

INDIAN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AT ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of an appropriation to pay the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions for improvements on the Indian school buildings at Albuquerque, N. Mex.*

DECEMBER 18, 1888.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
December 17, 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 15th instant, submitting an estimate for an appropriation of \$6,803.13 to pay the claim of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions for cost of improvements made by them upon the Government school buildings at Albuquerque, N. Mex., during the time those buildings were occupied by the representatives of that board for Indian school purposes.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,  
*Secretary.*

The SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, December 15, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith for presentation to Congress, in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of the act of July 7, 1884 (23 Stats., 254), copy of a communication of the 15th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and accompanying papers relative to the claim of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions for cost of improvements made by them upon the Government school buildings at Albuquerque, N. Mex., during the time those buildings were occupied by representatives of that board for Indian school purposes, amounting to \$6,803.13.

The Commissioner's letter shows the action heretofore had by Congress on this claim, and he recommends, in view of the fact "that there is no question as to the equity of this claim, that the immediate attention of Congress be called to the matter." He incloses an item of appropriation in the form in which provision was made for this claim by the Senate at its last session, which failed to become a law, and recommends that it be incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill to be passed during the present session of Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

WM. F. VILAS,  
*Secretary.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, December 15, 1888.*

SIR: I have the honor to call your attention to the claim of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions for cost of improvements made by them upon the Government school buildings at Albuquerque, N. Mex., during the time such buildings were occupied by representatives of that board.

The justice of this claim, with all the circumstances connected with its origin, was fully set forth in a letter from this office dated June 21, 1888 (copy herewith). This letter, with other correspondence on the subject, was transmitted to Congress on the 25th of June, 1888. (See Ex. Doc. 204, Fiftieth Congress, first session.)

In accordance with your recommendation, an item appropriating \$6,803.13 was inserted in the Indian appropriation bill for the current fiscal year. The bill as it passed the Senate contained this item, but in the conference committee between the two houses of Congress it was stricken out.

There is no question as to the equity of this claim, and I respectfully recommend that the immediate attention of Congress be called to the matter, with an urgent recommendation that it be settled by proper legislation.

I transmit herewith a copy of the item as it passed the Senate, and recommend that it be incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill to be passed during the present session of Congress.

I also transmit a letter from the superintendent of Indian schools to this office recommending that the claim be promptly settled.

Very respectfully,

JNO. H. OBERLY,  
*Commissioner.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, June 21, 1888.*

SIR: I respectfully ask your attention to the claim of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church for re-imbursement for cer-

tain improvements made by them on the grounds of the Albuquerque, N. Mex., Indian school. The facts are as follows:

In 1881, at the instance of this Bureau, the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions opened, in buildings rented by them, a boarding-school for the Pueblos at Albuquerque, the Government entering into contract to assist in the support of the pupils. Subsequently, largely through the efforts of the board, a tract of land at Albuquerque was donated to the Government for Indian school purposes, and two buildings were erected thereon by the Government, into which the board moved its school, in August, 1884.

For the proper conduct of the school, out-buildings, fencing, walks, and various other improvements were essential. These the Government had not provided, and the board found it necessary to furnish them forthwith. The school was to be an industrial school, but no rooms for shops had been provided, and as the number of pupils increased the dormitory and other accommodations of the school were found to be inadequate. With the approval of the Indian Bureau the board proceeded to supply these deficiencies also, and commenced the erection of two brick buildings.

In 1886, before these buildings were completed, the office decided to conduct this school thereafter as a Government and not as a contract school, and the board was obliged to give up the occupancy of the premises and to establish their school elsewhere. Their furniture, etc., they removed, and for the buildings and improvements not removable which had been placed upon the land at their expense they very properly asked re-imbusement from the Government. Copy of Inspector Gardner's report on the improvements and the justice of paying for them is inclosed herewith.

March 3, 1887, this office agreed to have an appraisal of the improvements made by a representative of the Indian Bureau and of the Board of Home Missions. Copies of this agreement and of instructions of April 21, given in accordance therewith to Rev. Henry Kendall and Special Agent Welton, are inclosed herewith; also copy of their report, dated July 28, 1887, of the appraisal agreed upon by them.

The bill originally presented by the Board, copy herewith, amounted to \$9,252.82. The appraised amount is \$6,803.13.

As stated above, the improvements made were necessary to the proper conduct of the school. By its failure to furnish them the Government practically obliged the Board of Missions to make expenditures at their own risk on land whose title was vested in the Government. The Government has had the benefit of these improvements, and is now enjoying the use and occupancy thereof, and in my opinion the board should be paid for same.

I therefore respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to insert an item making an appropriation of \$6,803.13 for this purpose in the sundry civil or deficiency bill, or in any other bill in which it can properly be inserted. A draft of said item is herewith submitted.

Very respectfully,

A. B. UPSHAW,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN SCHOOLS,  
Washington, December 13, 1888.

SIR: I respectfully call your attention to the claim of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church for payment for improvements made by them at the Albuquerque, N. Mex., Indian school.

A delegation representing this board called on me this morning, made a statement of their case, which is a meritorious one, and which I find, by reference to the records of the Indian Bureau, is so considered by your Bureau.

The facts are fully set forth in a letter (copied in the education division) dated June 21, 1888, signed by Hon. A. B. Upshaw, Acting Commissioner, addressed to the honorable Secretary of the Interior. Additional and more detailed particulars may be found in executive document No. 204, first session, Fiftieth Congress.

I write this to add my indorsement to the proposition that the Board of Home Missions be re-imbursed for their outlay as set forth in the referred-to documents, and respectfully recommend that you take the necessary steps to have inserted in the proper appropriation bill an item to carry this recommendation into effect.

Very respectfully,

S. H. ALBRO,  
*Superintendent of Indian Schools*

The honorable the COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

ITEM TO BE INSERTED IN AN APPROPRIATION BILL.

For this amount to pay the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church for buildings and other improvements made by said board on land at Albuquerque, N. Mex., donated to the Government for Indian school purposes, \$6,803.13, being the appraised value of said improvements as agreed upon by a representative of said board and a special agent of the Indian Bureau.