

SUPPORT OF SIOUX INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate of appropriation for the support of the Sioux Indians of Minnesota.

JANUARY 8, 1889.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 7, 1889.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, of the 4th instant, submitting an estimate for an appropriation of \$12,000 for support of Sioux Indians, Medawakanton band, of Minnesota.

Respectfully, yours,

HUGH S. THOMPSON,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 4, 1889.

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), a copy of a communication of the 2d instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying copy of a communication from Right Rev. H. B. Whipple, bishop of Minnesota, making an urgent appeal for an appropriation by Congress to assist the friendly Sioux of Minnesota, by the purchase of land, for the completion and furnishing of a school building, and for their removal, etc., aggregating the sum of \$12,000.

The Commissioner states that it is believed the assistance asked for is needed, and is necessary for the comfort and welfare of these friendly

Sioux, and recommends the insertion of an item of appropriation amounting to \$12,000, under the title "Support of Sioux, Medawakan-ton band," in the Indian appropriation bill, now before the House Committee on Indian Affairs.

A copy of a communication of the 31st ultimo, from Hon. John L. McDonald, House of Representatives, upon the same subject, together with the response made thereto by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is also inclosed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

WM. F. VILAS,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 2, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of a communication dated November 16, 1888, from H. B. Whipple, bishop of Minnesota, in which he makes an urgent appeal for an appropriation by Congress to assist the friendly Sioux of Minnesota, by the purchase of land, for the completion and furnishing of a school building, and for their removal, etc., aggregating the sum of \$12,000.

The bishop states that their chief, Good Thunder, residing at Birch Cooley, was the head scout of General Sibley during the Minnesota Sioux war; that he and his friends rescued over two hundred white women and children from Indian captivity. For this act of heroism he has a certificate of General Sibley, and that he deserves the lasting gratitude of the American people. He further states that after the outbreak Congress confiscated all the lands and annuities of the Sioux in Minnesota, but specially provided that these friendly Indians should be allowed to remain on their old reservation, and each family receive 80 acres of land; that Secretary Delano withdrew 10,000 acres from sale for their benefit, but such was the blind fury of the whites after the outbreak of 1862 and 1863 that these Indians were also removed. Even those who served as scouts and soldiers returned home to find their lands and houses confiscated or destroyed, and they themselves without friends, feared, hated, and persecuted by their own people, and not even permitted to have any share in the proceeds of the sale of their own lands. Since then they have lived a wandering life.

It is to remedy this grievous wrong that Congress appropriated \$20,000 at its last session, to provide homes for these old men and their wives and children. He further says that this amount is not sufficient for this purpose; that he is deeply grateful for this, but that he is sure that if the facts were known to members of Congress they would not hesitate to provide the necessary means.

The above statements of the bishop are true and a matter of history, and believing that the assistance asked for is needed and is necessary for the comfort and welfare of these friendly Sioux, I respectfully recommend that Congress be requested to provide an appropriation in the sum of \$12,000 for the said Indians, under the title of appropriation "Support of Sioux, Medawakanton band," in the bill making appropria-

tions for the Indian service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, now before the House Committee on Indian Affairs, according to the following estimate, viz :

Support of Sioux, Medawakanton band :

For the purchase of land for full-blood Indians in Minnesota, belonging to the Medawakanton band	\$10,000
For the completion and furnishing of school-house for said band, authorized to be constructed by the act approved June 29, 1848	1,000
For expenses of locating and removal of families and superintendence and care of said Indians	1,000
	12,000

Very respectfully,

JNO. J. ENRIGHT,
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

2033 SANSOM STREET, PHILADELPHIA,

November 16, 1888.

DEAR SIR: I thank you sincerely for your kind interest in behalf of these red children of our Father. I desire to call your attention to the friendly Sioux of Minnesota. Their chief, Good Thunder, residing at Birch Cooley, was the head scout of General Sibley during the Minnesota Sioux war. He and his friends rescued over 200 white women and children from Indian captivity. For this act of heroism he has a certificate of General Sibley that he deserves the lasting gratitude of the American people. After the outbreak, Congress confiscated all the lands and annuities of the Sioux in Minnesota, but specially provided that these friendly Indians should be allowed to remain on their old reservation, and each family receive 80 acres of land.

Secretary Delano withdrew 10,000 acres from sale for their benefit; but such was the blind fury of the whites after the outbreak of 1862 and 1863 that these Indians were also removed. Even those who served as scouts and soldiers returned home to find their lands and houses confiscated or destroyed, and they themselves without friends, feared, hated, and persecuted by their own people, and not even permitted to have any share in the proceeds of the sale of their own lands. Since then they have lived a wandering life. It is to remedy this grievous wrong that Congress appropriated \$20,000 at the last session to provide homes for these old men and their wives and children. The amount is not sufficient for this purpose. I am deeply grateful for this, but I am sure that if the facts were known to members of Congress they would not hesitate to provide the necessary means. If you will examine the act of 1864, removing the hostile Sioux, you will see that the amount asked for is but a small part of what these Indians are justly entitled to receive. The annuities of these Indians was \$20 per capita. Each family had its home and farm. So far from forfeiting their rights, these men exhibited in the face of death bravery and loyalty.

I respectfully ask that you recommend an appropriation for the coming year for lands, \$10,000; for completing and furnishing school, \$1,000; for expenses of locating and removing families and the superintendence and care of the Indians, \$1,000; total, \$12,000, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. These Indians do not desire,

nor do their friends, that they should re-assume a dependent relationship upon the bounty of the Government. They are our friends who have suffered from their loyalty to the Government and their white brethren. You will understand my affection for them when I say that since 1863 a number of these families have lived at Faribault and it has been a pleasure to care and provide for them so far as able, to visit them in sickness, and bury their dead.

Ever your friend,

H. B. WHIPPLE,
Bishop of Minnesota.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., December 31, 1888.

SIR: I respectfully suggest that notwithstanding the last appropriation made for the benefit and the aid of the Indians of the Medewakanton band of Sioux, who have severed their tribal relations, has not been expended yet, that there ought to be an appropriation of at least \$10,000 in the Indian appropriation bill of the present session; which sum should be expended in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, and for such articles as he thinks they most need.

I advise this because the appropriation of the last session is limited to the purchase of cattle, horses, and lands, and I deem it of importance that they be induced to remain on their lands after purchase, and many of them, to do this, should—the first year at least—receive aid in the nature of food and clothing. I therefore request that you recommend this appropriation.

The inclosed will refresh your memory as to this matter.

Respectfully,

J. L. MACDONALD,
M. C., Minnesota.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 3, 1889.

SIR: By your reference of the 2d instant, for consideration and report, I have the honor to be in receipt of a letter from Hon. J. L. MacDonald, Member of Congress, Minnesota, dated the 31st ultimo, in which he suggests that notwithstanding the last appropriation made for the benefit and aid of the Indians of the Medawakanton band of Sioux, who have severed their tribal relations, has not been expended yet, that there ought to be an appropriation of at least \$10,000 in the Indian appropriation bill of the present session, which sum should be expended in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, and for such articles as he thinks they most need, especially for food and clothing.

In reply, I have to state that, upon the recommendation of Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, this office prepared and submitted an estimate

of appropriation required for these Indians, by report to the Department on the 2d instant, amounting to \$12,000, for the next fiscal year, and I am of the opinion that if this amount is secured for said band, it will be amply sufficient to provide for their welfare, as recommended by Bishop Whipple.

The letter of Mr. MacDonald is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

JNO. J. ENRIGHT,
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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