

NEZ PERCÉ INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of an appropriation for the removal of the Nez Percé Indians from the Indian Territory.

JANUARY 15, 1885.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
January 14, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith, for the consideration of Congress, an estimate of appropriation received from the Secretary of the Interior for the removal of the Nez Percé Indians now in the Indian Territory to some other location, \$10,000.

Very respectfully,

H. McCULLOCH,
Secretary.

The Hon. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 12, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for presentation to Congress, as directed in section 2 of the act of July 7, 1884 (pamph. ed. U. S. Stats., p. 254), copy of a communication of the 10th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with item of appropriation in the sum of \$10,000 therein noted, required for the removal of the Nez Percé Indians now in the Indian Territory to some other location.

I will add that steps were taken looking to the return of these Indians to their old home in Idaho during the past year, as contemplated in the act of July 4, 1884 (23 Stat., p. 90), but it was found that on account of the feeling existing against Joseph and certain headmen of the tribe, and the fact that indictments were standing against certain of the Nez Percés in the region formerly occupied by them, it would be unsafe to return a few of them to Idaho.

An endeavor was made to ascertain the wishes of those of Joseph's band who could be safely returned to their old homes, and under a misunderstanding it was reported that they did not desire to be separated. It is now found that the members of the band against whom no objection exists are anxious to return to Idaho, and as it is considered wise to return so many as may be safely sent back to Idaho, I recommend the appropriation as requested.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,
Acting Secretary.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 10, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith an estimate of an amount required for the Nez Percé Indians now in the Indian Territory, to enable this office to remove them, amounting to \$10,000.

From the best information that can be obtained, it appears evident that justice and humanity both require that these Indians should be removed from their present location.

The funds at the disposal of this office which can be used for that purpose are insufficient, but if an appropriation of \$10,000 is made, to be available immediately, it will enable the Department, with the balance now on hand from the appropriation made in the act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian service for the fiscal year 1885, approved July 4, 1884 (Stats. 23, page 90), to remove these Indians to some other location, where, among their friends, their condition will be improved.

This removal will involve no additional expense for agents or agency employés, and I therefore recommend that a copy of this letter, together with the item of appropriation for \$10,000, be forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for transmittal to the Speaker of the House, to be incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1886.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

ITEM OF APPROPRIATION TO BE INSERTED IN THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR 1886.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be required, to enable the Secretary of the Interior to remove the Nez Percé Indians now in the Indian Territory to some other location, to be available immediately..... \$10,000