

SIOUX INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of appropriation for payment to the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Sioux Indians for ponies taken by the military.

JANUARY 21, 1888.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
January 19, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 17th instant, and its inclosures, submitting an estimate of appropriation in the sum of \$28,200 for payment to the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Sioux Indians, the value of 705 ponies taken from them without compensation by the military in the year 1876.

Respectfully yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 17, 1888.

SIR: In pursuance of the provision of section 2 of the act of July 7, 1884 (23 Stat., 254), I have the honor to inclose herewith, for transmittal to Congress, copy of a letter of 16th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, presenting, with accompanying papers, an estimate of appropriation in the sum of \$28,200 to provide for the payment to the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Sioux Indians the value of 705 ponies taken from them without compensation in 1876 by the military and sold, and for which it is stated said bands have never received any payment.

The Commissioner recommends that said estimate be inserted in the sundry civil appropriation bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1889.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

H. L. MULDROW,
Acting Secretary.

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 16, 1888.

SIR: Referring to letters from this office of January 4, 1886, February 9, 1884, and February 16, 1883, in relation to 705 ponies taken from Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Sioux Indians in 1876 by the military and sold, but for which said bands have never received any payment, I have the honor to inclose herewith copies of correspondence had on this subject, together with an item to be inserted in the sundry civil bill, requesting an appropriation of \$28,200, to enable this office to pay those bands the value of the ponies taken from them without compensation, and respectfully recommend that the papers be referred, with your approval and in accordance with the act of July 7, 1884 (Stats. 23, p. 254), to the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury for transmittal to Congress.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, February 16, 1883.

SIR: Referring to the copy of an interview between yourself and Col. George W. Manypenny, dated the 9th instant, and the interview with Red Cloud and others under date of the 15th ultimo, informally referred to me on the 14th instant, in regard to certain horses alleged to have been taken from the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Indians in the year 1876, I have the honor to say that from the various statements submitted it appears that some 705 ponies were taken as alleged; that of this number so taken 404 were sold at Fort Laramie in November, 1876, 141 at Cheyenne Depot, December, 1876, and 136 at Sidney, December 27, 1876, and the remainder (24) were turned over to friendly Indians, Pawnees and others, acting as scouts.

The total sum realized from the various sales amounted to \$4,169.84, being an average of about \$6 each for the 681 ponies actually sold. These various sales appear to have been made under the direction of Lieut. E. B. Gibbs, of the Army, but what final disposition was made of the money realized therefrom is not known to this office.

It is believed, however, that Red Cloud and Red Leaf's bands have never received any benefit whatever from the proceeds of the sales aforesaid, and from all the facts that can be ascertained in connection with this matter, it would seem to be right that these Indians should receive a reasonable compensation for their losses in this respect.

Colonel Manypenny, without seeing them, estimates the value of the 705 ponies taken from Red Cloud and Red Leaf's bands at from \$25 to \$50 each. But parties who saw the ponies say that some of them were "broken down," and I find that in a sale of 248 good ponies in 1877 and 1878 by the Indians themselves, of the Cheyenne River Agency, only about \$20 apiece was received.

The estimate of valuation by Colonel Manypenny, even at the minimum price mentioned by him, would be in excess of what I am willing to recommend, and if the price was estimated on the average realized from the sales, the aggregate on this basis would, in my opinion, be too small.

I, therefore, conclude that a fair price for the 705 ponies taken from the Indians aforesaid would be \$20 each, making an aggregate of \$14,100, for which sum I respectfully recommend that Congress be asked for an appropriation, with the proviso that the money, when appropriated, shall be invested in the purchase of cattle for the use and benefit of the two bands, reserving therefrom, however, a sufficient amount to be used in the purchase of 2 horses for the individual use of Red Cloud.

I will add that, should it be hereafter ascertained that any part of the money received from the sale of the ponies has not been accounted for, and is yet available, that money could be turned into the Treasury of the United States.

The papers (with copy thereof) referred to in this report are herewith returned.

I also inclose a form for item to be inserted in the sundry civil bill, and two copies of this report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, February 9, 1884.

