

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES FOR PAY OF INDIAN AGENTS.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

Additional estimates for pay of Indian agents.

MARCH 3, 1855.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

I transmit to Congress herewith a communication of this date from the Secretary of the Interior, with its enclosure, and recommend that the appropriation therein asked for be made.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *March 2, 1855.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
March 2, 1855.

SIR: From a letter addressed to me by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 1st instant, a copy of which is enclosed, it appears that amendments have been made to the Indian appropriation bill, now pending, increasing the number and compensation of Indian agents, by reason of which the estimates heretofore submitted by this department for that service will prove insufficient.

I have therefore the honor to request that Congress be asked to make the following appropriations, to wit:

For compensation of three additional Indian agents—one at \$1,500, and two at \$1,000 each per annum, from 1st April to 30th June, 1855.....	\$875 00
For compensation of same from July 1, 1855, to June 30, 1856	3,500 00
For additional compensation of three Indian agents, being the difference between \$1,000 per annum, heretofore allowed to each, and \$1,500 per annum, now authorized, from the present date to 30th June next.....	500 00

For additional compensation to same, as above, from July 1, 1855, to June 30, 1856.....	\$1,500 00
For additional compensation of four sub-agents, from present date to June 30, 1855, being the difference between \$750, heretofore allowed to each per annum, and \$1,000, now authorized.....	334 00
For additional compensation to same, from July 1, 1855, to June 30, 1856	1,000 00

It is also observed that it is proposed to repeal the last proviso of the act authorizing five military reservations for the Indians in California, approved March 3, 1853. Should that proposition be adopted, it is respectfully submitted that the effect of it will be to restore the act of September 28, 1850, authorizing the appointment of Indian agents in California, and render necessary the appointment of three Indian agents, in addition to those now in the service.

The following appropriations will be needed to pay those agents, to wit:

For compensation of three Indian agents in California, from date to June 30, 1855, at \$3,000 each per annum.	\$3,000 00
For compensation of same from July 1, 1855, to June 30, 1856	9,000 00

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. McCLELLAND,

Secretary.

To the PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, March 1, 1855.

SIR: I observe that an amendment has been adopted by the Senate to the Indian appropriation bill now before Congress, and have learned authentically that the same has also been acted on favorably by the House, the object of which is, to authorize the appointment of three additional Indian agents—one at a salary of \$1,500, and two at salaries of \$1,000 per year; and also to increase the compensation of three agents from \$1,000 per year to \$1,500.

As the new agents thus to be provided would probably be appointed in a short time after the enactment of the bill, and would enter upon the discharge of their duties by the 1st proximo, the amount that would be required to pay their salaries from that date to the 30th of June, 1856, would be \$4,375; and for the payment of the increase above indicated to three agents, from March 1, 1855, to June 30, 1856, would be \$2,000; total, \$6,375.

Assuming that the amount necessary for such pay of agents, after the passage of the bill to the 30th of June next, may be provided for in the present appropriation bill, in order to make appropriation of the requisite amount under the pending bill, in the event of the concurrence of the two houses in the increase of agents and increase

of pay above mentioned, the second clause of the pending bill could be amended by striking out all after the words "hundred and fifty-four," (page 2, line 18,) and inserting "and of the increased salaries, and the additional agents authorized by this act, fifty thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars."

Should you approve the foregoing suggestions, I would respectfully recommend that the attention of Congress, or of the proper committees thereof, be immediately called to the subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.

P. S.—Since the preparation of the foregoing, I have been informed that the House has concurred in the proposition of the Senate authorizing the employment of the four sub-agents at an increased compensation of \$250 per annum each. An additional appropriation of \$1,334 will therefore be necessary to pay this increased compensation during the period elapsing, to the 30th of June next and the next fiscal year.

I have also observed that the bill as reported to the House from the Committee of Ways and Means, February 20, (page 38,) contains a clause to repeal the last proviso of the act authorizing five military reservations for the Indians in California, approved March 3, 1853. If the repeal of that proviso leaves the act of September 28, 1850, entitled "An act to authorize the appointment of Indian agents in California," in force, the appointment of three Indian agents in California will be authorized, at salaries of \$3,000 each. The Executive would be embarrassed in making the appointments, if there was no appropriation to pay the salaries of the appointees.

The amount necessary for the pay of these three agents for sixteen months would be \$12,000.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.