

APPROPRIATIONS FOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

SUBMITTING

Estimates of appropriations required for the different bands of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota.

MARCH 26, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., March 25, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of the 18th instant, and accompanying papers, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, submitting an "estimate of appropriations required for the different bands of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota, in removing them to their reservations, and subsisting them for six months after their arrival; also, for the erection of a mill at Red lake."

The attention of Congress is respectfully invited to an early consideration of the subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., March 18, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of a letter from Agent Bassett, dated the 15th instant, setting forth the necessity for removing certain Indians now residing at Otter Tail lake to the reservation at White Earth lake; also of one dated the 6th instant, relative to the removal of some of the Mississippi bands of Chippewas to their new reservations, stating the cost of such removal and of the subsistence required to feed the Indians for six months after their arrival, and recommending that funds for the purpose be appropriated at once, as the Indians will be removed early in the coming summer.

The appropriation for removing and subsisting the Indians in question, made under the treaty of May 7, 1864, with the Chippewas (see Statutes at Large,

vol. 13, p. 561,) was based upon the supposition that there were eleven hundred Indians to be removed and subsisted for six months after their arrival at their new reservation. It appears from Agent Bassett's letter of the 6th instant that seven hundred and thirty-four persons have been removed, and that there are nineteen hundred and sixty-six more to be taken to said reservation. The agent thinks it will cost \$15,000 additional to remove those still remaining at their old homes, and \$87,398 84 in addition to the amount already appropriated, to subsist them for six months thereafter.

The cost of removing and subsisting the Indians now at Otter Tail lake is embraced in the foregoing amounts. These Indians are a portion of the Pillager band of Chippewas, whose reservation is at Leech lake. They have always refused to go to said reservation, but have expressed a desire to move to the new reservation belonging to the Mississippi bands at White Earth lake, which the Mississippi Indians—Agent Bassett says—are willing and anxious to have them do. The lands now occupied by them belong to the government. They are being rapidly settled, and it is a matter of absolute necessity for the Indians to be removed at once, or we may expect trouble and difficulty between them and the white settlers.

The amount of funds estimated by Agent Bassett to be necessary to effect the peaceable removal of all these Indians and to subsist them for six months thereafter may appear large; but if all the bands scattered through Minnesota can be removed from the lands ceded by them to the United States to the reservations provided for them by treaty stipulations, and cared for until such time as they are able to raise a crop, at a cost of not exceeding \$102,398 84, the amount estimated by the agent to be necessary, it is the opinion of this office that the result of such removal and the benefits and advantages to be derived therefrom by the white settlers, as well as the avoidance of future troubles with the Indians in that section of the country, would be of far more value and benefit to the country at large than the sum required to accomplish the desired objects.

I enclose herewith an estimate of appropriations required to remove the Indians in question and to subsist them for six months thereafter; also for the erection of a mill at Red lake, which, as will be seen by Agent Bassett's letter of the 5th, (copy herewith,) has been totally destroyed by the bursting of the boiler; and, if you concur in the views herein expressed, I respectfully request that the same be laid before Congress for such action as in its wisdom may be deemed proper and just.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR, *Commissioner.*

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1868.

SIR: Referring to our conversation this day in relation to a mill at Red lake, I would say that the mill which was built at Red lake has been totally destroyed by the bursting of the boiler, and that the Indians are very desirous to have another built for them. They have raised this year from six to seven thousand bushels of corn, besides a good quantity of potatoes and other vegetables. The only use they can make of the corn is to boil it, which they are forced to do. The remoteness and almost inaccessibility of their location renders it very difficult to keep a steam mill in repair. I have examined a stream that flows into the lake at their settlement and find a good mill site for a water mill. I would therefore recommend that an appropriation be made for the purpose of building them a mill at the place above referred to. I think that with an ap-

propriation of ten thousand dollars I can build them a good saw-mill and grist-mill that will answer their purposes for years to come. Such a mill could be kept in repair by the employes, and would always be ready to do their work. The mill that they have had there has been of but very little use to them, having been out of repair most of the time.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. BASSETT,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1868.

SIR: Referring to our conversation this day, I would say that in relation to the Indians who live at Otter Tail lake, in Otter Tail county, State of Minnesota, they are a part of the Pillager bands, and number from four to five hundred; that they have always lived there, that county being a part of the country ceded by the Pillagers to the United States, those Indians never having been removed. The country is rapidly being settled by the whites, and the Indians are a great annoyance to them, numerous complaints having been made to me by the settlers and threats of open hostilities unless the Indians are removed. I have consulted the Indians, and they expressed a desire to move to the new reservation at White Earth lake if they could be treated as the Mississippi Indians were. The Mississippi Indians are willing and anxious to have them go with them. I would therefore respectfully request that I be directed to remove said Indians in accordance with their wishes to said reservation. My opinion is that unless they are removed the government will be forced to send a military force there to keep peace between them and the settlers.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. BASSETT,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1868.

SIR: Referring to your letter of instructions of August, 1867, I find that additional appropriations will be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the treaty of May 7, 1864, and February 9, 1865. Article twelve of said treaty provides that the government of the United States shall provide the said Indians with transportation and subsistence to their new homes, and subsistence thereafter for six months.

In pursuance of your instructions I have removed seven hundred and thirty-four (734) of said Indians to their new reservations, and they are being subsisted in accordance with your instructions and the treaty stipulations.

The appropriation heretofore made was for the removal and subsistence of eleven hundred Indians. There are of the Mississippi bands about 2,100, and of the Otter Tail bands about 500, making in all 2,600; from which amount deduct 734 already removed, and it will leave 1,966 still to be removed. The estimate for the removal was ten dollars per capita, which sum is as small an amount as it can be done for, and the contract for subsistence is 34 $\frac{37}{100}$ cents per ration per day. The whole sum necessary for the removal, including the Otter Tail bands, will be \$26,000; from which deduct the amount already appro-

priated, (\$11,000,) and it will leave a deficiency of \$15,000. The subsistence of the aforesaid Indians upon their new reservations at the contract price will amount to the sum of \$162,638 84; from which deduct the amount already appropriated, (\$75,240,) and it will leave a deficiency of \$87,398 84 to be provided for.

I respectfully recommend that the above amounts may be appropriated, as the Indians will be removed early in the present summer. I would also earnestly recommend that the sum of \$10,000 be appropriated to build a mill for the Red Lake Indians, the reasons of which are set forth in my letter of the 5th instant.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. BASSETT,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Estimate of appropriations required for the different bands of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota, in removing them to their reservations, and subsisting them for six months after their arrival; also, for the erection of a mill at Red lake.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to defray the expenses incident to the removal of the scattering bands of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota to their reservations	\$15,000 00
For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, in addition to the residue of the funds already appropriated for the object, to subsist the scattering bands of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota for six months after their arrival at their new reservations	87,398 84
For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to erect a new mill at Red lake for the use of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota	10,000 00
	112,398 84
	112,398 84