SIR: Referring to office report of February 16 last (copy herewith), relative to certain ponies taken by the military authorities from the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Indians in the year 1876, I have the honor to invite your attention to the inclosed copy of a letter, dated the 2d instant, from Col. George W. Manypenny, of Newark, Ohio, in which he says that he "had ample opportunity to see the herds. The Sioux nation were proverbial for having good ponies, and the herds of Red Cloud and Red Leaf were equal to the best. I think they were well worth \$40 per head. Had I owned them I would not have sold them at that price."

It is observed that in office report of February 16 last it is stated that Colonel Manypenny had not seen these ponies. But, in view of his statement in his letter of the 2d instant, it appears that the office was in error in this regard, and also as to the true value of the ponies.

I therefore beg to amend my recommendation in the report aforesaid by substituting \$40 per head for the ponies, instead of \$20 as therein recommended. This change will make the aggregate allowance amount to the sum of \$28,200, for which amount I respectfully renew my recommendation of February 16 last.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

NEWARK, OHIO, December 19, 1883.

SIR: Referring to your note of the 15th instant, I have to state that in my judgment the Indian ponies taken from Red Cloud's band by the military in the fall of 1876 were worth \$40 per head. I so stated in a paper placed on file in the Interior Department in February of this year. They were superior animals. The Sioux Commission was at Red Cloud Agency for many days, during which the Indians, men and women, in numbers visited the agency. The Commission on one occasion visited the corral from whence the beef ration was issued to the Indians. This corral was near the camp of Red Cloud's band and about 6 miles from the agency. The issue was made of cattle on the hoof, and hence the young men were all on hand, and many of the women also. Hence we were enabled to see a great many of the ponies—a sufficient number to judge of the quality of the stock in the whole herd.

Very respectfully,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY.

DR. T. A. BLAND.

NEWARK, OHIO, February 2, 1884.

SIR: Your communication of December 28, 1883, referring to the Indian ponies taken from Red Cloud and Red Leaf's bands of Sioux Indians by the military authorities in the year 1876, only reached me yesterday.

You request my views in regard to the quality and general condition of these Indian ponies at the time I saw them, and what they were worth per head.

During the time that the Sioux Commission was at Red Cloud Agency, in September, 1876, there was one issue of supplies to the bands of Red Cloud and Red Leaf, consisting of flour, sugar, coffee, etc., from the agency warehouse. On the day of this issue there was a large body of Indians present, accompanied by their herds. On another day there was an issue of beef cattle, on the hoof, from the corral about 5 miles from the agency, to the Indians of the bands referred to. All the young men of both bands were there, armed and equipped, mounted and in line, ready as the cattle were issued to them to receive their share. There was about 250 head of cattle issued; these were divided into bunches of from two to perhaps eight, and turned over to the young men representing the family or families to whom they were issued. Each squad drove off the cattle assigned them and ran them over the prairie for about two hours, and then shot them down and turned over the carcasses to the Indian women, who took off the hides and cut the meat into quarters and packed it on their ponies and bore it away. I spent the day at, and adjacent to, the corral, and witnessed the whole performance. The number of Indian ponies present on that occasion was very large.

During the stay of the Commission at the agency the members one day took a drive of some 12 or 15 miles to examine a peculiar mound, and on the way passed through a camp of these Indians. Their ponies were grazing on lands adjacent, and we had ample opportunity to see the herds. The Sioux nation were proverbial for having

good ponies, and the herds of Red Cloud and Red Leaf were equal to the best. I think they were well worth \$40 per head. Had I owned them I would not have sold them at that price. I think you will find on investigation that about 350 of these ponies were taken by General Crook and given to his Pawnee scouts to remount them. The residue were sold at a nominal price. The matter of the seizure of these ponies is referred to by the Sioux Commission in their report, made in December, 1876.

Very respectfully,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY.

Hon. H. PRICE.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Proposed amendment to the sundry civil bill.

For the payment in full for 705 ponies taken by the military from the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Sioux Indians in the year 1876, \$28,200, to be paid to or expended for the benefit of said bands in such manner as the Secretary of the Interior may direct.