

LETTER
OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
IN RELATION TO

The outstanding indebtedness that has been accruing for several years on account of Indian service in California.

JANUARY 20, 1869.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 20, 1869.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication dated the 19th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, representing the necessity of action on the part of Congress in relation to the "outstanding indebtedness that has been accruing for several years on account of the Indian service in California," with a view to the payment of the claims at an early day, and respectfully invite the favorable consideration of Congress to the subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary.

Hon. B. F. WADE,
President pro tempore U. S. Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 19, 1869.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the matter of the outstanding indebtedness that has been accruing for several years on account of the Indian service in California, and to state that some action should be taken in the premises, in order that the department may be able to liquidate the same at the earliest day practicable.

Copies of the papers connected with this matter will be found in Ex. Doc. No. 200, House of Representatives, 2d session, 40th Congress; also, a statement of the amount of the certified vouchers now in this office, representing said indebtedness, and an estimate of the amount (\$75,000) deemed necessary at present to satisfy them, or at least such of them as are being urgently pressed for payment.

It is evident that some provision should be made to pay this indebtedness. The different claims have been examined by officers of the department, or by persons appointed for the purpose, and found to be correct and the amount thereof justly due to the respective claimants; but, as there are no funds at the disposal of the department applicable, it is

impossible to pay them until the necessary funds shall have been appropriated for that purpose.

I therefore respectfully request that the attention of Congress be again invited to the matter, with the view of having the necessary amount of funds to pay said indebtedness appropriated during the present session of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.