

INDIAN SERVICE IN CALIFORNIA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate of appropriation for the Indian service in California.

JANUARY 19, 1875.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 18, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report, dated the 16th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, together with an estimate of appropriation required for the Indian service in California, in the sum of thirty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary to supply a deficiency in the proceeds of the sale of lands in the Round Valley Indian reservation, in California, applicable to the payment of settlers for improvements on said reservation, appraised in accordance with the act of March 3, 1873, entitled "An act to restore a part of the Round Valley Indian reservation, in California, to the public lands, and for other purposes," and to liquidate such claims on said reservation as shall be found valid by virtue of pre-emption or homestead entry.

The favorable consideration of Congress is respectfully invited to this subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 16, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the following, viz: By the act of Congress approved March 3, 1873, entitled "An act to restore a part of the Round Valley Indian reservation, in California, to the public lands, and for other purposes," (Stat., 17, p. 633,) provision is made for the sale of the lands restored at not less than \$1.25 per acre, cash, and that the proceeds, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be used to pay for the improvements and claims of settlers residing within the limits of the new reservation created by said act, and for improvements of Indians on the lands thereby restored to the public

lands, after such improvements shall have been appraised and the appraisement approved. It is also provided that the Secretary of the Interior shall appoint three commissioners to make such appraisement, and that he "shall cause the same to be paid to such settlers or Indians out of the money hereinbefore reserved for such purpose," and further, that the settlers shall be required to remove from the new reservation "as soon as they shall be paid for or tendered the amount of the appraised value of their improvements."

The report and appraisement of the commissioners appointed under the provisions of the act in question were approved by the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, under date of the 4th August last, and show the total amount awarded settlers to be \$32,669.78. No report in regard to Indian improvements, as provided by the act, accompanies the appraisement, nor is it shown that any notice was taken of such improvements, or that any such improvements existed.

In addition to the sum of \$32,669.78 due settlers for improvements, it is stated by the commissioners that the sum of \$20,000 will be required to settle claims to the lands themselves which have been acquired by pre-emption, homestead, and purchase, making a total of \$52,669.78. The amount now on the books of this office, realized from the sale of the restored lands and applicable to the payment of the awards made to settlers, is \$15,920.33, and it is estimated that the total amount to be realized will not exceed \$27,000, thus leaving a deficiency of \$25,669.78 to be appropriated by Congress. In order to meet this deficiency, it was suggested by the commissioners of appraisal, consisting of Hon. J. P. C. Shanks, Hon. B. R. Cowen, and Charles Marsh, that an appraisement be authorized of the lands restored to market, which were considered very valuable, and estimated by them to be worth \$54,400.

In accordance with their recommendation a draught of a bill to so amend the act of March 3, 1873, as to authorize such appraisement, was submitted to the Department for the action of Congress January 7, 1874, but no favorable action appears to have been taken by that body.

In view of the foregoing, and in order that the settlers hereinbefore referred to may be paid the appraised value of their improvements, and be required to remove from the reservation, I respectfully recommend that Congress be requested to appropriate the sum of \$30,000, which amount, with so much of the proceeds of the sale of the lands herein referred to as may be necessary for the purpose, shall be used to pay for such improvements and the value of such claims as shall be found valid by virtue of pre-emption or homestead entry, as aforesaid.

An estimate of said appropriation is herewith submitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Estimate of appropriation required for the Indian service in California.

For: this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary to supply a deficiency in the proceeds of the lands in the Round Valley Indian reservation, applicable for the payment of the improvements of settlers on said reservation, appraised in accordance with the act of March 3, 1873, entitled "An act to restore a part of the Round Valley Indian reservation, in California, to the public lands, and for other purposes," and to liquidate such claims on said reservation as shall be found valid by virtue of pre-emption or homestead entry..... \$30,000