

LAWRIE TATUM.

FEBRUARY 9, 1883.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

R E P O R T :

[To accompany bill H. R. 5595.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5595) for the relief of Lawrie Tatum, have had the same under consideration, and report as follows:

The facts presented in this case show that the money claimed by Mr. Tatum was actually expended by him in the interest of the Indians and in the utmost good faith on the part of said Tatum while acting as agent for the Kiowa and Comanche Indians from 1869 to 1873.

Instead of employing two incompetent interpreters, at \$100 per quarter each, one for each tribe, as would, perhaps, be required under a very strict construction of the law, each of whom could speak one language, he employed one competent man who could speak the two languages and act for both tribes, at \$200 per quarter. On this, \$400 is disallowed by the Comptroller.

And in the erection of a school-house for these tribes he found it necessary to expend \$684.10 above the sum that had been previously agreed upon and appropriated for, in order to bring the work to completion. This sum is also disallowed by the Comptroller.

In both cases Mr. Tatum, before expending the money for the interpreter and in completing the school-house, had submitted to the Indian Bureau his estimates, had explained the manner in which the money was to be expended, and made requisitions for the money. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs approved the proposed action, and sent the money for the purpose, as will be seen by the following letter from the present Commissioner, under date of April 19, 1882:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 19, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th instant, inclosing a copy of the bill (H. R. 5595) for the relief of Lawrie Tatum, with the request that such information be furnished as will enable the Committee on Indian Affairs to consider the same intelligently and make a report that will be in accord with the facts, together with the views of this office on the claim. It appears that the bill in question is for the relief of Mr. Tatum, while United States Indian agent at the Kiowa and Comanche Agency, Indian Territory, for the sum of \$1,084.10, the amount actually expended by him while such agent for the salary of an interpreter for the Comanche and Kiowa Indians, amounting to \$400, and the amount expended in building a stone school-house for the same tribes of Indians in excess of

the amount heretofore allowed by the accounting officers of the government, amounting to \$684.10.

The first item appears to be for the salary of an interpreter, \$400. As the facts are known to this office, Agent Tatum employed an interpreter at a salary of \$800 per annum, who was competent to speak two languages, which he thought was more desirable than to employ two different men. The name of the interpreter employed was Charles Ehressman, whose name was submitted for approval at a salary of \$800 per annum, and is borne upon the record of employes in this office for the year 1870; at that rate of compensation, which shows that this office at that time appreciated the motive that actuated the late agent in the employment of the said interpreter. For the information of the honorable committee I submit a copy of letter of Enoch Hoag, late superintendent of Indian Affairs (marked 1), inclosing a special estimate of funds (copy) required by Agent Tatum for the payment of the said interpreter in the first quarter 1870, amounting to \$200. From this statement it will also be seen the two different bands of Indians for whom he interpreted. I also inclose copy of office letter dated August 15, 1870 (marked 2) to Superintendent Hoag, advising him that funds had been sent in compliance with the estimate above mentioned. There are other matters in this letter irrelevant to the subject at issue, but I deem it proper to submit it intact. Estimate of funds for the second quarter 1870 (marked 3) shows him again employed for these two tribes of Indians, at a salary of \$100 per quarter each, and inclosure marked 4 again shows that this office sent funds for the payment of said interpreter in accordance with Agent Tatum's estimate. More papers of this character could be produced during the entire length of this interpreter's service, but I deem the evidence submitted sufficient for the information of the committee. From the above facts I cannot help but reach the conclusion that while the law may have been stretched in employing this interpreter to interpret two languages for two different tribes, at a compensation equivalent for two interpreters, yet the Indians and the service were probably better served than if two interpreters had been employed; and in view of the fact that the agent specifically stated in his estimates the amount of salary intended to be paid, and that the Indian office approved the same and furnished him the money with which to pay at the identical rate, credit ought to be allowed him for the amount disbursed in his settlement with the United States. The item, \$684.10, expended in building a stone school-house for the same tribes of Indians appears to have been necessary to complete the said building; in which connection I invite your attention to inclosure marked 5, which is a special estimate of funds to complete the said building, and for other purposes, and which funds were sent him in accordance with said estimate as per office letter, copy herewith, marked 6.

Respectfully,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

Hon. N. C. DEERING,
Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives.

In a letter dated July 25, 1882, to Hon. S. S. Farwell, M. C., the Second Comptroller, Hon. W. W. Upton, says:

In the examination of the accounts I saw no reason to doubt that the expenditures above mentioned inured to the benefit of the Indians.

In view of the foregoing facts your committee report the bill back, and recommend its passage.

1.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Lawrence, Kans., 8-4, 1870.

Inclosed herewith I transmit special estimate of Agent Tatum for the pay of two interpreters for the first quarter of 1870, with the agent's reasons therefor.

