

SURVEY OF BLACK HILLS.

FEBRUARY 14, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on the Territories and ordered to be printed.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

SUBMITTING

Estimate of appropriation for expense of geological exploration and report of Black Hills country.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 14, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of report dated the 13th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, upon the subject of the survey of the so-called Black Hills, by Professor Walter P. Jenney, Engineer of Mines, &c., under direction of this Department, dated 26th March, 1875.

As the country known as the Black Hills is within the area reserved to the Sioux Indians by treaty stipulation, and any invasion of it by unauthorized parties might have occasioned serious difficulty with these warlike tribes, it seemed not only expedient, but highly necessary, in view of the excited state of the country consequent upon the statements in circulation through the medium of the press and otherwise, that the truth or falsity of the reports relative to the mineral wealth of that region should be ascertained in order that, in the event of required legislation, the subject might be understandingly presented to Congress for its early action.

The work of the survey has been thoroughly executed, and its necessity amply demonstrated, but no fund exists applicable to the payment of the expenses incident thereto. I therefore respectfully present an estimate of appropriation for \$25,000, submitted by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for the purpose named, together with the copies of correspondence noted in his report, before referred to, and earnestly recommend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Z. CHANDLER,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 13, 1876.

SIR: Referring to letter from the Department of the 26th March, 1875, advising this Office that Prof. Walter P. Jenney, Engineer of Mines, had been appointed geologist to explore the so-called Black Hills, I have the honor to state that the survey in question has been performed by Professor Jenney and his assistants, who are now in this city working up the results of their exploration.

The intention of this Office, having in view the very general and urgent demand for further information as to the mineral and other resources of this region, and sanctioned by your predecessor, being that the expenses of the survey should be paid from the "beneficial-object fund," appropriated for the Sioux Indians, who claim the ownership of this section, no special appropriation was asked, or, as matter of fact, Congress not being in session, could at the time be obtained, to meet these expenses, but funds from the appropriation above named were placed to his credit, and accounts for his necessary expenses were allowed by this Office and forwarded to the Second Auditor of the Treasury for settlement until December 3, 1875.

Upon that date certain of these accounts were returned by the Second Auditor, (see copy of letter herewith,) and the attention of this Office called to section 3681, page 728, of the United States Revised Statutes. This section, enacted August 26, 1842, provides that "no accounting or disbursing officer of the Government shall allow or pay any account or charge whatever growing out of or in any way connected with any commission or inquiry * * * until special appropriation shall have been made by law to pay such accounts and charges."

This provision of law, which had probably escaped the attention of my predecessor, leaves Mr. Jenney and his assistants, and other persons to whom the expedition has become necessarily indebted, without means for settling their accounts, while I am free to confess to some embarrassment in being obliged to suspend action, for want of funds, upon claims so meritorious.

I have, therefore, prepared, and have the honor to inclose herewith, an estimate of appropriation that will be required to meet all the expenses above referred to, and to re-imburse the appropriation for "beneficial objects," for the Sioux, from which the funds had, prior to the decision of the Second Auditor, been drawn and placed to Professor Jenney's credit.

This amount, together with the charges necessarily incident to the preparation and completion of Professor Jenney's final report, is shown, by the statement inclosed, to be \$22,283.48. I am disposed to increase this amount to the sum of \$25,000, to provide for unforeseen contingencies in the preparation of Professor Jenney's report.

In connection with the above, I also submit copy of letter from Prof. J. S. Newberry, State geologist of Ohio and professor of geology at the School of Mines in New York City, under date of the 6th instant, wherein Professor Newberry gives not unexpected commendation to Professor Jenney's collection of geological specimens, and to such of the other results and notes of his explorations as have been informally presented for inspection and technical criticism.

I also inclose a copy of a communication which I received from Professor Jenney yesterday, in which he has briefly sketched the history

of the expedition, and makes acknowledgment of services rendered by the officers of the Army. I respectfully request that this matter be laid before Congress with such favorable recommendations for early action by that honorable body as may be deemed advisable by the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
SECOND AUDITOR'S OFFICE,
December 3, 1875.

SIR: I respectfully return herewith the claims enumerated hereafter, viz: In favor of J. D. Beivre for \$164.15, of Henry S. Neal for \$304, of Asa Hodges for \$160, of B. F. Hawkes for \$583.98, of Albert Swalm for \$472, of John S. Collins for \$736, and of Abram Comingo for \$856, received from your Office for settlement October 1, 12, and 26, and November 19, 1875, respectively.

These claims are all for services in connection with commissions of inquiry or investigations, and it is believed that this Office is forbidden by law (see section 3681 United States Revised Statutes, page 728) to report them to the Second Comptroller for payment.

As Congress will be in session within a few days, it is, in justice to the claimants, considered best to return the claims, that such estimates may be submitted, for special appropriation, as you may deem proper. The same question is involved in the claim of H. R. Sullivan, stenographer to the Red Cloud commission, not yet finally adjusted.

Very respectfully,

E. B. FRENCH,
Second Auditor.

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 8, 1876.

SIR: In accordance with your request, I have the honor to present the following estimates for the cost of preparation of geological report of the exploration of the Black Hills, with its accompanying maps, and also a statement of the expenses of the survey.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WALTER P. JENNEY, E. M.,
Geological Exploration of the Black Hills.

