

INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

INCLOSING

A copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inviting attention to the necessity for the early passage of the Indian Appropriation Bill.

JUNE 3, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 3, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 2d instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inviting attention to the necessity for the early passage of the Indian Appropriation bill.

The Commissioner states that unless the bill becomes a law within the next two weeks, his office will be seriously embarrassed in supplying the Indians of the different agencies with food, and he recommends that a clause be inserted in the bill, authorizing the purchase in open market of supplies required, until contracts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, are executed and approved and contractors have had time to bring supplies to the agencies (say for thirty days after the approval of the Indian Appropriation Act) to an amount not exceeding \$10,000 at any one time.

A form of the proposed clause is herewith transmitted.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., June 2, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the fact that so far the Indian appropriation bill has not been introduced into the House, and that unless this is done and the bill becomes a law within the next two weeks, this office will be seriously embarrassed in supplying the Indians of the different agencies with food.

The supply of beef, flour, sugar, coffee, etc., and especially the beef, will be entirely exhausted, and as no contracts can be made and executed until the Indian appropriation act has been signed by the President and becomes a law, it will be difficult to supply the large agencies with beef in open market during the month of July, even if the act is signed by the President not later than June 15.

For example, take the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Agencies, where beef is issued every two weeks. It takes 250,000 pounds of beef for a two weeks' issue at Rosebud, costing about \$7,500, and 150,000 pounds, costing about \$4,500, at Pine Ridge. The law allows only purchases in open market at any one time to an amount not exceeding \$3,000, hence the difficulty of supplying these agencies with beef until contracts are made and executed, and contractors have had time to bring cattle to the agencies.

In order to provide for this contingency, I would recommend that Congress be called upon to insert in the Indian appropriation bill a clause, authorizing the purchase in open market of supplies required, until contracts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, are executed and approved, and contractors have had time to bring supplies to the agencies (say for thirty days after approval of the Indian appropriation act) to an amount not exceeding \$10,000 at any one time.

I inclose a form of the proposed clause to be incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill.

Very respectfully,

R. V. BELT,
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

PROPOSED CLAUSE TO BE INSERTED IN THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed for the period of thirty days, after the approval of the act making appropriations for the Indian service for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety one, to purchase in open market supplies required for the Indian service for the said fiscal year, or until contracts are executed and approved and contractors have had time to deliver supplies to the several agencies, to an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars at any one time.

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