

SUPPORT OF CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOE INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TRANSMITTING

A copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, with its inclosures, submitting a supplemental estimate of appropriation for the support of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in Oklahoma for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893.

APRIL 16, 1892.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
April 15, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 12th instant, and inclosures, submitting a supplemental estimate of \$50,000 for "support of Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in Oklahoma Territory for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893."

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES FOSTER,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 12, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a supplemental estimate of \$50,000, submitted by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs as the amount required for "support of Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in Oklahoma Territory for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893."

The estimate is approved and the attention of Congress is respectfully invited to the annexed letter of the Commissioner under date of the 2d instant, also to Department letter of the 6th instant, which fully explain the urgent necessity for the increased appropriation asked for.

I deem this a matter of the very utmost importance. It appears to me to have been a serious mistake to have made so low an estimate at first, and if this additional amount is not appropriated we shall have

very serious trouble with these Indians when the want of rations is felt. Another year it may be different; but this year all the rations formerly allowed will be needed.

Most respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 11, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 6th instant in reply to office report of the 2d instant, in which was transmitted a letter from the commanding officer at Fort Reno, Oklahoma Territory, forwarded through military channels, in which it is stated that the proposed reduction of the rations at present issued to the Cheyennes and Arapahoe Indians is especially inopportune at this time, as the allotments to these Indians are nearly completed and the adjacent country will soon be opened to settlement to the whites, which, owing to the fact that nearly all the Cheyennes are discontented with the sale of the surplus lands, and believe it was not authorized by a majority of their people, will serve as an opportunity for friction between the whites and the Indians, and that everything possible should be done to keep the Indians good-natured and friendly.

The amount estimated for the support of these Indians during the next fiscal year was fixed at \$60,000, instead of \$125,000 heretofore allowed them, for the reason that under their late agreement with the United States the sum of \$1,000,000 was placed to their credit in the United States Treasury, to draw interest at 5 per cent per annum, said interest of \$50,000 to be paid to them in cash, per capita.

In your communication of the 6th instant you state that "in view of the facts stated by you, that these Indians are unfit for self-support, and that claims have already been filed before the Court of Claims sufficient to exhaust the entire fund placed to their credit, no reduction should have been made in the estimate for the supplies for the next fiscal year," and direct that this office prepare and submit without delay another estimate sufficient to meet the demand.

In accordance with said direction, I submit herewith a supplementary estimate of \$50,000 for the support of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes for the fiscal year 1893, together with copies of office report of the 2d instant and Department letter of the 6th instant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 2, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt by your reference of the 26th ultimo of the letter from the commanding officer at Fort Reno, Okla., forwarded through military channels, in which it is stated that the proposed reduction of the ration at present issued to the Cheyenne and

Arapahoe Indians is especially inopportune at this time, as the allotments to these Indians are nearly completed and the adjacent country will soon be opened to settlement by whites, which, owing to the fact that nearly all of the Cheyennes are discontented with the sale of the surplus lands and believe that it was not authorized by a majority of their people, will serve as an opportunity for friction between the whites and Indians, and that everything possible should be done to keep the Indians goodnatured and friendly.

In connection with this statement I desire to invite attention to the fact that there is no treaty with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes requiring the Government to furnish them with subsistence supplies, a gratuity appropriation having been made by Congress during the last fifteen years for that purpose.

The agreement of October, 1890, between the United States and the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians, ratified by the act of March 3, 1891, providing for the sale of a portion of their reservation, stipulates that the Cheyennes and Arapahoes shall receive in consideration of the cession of said lands the sum of \$1,500,000, of which the sum of \$500,000 is to be paid to them in cash or expended for their benefit, and the sum of \$1,000,000 to be placed to their credit in the Treasury, to draw 5 per cent per annum, said interest to be paid to them per capita annually, which, with the present population, will insure an annual cash payment of about \$14 to every man, woman, and child on the reservation.

In submitting estimates for the Indian service for the fiscal year 1893, it was not deemed a proper request to ask Congress to appropriate, as a gratuity, funds to subsist Indians who have a million dollars in the Treasury drawing interest, which they provide in their agreement with the Government shall be paid to them in cash, and for that reason the estimates transmitted to Congress for the subsistence of these Indians was reduced one-half, giving them still, during the fiscal year 1893, as a gratuity, the sum of \$65,000. As all of the second sum of \$250,000 has not been paid out or expended for the benefit of these Indians, as provided by article 7 of the agreement (26 Stats., p. 1025), there still remains a large sum of money to their credit (\$187,500), which I have informed their agent can be expended in providing additional subsistence supplies for issue to them, provided they consent to such use of the money in open council.

In this connection, however, I would respectfully invite the attention of the Department to the direction given in Department indorsement returning a letter from this office dated February 4, 1892, that the claim of Robert M. Wright, against the Cheyenne tribe of Indians, for the payment of \$600, an amount awarded to him by the Court of Claims for loss of property by reason of depredations of said Indians, be paid to him from any funds that may be to their credit, and also to the fact that there are now on file in this office transcripts of judgments rendered in the Court of Claims against these Indians, on account of depredations committed, amounting to \$4,225.

As stated in office letter of the 8th ultimo, to which attention is respectfully invited, there have been filed six hundred and thirty-eight claims against the Cheyennes, aggregating the sum of \$2,309,777, and sixty-eight claims against the Arapahoes, amounting to \$295,078, and if these claims are paid from funds belonging to Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians the funds now at the disposal of this office available for the purchase of supplies for them will be quickly exhausted, and this office will then be confronted with the problem of feeding 3,600 Indians,

unfit for self-support for the most part, with a fund one-half the size of what has been used in former years.

I think this matter is one demanding serious consideration, and I volunteer the above information for such consideration as the Department may desire to give.

The letter from the commanding officer at Fort Reno is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 6, 1892.

SIR: Your letter of April 2, addressed to the honorable Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a letter from the commanding officer at Fort Reno, Okla., forwarded through military channels, in which it is stated that the proposed reduction of the rations at present issued to the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians is especially inopportune at this time, as the allotments to these Indians are nearly completed and the adjacent country will soon be opened to settlement to the whites, which, owing to the fact that nearly all the Cheyennes are discontented with the sale of the surplus lands and believe it was not authorized by a majority of their people, will serve as an opportunity for friction between the whites and the Indians, and that everything possible should be done to keep the Indians good-natured and friendly, has been referred to me. In view of the facts stated by you that these Indians are unfit for self-support, and that claims have already been filed before the Court of Claims sufficient to exhaust the entire fund placed to their credit, no reduction should have been made in the estimate for the supplies for the next fiscal year.

I have, therefore, to direct that you have prepared and submit without delay another estimate sufficient to meet the demand.

I have also to direct that no more judgments shall be paid out of moneys appropriated for the lands about to be opened until authorized to do so by the Department.

Very truly yours,

CYRUS BUSSEY,
Assistant Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Supplemental estimate of appropriations required for the support of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in Oklahoma Territory for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893.

Support of Cheyennes and Arapahoes: Subsistence and civilization of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes who have been collected on the reservation set apart for their use and occupation in Oklahoma Territory, \$50,000.]