

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

A report of the Secretary of the Interior, asking for certain appropriations on account of the Indian service.

MARCH 1, 1855.—Read, referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

I communicate herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a letter of this date from the Secretary of the Interior and accompanying paper, recommending certain appropriations on account of the Indian service.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *February 27, 1855.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 27, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you, herewith, a copy of a communication dated the 23d instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and recommend that Congress be requested to make the appropriations therein asked for, viz:

“For payment of the expenses incurred for the reconnoissance of the boundary between the Chickasaws and Choctaws—\$1,000.

“For payment of the expenses incurred in negotiating the articles of May 12, 1854, with the Menomonee Indians, in addition to the appropriation made by the act of August 5, 1854—\$454 53.”

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. McCLELLAND, *Secretary.*

To the PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, February 23, 1855.

SIR: The relations of the Chickasaw to the Choctaw Indians, established by the convention between these two tribes of the 17th January, 1837, approved and assented to by the United States March 24,

1837, having given rise to jealousies and difficulties, and the adjustment of such jealousies and difficulties having been for years a cherished object of the government of the United States, the conferences by the delegations of these tribes, had last spring with yourself, and the correspondence of this office at that time, informed you of the nature of the difficulties and of the steps taken by the authorities of the tribes for an adjustment.

The principal measure for effecting the settlement of these difficulties, which had been agreed on by both tribes, was a convention of plenipotentiaries appointed by each.

The plenipotentiaries of the tribes having been appointed, and a meeting arranged to take place in November last, it was found that as the difficulties alluded to had arisen in a great measure out of questions relative to the boundary of the Chickasaw district, as determined by the second article of the convention of 1837, a reconnaissance of said boundary, by a competent surveyor, before the meeting of the plenipotentiaries, would be likely to furnish information that would facilitate an adjustment of difficulties.

This office accordingly assented to such a reconnaissance; and it was found by Agent Cooper that such a reconnaissance could not be made in due time without entering into an agreement with a civil engineer not in the employ or pay of the government otherwise.

He accordingly took that course. The reconnaissance was made. The conference of plenipotentiaries was held, and the results of that conference have been submitted to the President.

I have now to request that you will recommend that an appropriation be made by Congress, at its present session, as follows:

For payment of the expenses incurred for a reconnaissance of the boundary between the Chickasaws and Choctaws—\$1,000.

In this connection I deem it proper to state that the expenses incurred in the negotiation of the articles of May 12, 1854, with the Menomonees have exceeded, by the sum of \$454 53, the amount of \$950, which was appropriated by the act of the 5th August, 1854.

The appropriation just mentioned was recommended on information then in possession of the office, and was at that time believed to be sufficient.

I would now respectfully recommend that an appropriation be asked for, as follows:

“For payment of the expenses incurred in negotiating the articles of May 12th, 1854, with the Menomonee Indians,” in addition to the appropriation made by the act of August, 5, 1854—\$454 53.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY.

Commissioner.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.