

INDIANS OF ALEUTIAN ISLES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RECOMMENDING

That an appropriation be made to be expended in presents to the Indians of the Aleutian isles, in Alaska.

MARCH 24, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., March 23, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 19th instanc, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with copy of a letter from the honorable the Secretary of State of the 18th, enclosing copy of letter addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury by Captain W. A. Howard, of the United States revenue marine, representing the propriety and necessity of making a small present of clothing and tobacco to the chiefs of the Koloshian Indians and the Aleutian priests, on the Aleutian isles, in Alaska, and respectfully invite the attention of Congress to the subject, and request that an appropriation adequate to the object recommended be made.

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 19, 1868.

SIR: Referring to the matter of presenting the chiefs of the Koloshian Indians and the Aleutian priests, on the Aleutian isles, in Alaska, with a small quantity of clothing and tobacco, as recommended in a letter from Captain W. A. Howard, United States revenue marine, a copy of which was referred to this office

from your department on the 20th instant, I have to say that, having conversed with Captain Howard in regard to the matter, I am satisfied, if the Indians in question are to be cared for by this government, that the policy recommended by him to be pursued toward them, for the present, is the correct one, and that steps should be taken without delay to procure the necessary articles.

There are no funds, however, now, at the disposal of the department that can be used for purchasing the required articles, and if you concur with me in the views herein expressed, respecting the propriety of making the purchases, I respectfully suggest that the matter be laid before Congress for such action in the premises as that body may deem proper.

I return herewith all the papers in the case referred to this office by your department on the 20th ultimo.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 18, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter, of the 28th ultimo, addressed to the Treasury Department by Captain W. A. Howard, of the revenue marine, and referred by the Secretary of the Treasury to this department. I will thank you to inform me whether you have the power to carry out the suggestion therein contained, and whether it meets your approval.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

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

WASHINGTON, *January 28, 1868.*

SIR: I would respectfully call the attention of the proper department to the propriety of making a small present to each of the Koloshian chiefs, as also to the Aleutian priests, on the Aleutian isles, in Alaska.

The former require this as evidence of recognition of their new rulers in their capacity of chiefs of their tribes—and hence responsible for the acts of those tribes—the acceptance on their part as recognizing the sovereignty of the United States (Bostons) over their country.

To the second, as an earnest of the kind feelings and protection they will receive from the government of the United States. The priests at present maintain a healthful control over their people, which would be unfortunate to lessen. I desire the government may continue—if not strengthen—their influence for good. Some small provision will undoubtedly be made for their maintenance—they occupy the position of school-teachers also—beyond the small pittance they receive from individuals, as the allowance they receive from the Russian American Fur Company has ceased.

I visited nearly all the principal Koloshian chiefs, and am aware of their expectations in regard to presents; and, in order to keep them friendly, I promised to state their wishes to the Great (Boston) Chief. I have the names of all the chiefs and tribes to whom I consider it necessary to make presents.

Three thousand dollars (\$3,000) I consider sufficient, properly expended in clothing, with a small quantity of tobacco. Should the department deem it expedient to appropriate the amount and confide its expenditure to me, I will at once procure the materials, and, when prepared, place them in the hands of a proper agent, to be distributed in accordance with meaning and intent of the requirement.

I am, very respectfully,

W. A. HOWARD,

Captain U. S. Revenue Marine, Commanding Alaska Expedition.

Hon. HUGH McCULLOCH,

Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.