 074	42, 040	778, 541	
Rosebud .....		185, 566		31, 378	971, 377	
Standing Rock .....		186, 724	1, 142	5, 937	720, 250	26, 265
Cheyenne River .....		104, 353	15, 971	39, 749	479, 859	
Crow Creek and Lower Brulé .....			848	15, 590	292, 362	3, 758
Total .....		636, 874	23, 035	134, 694	3, 242, 389	30, 023

The cost of these additional quantities of supplies at this season of the year and in the locality required will not be less than here stated, viz:

Flour, 636,874 pounds, at \$3.....	\$19, 106. 22
Coffee, 23,035 pounds, at 20 cents .....	4, 607. 00
Sugar, 134,694 pounds, at 8 cents .....	10, 775. 52
Corn, 3,242,389 pounds, at \$1.50 .....	48, 635. 83
Beans, 30,023 pounds, at 4 cents .....	1, 200. 92
Total.....	84, 325. 49

In arriving at the difference between quantity of subsistence for which provision has been made for these Indians and the ration as prescribed by the agreement of 1877, the beef has been calculated as of weight when received and put in herds upon the reservations at Pine Ridge and Rosebud Agencies. No allowance has been made for the considerable decrease in weight which will occur by cattle growing thinner because of scarcity and difficulty of range feeding during the winter weather. At the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, and Lower Brulé Agen-

cies, cattle are delivered monthly as required and issued immediately. At Standing Rock Agency cattle are delivered as required up to October 1, then a seven months' supply is delivered, a large quantity of which is killed and frozen and very little shrinkage occurs; then cattle for May and June are again delivered monthly as required, thus avoiding any shrinkage.

In addition to the above quantities the shrinkage of beef delivered at Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Standing Rock Agencies in the fall (about 10,000,000 pounds) is estimated at 20 per cent., or 2,000,000 pounds, for the purchase of which, at \$3.25 per 100 pounds, the additional sum of \$65,000 is required, making a total of \$149,340.49 to supply the Sioux Indians with full rations according to agreement of February 28, 1877, up to June 30, 1891.

The statement herein made shows quantity of supplies available for subsisting these Indians during the current fiscal year and differs from my report of November 25, 1890, in that it includes the quantities on hand July 1, 1890, whereas the former report only accounted for the quantities purchased during current fiscal year.

The agreement of February 28, 1877, provides: "A ration of a pound and a half of beef (or in lieu thereof one-half pound of bacon), one-half pound of flour, and one-half pound of corn; and for every one hundred rations 4 pounds of coffee, 8 pounds of sugar, and three pounds of beans, or in lieu of said articles the equivalent thereof, in the discretion of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs \* \* \*."

In the exercise of this discretion a considerable quantity of hard bread, hominy, pork, lard, rice, and tea were purchased for these agencies, but in preparing the foregoing statement it was considered sufficient for the purpose in view to add the quantities of pork and lard to the bacon, the rice and hominy to the beans, and the hard bread to the flour and the tea to the coffee, first multiplying the number of pounds of tea by 3, as this is about the proportion of their respective ration value. The addition of hominy and rice to the quantity of beans makes the quantity of the article appear greater than it actually should be in some cases to meet the requirements of the agreement, and as the agreement provides that one-half pound of bacon is equivalent to three times its weight in net beef, it is, of course, equal to six times its weight in gross beef, and I have therefore multiplied the weight of bacon, pork, and lard furnished by 6, and added it to the weight of gross beef.

I do not submit the foregoing statement as absolutely showing the quantities issued, but as showing the quantities on hand at beginning of fiscal year contracted for and furnished, or to be furnished, under agreements heretofore made for subsisting these Indians during current fiscal year.

As soon as the agents of the agencies named forward the statements called for in office letter of 2d instant, such further report will be prepared and submitted to the Department, as may be found necessary to make the information more complete and reliable.

The facts herein presented, however, are considered sufficiently reliable and complete to warrant preparation of necessary estimates to go to Congress, and, if directed so to do, they will be prepared and submitted at once, without waiting for the reports called for from the respective agents.

Respectfully,

R. V. BELT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, December 5, 1890.*

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of the 5th instant I have the honor to submit herewith for the action of Congress a deficiency estimate of appropriation required to enable this office to furnish the Sioux Indians, in accordance with your directions, with full rations, as per agreement of February 28, 1877 (19 Stats., 256), for the balance of the fiscal year 1891, amounting to \$150,000.

This estimate is made to meet the needs of the Sioux for the current fiscal year and has no connection with the estimate of \$100,000 submitted with my report of November 29 and which was submitted for the action of Congress, where it was received on the 4th instant, as shown by the Congressional Record of the 5th, page 101, based upon the promise made to the Sioux Indians by the Sioux Commission on account of a deficiency in appropriation made for their support for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890.

The \$100,000 is required in fulfillment of that special promise, while the deficiency of \$150,000, now estimated for, is to enable this office to furnish the quantities of supplies necessary to enable it to issue to these Indians, during the current fiscal year, the full ration, as provided in article 5 of the agreement of 1877.

Very respectfully,

R. V. BELT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

*Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, by the Indian Office.*

Detailed objects of expenditure, and explanations.	Total amount to be appropriated under each head of appropriation.	Amount appropriated for the fiscal year for which the appropriation is required.
Support of Sioux of different tribes, subsistence and civilization, 1891 : Subsistence of the Sioux and for purposes of their civilization, as per agreement ratified by act of Congress approved February 28, 1877 (February 28, 1877, vol. 19, p. 256, sec. 5).....	\$150, 000	\$950, 000