

## SALARY OF COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

MARCH 9, 1882.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BUCK, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5010.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred executive communication No. 29, containing the draft of "a bill to increase the salary of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and to create the office of assistant commissioner of Indian affairs," having had the same under consideration, report the accompanying bill as a substitute therefor, and recommend its passage.

The law provides that the Commissioner shall, "under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, and agreeably to such regulations as the President may prescribe, have the management of all Indian affairs and of all matter arising out of Indian relations."

It is the duty of the Commissioner to examine and adjust all accounts for disbursements on account of Indian affairs. There is disbursed annually under his supervision about \$6,000,000. Of that amount nearly \$2,500,000 is paid for goods and supplies, bought under contract and in open market under his direction. The preservation of peace among the various tribes of Indians often depends upon the careful distribution of these goods and supplies. In addition to the above duties, the Commissioner is called upon to settle important questions of law in relation to Indian lands, &c. The intricate questions to be decided, the arduous and varied duties connected with the office, are apparent to every one who is at all conversant with Indian affairs.

The present salary of the Commissioner is \$3,000. This committee is of opinion that this salary is not a suitable compensation for the performance of the duties imposed upon the Commissioner by law, and recommend that it be increased to \$5,000, as provided for in the substitute bill.

A communication to the President from the Secretary of the Interior, upon this subject, is herewith submitted and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, January 10, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to submit therewith, for your consideration, a draft of a bill to increase the salary of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and create the office of assistant commissioner of Indian affairs.

Fully aware of the duties of the Commissioner, their responsible and arduous nature, I earnestly recommend that the measure presented may, if it meets with your approval, be commended to the favorable consideration of Congress.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. J. KIRKWOOD,  
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.