
APPROPRIATIONS FOR NAVAJO INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN RELATION TO

The appropriation of \$75,000 made July 15, 1870, for feeding Navajo Indians in New Mexico.

JANUARY 12, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 6, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report of this date from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the accompanying paper therein referred to, in relation to the Navajo Indians in New Mexico, to be considered in connection with my recommendation, communicated to Congress on the 19th ultimo, in relation to the appropriation of \$75,000 made for said Indians, per act approved July 15, 1870—that said amount be made available for feeding the Navajoes during the current fiscal year.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 6, 1871.

SIR: Referring to office report of the 7th ultimo, in relation to the item of \$75,000 embraced in the "Act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the year ending June 30, 1871, and for other purposes," approved July 15, 1870, to be used for the purpose of subsisting the Navajo Indians, I have the honor to inclose herewith two copies of a report upon the subject from Special Indian Agent W. F. M. Army, and respectfully request that they be referred

to Congress at an early day, to be considered in connection with other papers in the case.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER, *Commissioner.*

Hon. COLUMBUS DELANO,

Secretary of the Interior.

No. 1211 I STREET, January 5, 1871.

SIR: Circumstances which will be apparent to you upon reading this communication, have rendered it necessary that I should ask your attention, at the earliest possible moment, to what I have said in my report No. 4, dated Abiquiu Indian Agency, New Mexico, July 19, 1870, in regard to the Navajo Indians, and also to the following extract from a letter I have just received from Mr. Thomas V. Kearns, interpreter for the Navajo Indians, dated Fort Defiance, December 9, 1870, in which he writes as follows, viz:

The new agent has not arrived, and I think he will have his hands full as soon as he does. If these Indians are not fed the beef will be out in two days, and all fear the consequences; even some of the Indians, who say they will not be safe with their own stock, as those who have none will surely kill from those that have.

It looks like a strange policy of the Government making them presents of a lot of sheep, and then stop feeding them, to give them a chance to eat them up, steal or starve; the Indians are not wholly to blame, as you can testify that they worked hard and steady, but the late frosts killed their crops. It is true there are a few who raised large crops, but this will not feed the whole nation; and those who will suffer first and most are the poor old men and women, who cannot help themselves.

I visited these Indians last summer and traveled through their corn and wheat fields, and saw that they had planted largely, but owing to a late frost there would not be enough to feed them through the winter, and till they could raise a new crop. They are now left by the Government, under their treaty, without means of subsistence except the 15,000 sheep and goats which were furnished to them in conformity with the treaty and the humane peace policy of President Grant, to enable them to have the means to manufacture blankets and clothing, in which they are well skilled, as is fully exemplified by various samples which I have with me here.

I am fully convinced that they will not only destroy their own flocks and herds, but will also destroy those of our citizens, as they have in former years shown that *they will steal before they will starve*, and which may cause an expensive war, all of which may be prevented if these 8,500 Navajo Indians on this reservation are continued to be fed till they can raise a crop next season.

I therefore most earnestly entreat you to give this subject immediate consideration, so as to obtain immediate action by Congress thereon.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. F. M. ARNY,

Special Agent for Indian service in New Mexico.

Hon. E. S. PARKER,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.