

MALHEUR RESERVATION, OREGON.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

RECOMMENDING

*An amendment to the Indian appropriation bill for Malheur reservation,  
in Oregon.*

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JANUARY 13, 1875.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 11, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report, dated the 9th instant, of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, recommending that the Indian appropriation bill now pending before the House of Representatives be amended by striking out, after the word "improvement," in line 1655, the words "thirty-five thousand," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "eighty-three thousand four hundred and eighty-three." This appropriation is needed for the civilization and subsistence of Indians on the Malheur reservation, Oregon.

A copy of a communication from Agent Parrish to the Hon. J. H. Mitchell, United States Senate, and of a letter of Senator Mitchell, dated the 27th ultimo, together with the estimate of the agent, therein referred to, are also herewith inclosed.

The recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the premises is approved, and the favorable consideration of the subject by Congress is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

*The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 9, 1875.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from the Department, of a letter from Hon. J. H. Mitchell, United States Senator, dated the 27th ultimo, in which he states that the amount (\$40,000) embraced in the general estimate of appropriations for the Indian service during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, for civilization and subsistence of Indians on the Malheur reservation, Oregon, is in

his judgment and in the judgment of Mr. Parrish, the agent in charge, wholly inadequate to meet the wants of that agency for the period indicated, and that the result of an insufficient appropriation can but result in a heavy deficiency at the end of the year. He also transmits a communication from Agent Parrish, dated December 6, 1874, including a copy of an estimate heretofore submitted to this office, calling for the sum of \$83,483 for the civilization and subsistence of Indians collected on the said reservation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, and, with the remark that the appropriations heretofore made have been entirely inadequate, earnestly urges that a new estimate be submitted to Congress for said agency in accordance with the estimate above referred to and submitted by the said agent.

Adopting the views of Senator Mitchell in the premises, and being satisfied that the amount embraced in the present Indian appropriation bill, as reported to the House, for the purpose above referred to, will prove insufficient, I respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to amend the said bill as follows, viz. strike out, after the word "improvement," in line 1655, the words "thirty-five thousand," and insert in lieu thereof "eighty-three thousand four hundred and eighty-three."

The papers in the case are herewith returned, with advice that the deficiencies referred to in the Senator's letter have already been estimated for.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,  
Washington, December 27, 1874.

DEAR SIR: The Department estimate heretofore made for the Malheur Indian (\$40,000) is, in my judgment, and in the judgment of Mr. Parrish, the agent in charge, wholly inadequate to meet the wants of that agency for the next fiscal year, and the result of an insufficient appropriation can but result in a heavy deficiency at the end of the year, which is of course undesirable to the Department, the agent, and all concerned. I am just in receipt of a copy of estimates submitted by Mr. Parrish, which I herewith inclose, amounting, in all, for next fiscal year, to \$88,483. The appropriations heretofore made for this agency have been entirely inadequate. I therefore earnestly urge that a new estimate be submitted to Congress for this agency, in accordance with the estimates submitted by Mr. Parrish, who is on the ground, and is fully advised as to the necessities of the case. I also inclose Mr. Parrish's communication to me. I would be pleased to have all papers herewith submitted returned to me, with the answer of Department separately, in reference to estimates for next fiscal year, and to deficiencies for the past. An early answer is desirable.

Respectfully,

J. H. MITCHELL.

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

MALHEUR INDIAN AGENCY, OREGON,  
December 7, 1874.

SIR: I have this day mailed to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs an estimate of funds required for the Indian service at this agency, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, and also a list of outstanding debts against this agency, with the request that the amount be included in the deficiency bill.

I take the liberty of sending you a copy of the estimate—also list of outstanding debts—most respectfully soliciting your influence toward securing the amount estimated for, as well as having the amount of liabilities recognized and provided for.

This is a new agency; consequently our necessities are numerous. I have not estimated for one dollar more than is really needed to put us on a sound basis. The amounts carried out for the various articles have been calculated from extremely low figures in currency, and if I can secure this amount the coming year, I shall be able to get things in good running order.

The Indians under my charge are wholly unused to labor of any description, and it will require a great amount of patience on my part to induce them to undertake any manual labor.

I hope that before another year shall have passed to be able to make a report of the condition of affairs at this agency which will be more than satisfactory to the Department.

My earnest desire to get this agency free from debt, and to carry out the desires and expectations of the Department with regard to these Indians, is my excuse for trespassing upon your valuable time.

Hoping that you will use your best endeavors toward accomplishing this result,

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

SAM. B. PARRISH.

Hon. J. H. MITCHELL,  
Washington, D. C.

*Estimate of funds required for the Indian service at Malheur agency for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, by Sam. B. Parrish, United States Indian agent.*

Objects for which funds are required.	Amount of estimate.	Objects for which funds on hand will be needed.
<i>For civilization and subsistence of Indians collected on Malheur Indian reservation, Oregon, for year ending June 30, 1876.</i>		<i>For 800 Indians.      Currency.</i>
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>		Flour for 1 year, 288,000 pounds, at 5 cents per pound ..... \$14,400 00
<i>For the purchase of goods, subsistence stores, &amp;c., for the Indians collected on the Malheur reservation, Oregon, for instructing said Indians in agricultural and mechanical pursuits, providing employés, educating children, procuring medicines and medical attendance, and for such general beneficial objects as the condition and necessities of the Indians may demand .....</i>	\$83,483 00	Beef for 1 year, 360,000 pounds, at 7½ cents per pound ..... 27,000 00
<i>For pay of agent.</i>		Sugar, tea, rice, beans, &c. .... 1,500 00
<i>Pay of agent for one year, at \$1,500 per annum .....</i>	1,500 00	Medicines ..... 500 00
<i>For pay of interpreter.</i>		Pay of the following employés, viz:
<i>Pay of interpreter for one year, at \$500 per annum .....</i>	500 00	Commissary ..... 1,200 00
<i>For general incidental expenses.</i>		Physician ..... 1,200 00
<i>Pay of traveling expenses of the agent and general incidental expenses of the agency for one year .....</i>	3,000 00	Teacher ..... 1,000 00
		Mail-carrier ..... 1,200 00
		Carpenter ..... 1,200 00
		Blacksmith ..... 1,200 00
		Supt. of farming.... 1,200 00
		Farmer ..... 1,000 00
		For purchase of blankets and clothing..... 8,870 00
		For purchase of plows, horses, and oxen..... 880 00
		For the erection of a grist-mill..... 6,000 00
		For the purchase of lumber for houses, barn, fencing, &c., and shingles..... 10,133 00
		For miscellaneous purchases, such as hardware, paints, stationery, and all other necessary articles..... 5,000 00
	88,483 00	83,483 00

SAM. B. PARRISH,  
United States Indian Agent.