

## INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL.

JANUARY 27, 1891.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PERKINS, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 13338.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the estimates of the honorable Secretary of the Interior for appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with the various Indian tribes for the year ending June 30, 1892, and for other purposes, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to submit the following report:

The regular estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, submitted by the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for this branch of the public service, amounted in the aggregate to \$6,846,908.03.

Since the regular estimates were made the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, has submitted supplementary estimates carrying several hundred thousand dollars.

The amount appropriated by the bill reported by your committee amounts in the aggregate to \$7,156,678, being less than the estimates and \$147,390.20 less than was appropriated by the annual appropriation bill for the current fiscal year.

The recent difficulty with the Sioux Indians has, in the judgment of your committee, made it wise, if not necessary, to increase the appropriation for their subsistence and support. Their relations have been disturbed and much of their property destroyed, and they will be left in destitution and in want unless fed and clothed by the Government.

The bill carries an appropriation of \$1,100,000 for this purpose, \$200,000 more than the one for the current year, and was recommended by the War Department, as well as by the Secretary of the Interior and the President of the United States. It is questionable whether this is not due them under treaty obligations, but it has been the policy of your committee in the past to cut down the appropriations made for subsistence purposes as rapidly as possible and to give the Indians to understand that as they were educated and qualified for the duties of citizenship, they must work and learn to cultivate the fields and contribute to their maintenance and support.

The appropriation carried by the bill for education work and for the support of schools is \$221,325 in excess of the amount appropriated for the current year.

This, in the judgment of your committee, is a wise appropriation, and a necessary one if the excellent work already begun is to be sustained

and strengthened. As the schools increase in number, as the work of reformation progresses and the number of scholars and pupils receiving the advantages of the education work become more and more, necessarily the expense increases and will increase until every Indian child of school age is given the advantage of an elementary English education.

This work is warmly commended in all sections of the country, and from most sections your committee received petitions and letters urging the full sum asked for by the Indian Office. General Morgan, in his excellent report as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, gives a detailed statement of the educational work performed under the supervision of his office, and it is exceedingly encouraging, as stated by your committee in its report of a year ago:

As a matter of economy, if no higher or better motive is to govern us in our appropriations, and in our consideration of the Indian question, it is cheaper to educate the Indian than to maintain armies and to fight them.

This suggestion has been emphasized by the recent difficulties with the Indians of the Dakotas.

Your committee also report an increase in the appropriation for the pay of Indian police. From all sources your committee received a good report of the work done by the Indian police, and were urged by the Indian Bureau to increase the force, as well as to increase the pay of the officers and privates. The increase reported by your committee is not as great as was recommended by the Department, but is substantial and, as we believe, wise. No new offices are created by the bill; and the only increase in salary or compensation provided for are in the case of nine Indian agents, who, under existing appropriations, receive less than \$1,200 per annum each for their services.

They are required to give bond, and are responsible for the property and business of the agencies, and yet receive less compensation than the clerks who are appointed to succeed them. In such cases we have reported an increase, so that the agent shall receive a salary of \$1,200 per annum. Two hundred and twenty thousand dollars of the amount appropriated by the bill is to be returned to the Government from the sale of Indian lands.

The treaty and miscellaneous items in the bill have been carefully investigated and considered by your committee, and are recommended as right, and for which appropriations should be made.

The appropriations in detail are :

Salaries of agents and support of agencies.....	\$221,600
Fulfilling treaty stipulations.....	2,964,623
Miscellaneous support.....	765,000
General incidental expenses.....	127,500
Support of schools.....	2,071,650
Miscellaneous.....	919,755
Interest on trust fund.....	86,550
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>7,156,678</b>