Respectfully,

ENOCH HOAG,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Special estimate of funds required for the Kiowa and Comanche Agency for first quarter, 1870.

For pay of Charles Ehresman for interpreter for Comanches and Kiowas.....	\$100
For pay of same person for Caddoes and affiliated bands.....	100

In the six or seven different languages spoken in this agency, it is important to have interpreters for at least two, and more desirable to have both languages interpreted by one person than to have two different men. The estimate was made for first quarter, but not complied with for want of funds at that time.

LAWRIE TATUM,
United States Indian Agent.

OFFICE KIOWA AGENCY, I. T.,
Seventhmonth 25, 1870.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Lawrence, Kans., May 16, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith Agent Tatum's letter of 19th ultimo, inclosing an estimate of funds required for the service at the Kiowa Agency for the second quarter of 1870, and stating that he is in need of office blanks.

This office does not understand why the agent estimates for "traveling expenses of 10 employés from their homes to Lawrence," as it supposes that "traveling expenses" of employés to their field of labor are not allowed by the department. Several of Agent Tatum's employés are about leaving him to return to their homes, and if the department commences to pay their transportation there will be no end to the demand on its generosity.

If the department furnish the agent with the necessary office blanks, he will need no money for "getting blanks printed."

I recommend that the following blanks be sent direct to the agent at Fort Sill, Indian Territory, via Forts Harker and Dodge, Kansas, viz:

- 16 abstracts current expenses.
- 16 abstracts treaty stipulations.
- 16 accounts current.
- 48 returns of property.
- 8 reports of employés.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. C. FARNHAM,
Chief Clerk.

Hon. E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner.

OFFICE KIOWA AND COMANCHE AGENCY, I. T.,
Fourthmonth 19, 1870.

E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner.

Inclosed please find estimate of funds for second quarter 1870. I need interpreters for at least two of the eight or ten languages spoken in the agency, and have asked for funds accordingly.

My report shows that I need blanks.

I am now paying my herder \$50 per month.

Respectfully,

LAWRIE TATUM,
United States Indian Agent.

P. S.—Inclosed receipt of P. M., for mailing report of 1st quarter 1870. (Sent back for correction. F.)

L. T.

3.

Estimate of funds required for the current and contingent expenses of the Kiowa and Comanche agency for the second quarter, 1870.

Pay of agent, at \$1,500 per annum, \$6.25 revenue tax	\$368 75
Pay of clerk, at \$1,060 per annum	250 00
Pay of C. Ehresman, interpreter for Comanches	100 00
Pay of C. Ehresman, interpreter for Caddoes	100 00
Pay of herdsman, at \$50 per month	150 00
Pay of cook at agency, \$25 per month	67 75
Pay of farmer, carpenter, blacksmith, miller, and engineer, at \$3,950 per annum	987 50
Pay of physician, at \$1,200 per annum, less \$2.50 revenue tax	297 50

Pay of traveling expenses from Lawrence to Fort Harker and back to Lawrence of self and J. H. Pickering, foreman in setting up mill, to make contract to have mill hauled to agency.....	\$54 00
Pay for hire of mules to bring agent and employes from Lawrence to agency in Tenthmonth, 1869.....	75 00
Pay of driver from Lawrence to agency, 10th month, 1869.....	58 38
Pay for shoeing mules, feed, &c., Lawrence to agency, Tenthmonth, 1869..	74 68
Pay of Isaac Jones, laborer at Wichita agency, under H. Shanklin, agent, third quarter, 1868, at \$30 per annum.....	90 00
Pay for 300 bushels charcoal for smithing, fourth quarter, 1869, and first and second quarters, 1870, at 25 cents per bushel.....	75 00
Pay for 10 cord of woods for agency, first and second quarters, 1870, at \$4 per cord.....	40 00
Pay for gathering 400 bushels corn.....	40 00
Pay for 12 tons hay for mules.....	65 00
Pay for stationery and postage.....	25 00
Pay for traveling expenses of 10 employes from their homes to Lawrence, Tenthmonth, 1869.....	329 89
Pay for getting blanks printed.....	150 00
Total.....	3,398 45

LAWRIE TATUM,
United States Indian Agent.

2.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, August 15, 1870.

SIR: I am in receipt of your letters of the 4th instant, inclosing Agent Tatum's estimates for funds required to pay interpreters for the first quarter, 1870, and for the necessary expenses of the service in the Kiowa agency during the present quarter.

In compliance with such estimate, I have this day caused a requisition to issue for \$8,652.06, to be placed to your credit in the National Bank of Lawrence, Kans., from the appropriations and for the objects designated in the tabular statement herewith, for the proper care and disposition of which sum you will be held to account under your bond.