Hon. J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Statement showing the cost of survey of the Black Hills country, and preparation of geological report of exploration of the same, under directions of Prof. Walter P. Jenney, E. M.

Botany.....	\$50 00
Examination of rocks collected.....	50 00
Assays of gold-ores and chemical analyses.....	200 00
Paleontology, with drawings and descriptions of new fossils collected.....	500 00
Freight and express on collections.....	50 00
Stationery, photographs, telegrams, copying report.....	150 00
Salary, extra draughtsman on preliminary map.....	70 00
Photolithographing.....	80 00
Desk purchased by order of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.....	40 00
Salary of assistant draughtsman on final maps for two months.....	300 00
Account of expenditures by Walter P. Jenney, rendered November 4.....	9,943 34
Account of A. E. Guerrin, subsequently rendered November 30.....	350 50
Account of Henry Newton, assistant geologist, rendered November 15.....	2,225 15
Account of V. T. McGillycuddy, topographer, rendered to November 1.....	825 18
Salary of H. P. Tuttle for July, August, and September.....	300 00

Account of H. P. Tuttle, astronomer, rendered to January 1, 1876	\$135 31
Salary of Walter P. Jenney from November 4 to April 15	1,650 00
Traveling-expenses and subsistence from November 1 to April 15.....	500 00
Salary of Henry Newton from November 1 to April 15.....	1,500 00
Subsistence from November 1 to April 15.....	300 00
Salary for V. T. McGillicuddy from November 1 to April 15.....	687 50
Subsistence for V. T. McGillicuddy from November 1 to April 15.....	300 00
Salary for H. P. Tuttle from November 1 to April 15.....	350 00
Subsistence from November 1 to April 15.....	250 00
Bills presented to Commissioner of Indian Affairs for instruments, &c.....	283 50
Account of C. G. Newberry, assistant astronomer, for traveling-expenses...	150 00
Account of John Brown for traveling-expenses.....	43 00
Cost of transportation furnished members of survey.....	1,000 00
Total	22,283 48

SCHOOL OF MINES, COLUMBIA COLLEGE,
CORNER FORTY-NINTH STREET AND FOURTH AVENUE,
New York, January 6, 1876.

DEAR SIR: At the request of Professor Jenney, I have examined the notes and collections of the Black Hills expedition, and forward to you a brief statement of the nature and value of the materials brought in by the geologists.

1st. The geological collections are quite large and are of special interest. These, with the field-notes of the geologists, will furnish the material for one of the most complete and interesting geological monographs ever published. The structure of the Black Hills seems to have been fully made out, and the conclusions of Messrs. Jenney and Newton seem to be confirmed in all essential particulars by the specimens which they have submitted to my inspection.

2d. Should the reports of Messrs. Jenney and Newton be published with illustrations of the material new to science which they have brought in, they will form one of the most exhaustive and creditable memoirs produced by our Government surveys, and I doubt if any material has been furnished by our western exploring parties better worth giving to the public.

3d. The cost of the preparation for report on the fossils collected, with drawings and descriptions of the new species, would not exceed \$500.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

J. S. NEWBERRY.

Hon. J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 11, 1876.

SIR: In accordance with your request, I have the honor to present the following brief statement respecting the exploration of the Black Hills, of Dakota, made under my direction the past season.

I was appointed March 26, 1875, geologist in charge of the survey of the Black Hills, with Mr. Henry Newton as assistant geologist, by the honorable Secretary of the Interior, with instructions to proceed to Cheyenne, Wyo., and outfit the expedition at that place. Subsequently a topographer, astronomer, and assistant astronomer were appointed to aid me in the work. In compliance with instructions from the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I furnished bonds as a disbursing-officer in the sum of \$5,000. From time to time during the survey funds were deposited with the assistant treasurer at New York, subject to my order, which I expended in the purchase of supplies, payment of wages of employés, and other contingent expenses of the work; the aggregate of such deposits made to my official credit and disbursed by me was \$10,100. This did not include payment of salary and expenses of my assistants who individually presented their claims to the Indian Office for settlement on returning from the field in November.

The total cost of the seven months' field-work, including the cost of the aneroid and surveying instruments, was about \$15,000, an extremely small expenditure, which is due to the material aid and assistance given me by the War Department, which kindly furnished wagons, ambulance, team, and pack-mules, saddle-horses, equipage, tents, and harness, together with teamsters and professional packers, (paid by the

War Department,) and also allowed me to purchase at cost rations for my party of fifteen men from the Commissary of Subsistence.

The mineral and agricultural resources of the Black Hills, and the work accomplished by the survey, are briefly reviewed in a preliminary report made by me, accompanying the Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1875, (page 181.)

I am at present engaged with the astronomer, topographer, and assistant geologist, in the preparation of the "Final report on the geology and mineral wealth of the Black Hills," and its accompanying maps, which work, notwithstanding many unforeseen delays, I hope to present to Congress for publication by April 15.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WALTER P. JENNEY, E. M.,
Geologist Expedition of the Black Hills.

Hon. J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Estimate of appropriation required to meet the expenses of the survey of the Black Hills country.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may absolutely be necessary, to pay the expenses of the survey of the Black Hills country under Professor W. P. Jenney, including the expenses incident to the preparation of his final report, said sum to be available for immediate use..... \$25,000

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