

APPROPRIATION FOR PAWNEE INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

CALLING FOR AN

*Appropriation of \$8,400 to provide school facilities for the children of the Pawnee tribe of Indians.*

JANUARY 11, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 9, 1872.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report, dated the 19th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying papers, representing the necessity of an appropriation by Congress to provide school facilities for the children of the Pawnee tribe of Indians.

I invite the attention of Congress to the subject, and recommend that an appropriation of \$8,400 be made agreeably to the estimate herewith submitted.

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., December 19, 1871.*

SIR: I have the honor to lay before you the inclosed copy of a letter from S. M. Janney, B. Hallowell, and other members of a "Committee of Friends," representing that the appropriations heretofore made by Congress for the use and benefit of the Pawnee tribe of Indians have not proved sufficient to afford instruction to one-half of the children of the tribe, while by the terms of the 3d article of the treaty of September 24, 1857, (Stat., vol. 11, p. 730,) the Pawnees are required, on their part, to keep every one of their children constantly at school at least nine months in each year.

To enable them to comply with this requirement, and to extend facilities for education to all the children of the tribe, the committee recommends that the sum of \$4,500 be provided for the erection of two school-houses in addition to those already erected, and \$3,900 annually, hereafter, for the support of said schools, and for the employment of six teachers.

By the 3d article of the treaty referred to, the United States agree to establish among and for the use and benefit of the Pawnees two manual-labor schools, to be increased to four if the President shall deem it necessary; and that a sum not less than \$5,000 per annum shall be applied to the support of each school so long as the Pawnees shall in good faith comply with their obligations to keep all their children in attendance.

Whatever may be held as to a positive obligation on the part of the Government to provide facilities of instruction for all the children of the Pawnees corresponding to the obligation of the Pawnees to keep all their children under instruction, there certainly can be no question that it is most desirable to keep up with, and even in a degree ahead of, the willingness of this or any other Indian tribe to improve opportunities of education.

The request of the Committee of Friends in the premises meets, therefore, the approval of this office, and I have the honor to recommend that Congress be asked to make the appropriation of \$8,400 as per estimate inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. C. DELANO,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

SANDY SPRINGS, MARYLAND,  
*Twelfthmonth 1, 1871.*

RESPECTED FRIEND: The undersigned having been appointed a committee to act on behalf of the Six Yearly Meetings of Friends, to whose care was assigned by the Government the Indians of the northern superintendency, respectfully represent:

That the schools provided for the children of the Pawnee tribe of Indians are not sufficient to fulfill the treaty obligations of the Government, as stipulated in article 3d of the treaty with the Pawnees, concluded September 24, 1857.

By that article the Pawnees are required to keep every one of their children between the ages of seven and eighteen constantly at school, for at least nine months in each year, and parents or guardians failing to do so are liable to have a part of their annuities withheld. This certainly implies a correlative duty on the part of the Government to furnish schools for all the children of the tribe; but the manual-labor boarding-schools and the day-school recently opened are not sufficient to accommodate half the children, nor has there been, within the last three years, an appropriation by Congress sufficient for the purpose.

The manual-labor boarding-schools, now under the care of two teachers in one building, have usually about seventy pupils, and with an additional dormitory for boys might accommodate one hundred scholars.

The day-school recently opened has fifty pupils, and is much prized by the tribe. The house in which it is kept cost about \$1,500, including a dwelling for an educated Indian and his wife, who take care of the property.

We estimate for two such school-houses, and school furniture for the same,	
\$1,500 each .....	\$3,000 00
Dormitory for manual-labor school.....	1,500 00
Salary for 3 teachers of day-schools, \$800 each .....	2,400 00
Salary for 3 assistants, at \$400 each.....	1,200 00
Fuel and stationery for three day-schools.....	300 00

Total .....	<u>8,400 00</u>
-------------	-----------------

Believing, as we do, that the Government is bound by the treaty aforesaid to provide means for the education of all the Pawnee children, we request thy aid in obtaining from Congress the desired appropriation, and suggest for consideration that the vast extent of fertile territory ceded to the United States by the Pawnees, together with the loyalty and general good conduct of the tribe, give them a strong claim upon the liberality of the nation.

Very respectfully, thy friends,

SAMUEL M. JANNEY.  
 BENJAMIN HALLOWELL.  
 B. RUSH ROBERTS.  
 RICHARD T. BENTLEY.

Hon. C. DELANO,  
*Secretary of the Interior, Washington.*

*Estimate of appropriation required to provide school facilities for all the children of the Pawnee tribe of Indians, as contemplated by the terms of the 3d article of the treaty with said tribe of September 24, 1847.*

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the erection of two school-houses, for the use and benefit of the Pawnee tribe of Indians, including dormitory for the children attending the manual-labor school, and for providing school furniture.....	\$4,500 00
For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the employment of three teachers and three assistant teachers, and providing the schools with fuel, books, and stationery, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873.....	3,900 00
Total.....	<u>8,400 00</u>