Regarding the employment of herders to care for the beef cattle at said agency, I would say that, although the full amount asked for by Agent Tatum for that purpose is embraced in the present requisition, still the number of persons he proposes to employ is considered too large by at least one-half, and he will be expected to employ no more men in that capacity than are absolutely necessary for the proper care of the cattle, and to discharge those he does employ as fast as their services can be dispensed with. You will also please impress upon Agent Tatum the necessity for conducting all the affairs of his agency in the most economical manner possible consistent with the best interests of the service and the Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. F. CADY,
Acting Commissioner.

ENOCH HOAG,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Lawrence, Kans.

4.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, May 26, 1870.

SIR: I am in receipt of a letter from your clerk, Mr. A. C. Farnham, dated the 16th instant, transmitting one from Agent Tatum, with an estimate of funds required by him for the service in the Kiowa Agency during the second quarter of 1870.

In part compliance with such estimate, I have this day caused a requisition to issue for \$2,566.50, to be placed to your credit in the National Bank, Lawrence, Kans., from the appropriations and for the objects designated in the tabular statement herewith, for the proper care and disposition of which sum you will be held to account under your bond.

Regarding the items in the agent's estimate "for traveling expenses from Lawrence to Fort Harker and back," &c., \$54; "for hire of mules to bring agent and employes from Lawrence to agency," &c., \$75; "for driver from Lawrence to agency,"

\$58.38; and "for shoeing mules, feed," &c., \$74.68, I would say that it is not understood by this office what necessity there was for incurring these expenses, and that a full and satisfactory explanation in regard thereto must be submitted by the agent before his estimate therefor can be considered by the department. His estimate for "pay of Isaac Jones, laborer at Wichita Agency, under H. Shanklin, agent," &c., \$90, has not been complied with, for the reason that it does not appear that late Agent Shanklin actually employed said Jones for the time stated, third quarter of 1868. If Mr. Jones has a voucher in his favor, certified by the late agent to be correct and just, and remaining unpaid for want of funds applicable, it will be paid on presentation at this office, but Agent Tatum is not authorized to pay any outstanding indebtedness incurred by Mr. Shanklin while he was agent for the Wichitas, &c., unless the same is represented by vouchers, properly certified as aforesaid, and authority is granted by this department to pay them.

In regard to the item "for pay of traveling expenses of ten employes from their homes to Lawrence," &c., \$329.89, I would say that the department never pays the expenses of employes in going to the agencies where they are or may be employed, or in returning to their homes after they have been discharged. His estimate for that purpose, therefore, cannot be allowed.

As blanks are furnished by this office whenever they are requested, there is no necessity for him to purchase any; and no authority can be given to him to procure blanks by having them printed, or by purchasing them in market. The item of \$150 for which he asks to have "blanks printed" cannot be remitted.

The foregoing will explain the difference between the agent's estimate and the amount of the present requisition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant

E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner.

ENOCH HOAG,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Lawrence, Kans.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Lawrence, Kans., August 20, 1870.

SIR: Herewith please find Agent Tatum's special estimate of funds for completing school-house at Kiowa Agency. The agent's estimate largely exceeds the amount appropriated for this service, although he has been advised by this office to be careful in this direction.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. C. FARNHAM,
Chief Clerk.

Hon. E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner.

5.

Special estimate of funds for the Kiowa Agency to complete the school-house.

The building is stone, 30 by 60 feet, one story high, cellar under one-fourth of the house. On the lower floor there is to be a school-room 25 by 30 feet; a hall 8 feet wide through the house. The balance to be divided into two rooms. It has a square roof, which gives ample space for four large rooms and a hall. I think it would not do to have the house smaller for a boarding school, which is the only kind practicable for the Kiowas and Comanches.

The stone wall has cost.....	\$2,585 60
The carpenter work will cost.....	1,800 00
2,000 feet pine lumber for finishing.....	250 00
For digging cellar.....	50 00
For oak lumber, shingles, hardware, painting, digging and walling well, &c., estimated to cost.....	1,105 90
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Total cost estimated at.....	5,791 50
Which is \$2,000 more than I have for the purpose. I now ask for said amount of.....	2,000 00
For desks, seats, and other furniture, stoves, bedding, &c.....	1,000 00
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Total.....	3,000 00

LAWRIE TATUM,
United States Indian Agent.

OFFICE KIOWA AND COMANCHE AGENCY, I. T.,
Eighthmonth 6, 1870.

6.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, September 16, 1870.

SIR: I am in receipt of your letters of the 20th ultimo and 1st instant, inclosing special estimates from Agent Tatum for the completion of school-house, and providing the necessary furniture therefor; also to pay for fencing lots plowed for Indians.

In compliance with said estimates, I have this day caused a requisition to issue in your favor for the sum of \$10,959.27, to be placed to your credit in the national bank at Lawrence, Kans., from the appropriations and for the objects designated in the tabular statement herewith, for the proper care and disposition of which sum you will be held to account under your bond.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. F. CADY,
Acting Commissioner.

ENOCH HOAG,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Lawrence, Kans.

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