

APPROPRIATIONS FOR INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

INCLOSING

A copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, asking for an appropriation of \$250,000 for the purchase of subsistence for the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and other tribes, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871.

MAY 11, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., April 25, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 23d instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, representing the necessity of an appropriation of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for the purchase of subsistence for the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871.

The subject is respectfully submitted for the favorable consideration of Congress, with the recommendation that \$250,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary "in furnishing said Indians with food and other necessaries of life during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871," be appropriated.

The failure of Congress to make the necessary appropriations to carry out the stipulations of the treaties with various Indian tribes, concluded in 1867 and 1868, has prevented this department from establishing them on reservations, and they have been unable to engage in the cultivation of the soil for subsistence; hence the necessity of supplying them with the necessaries of life until they can provide for themselves.

Very respectfully,

W. T. OTTO,
Acting Secretary.

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., April 23, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to state that during the past year about nine thousand Arapaho, Cheyenne, Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians have been collected and located upon the reservations set apart for their use and occupation by the treaties made with them in 1867. To keep these Indians on the reservations it has been necessary to supply them with food and other necessaries of life; and, from present appearances, I have no doubt they will remain at their new homes, quiet and peaceable, so long as they are furnished with subsistence, and are not compelled to resort to the chase to supply their wants and prevent starvation.

The cost of the subsistence that will have been furnished said Indians by the end of the present fiscal year will amount, probably, to \$250,000, which sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose, will be taken from the two million appropriation placed at the disposal of the President by Congress at its last session. This appropriation will doubtless be exhausted by the 30th of June next, and as there is no provision in the treaties made with said Indians for feeding them, there will be no money at the disposal of the department that can be used to purchase subsistence for their use for the next fiscal year, unless Congress makes an appropriation for that purpose during its present session.

Should the feeding of these Indians be stopped after the first of July next, they will again scatter to the plains, being compelled to do so to procure food, and the labor and expense of locating them where they now are will have been of no use or permanent benefit either to the government or the Indians; beside, in all probability they would commit depredations which would result in another war, and cost the government thousands of dollars, where it would not cost hundreds to feed them.

In view of the foregoing, I respectfully request that the matter be submitted to Congress, with the view of having an appropriation of \$250,000 made, to be used, or so much thereof as may be necessary, in furnishing said Indians with food and other necessaries of life during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. J. D. Cox,
Secretary of the Interior.