

## LETTER

FROM THE

## SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TO

HON. WILLIAM B. ALLISON, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,

TRANSMITTING

*A copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and draught of bill to authorize the use of a portion of the funds belonging to the Great and Little Osage Indians; also copies of letters in relation thereto.*

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JUNE 7, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed, to accompany bill S. 906.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, May 24, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, for the favorable consideration of Congress, copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 22d instant, transmitting draught of a joint resolution to authorize the use of a portion of the invested funds belonging to the Great and Little Osage tribe of Indians; also copies of letters from Superintendent Nicholson and United States Indian Agent Cyrus Beede, and a petition from the chiefs, councilors, headmen, braves, and members of said tribe of Indians, showing the necessity for the use of the amount of funds specified in the resolution.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,  
Secretary.

Hon. WM. B. ALLISON,  
Chairman of Committee on Indian Affairs, U. S. Senate.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., May 22, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a petition of the chiefs, councilors, headmen, braves, and members of the Great and Little Osage tribe of Indians, in council, asking congressional sanction to

the use of \$200,000 of their own funds arising out of the sale of 8,000,000 acres of their lands in Kansas, relinquished for the purpose by the treaty of September 29, 1865. (Rev. Ind. Treaties, p. 584.)

By the act of June 22, 1874, the sum of \$200,000 per annum, for two years, was permitted to be used out of their invested funds, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, in the erection of buildings, purchase of agricultural implements, support of schools, and other civilizing purposes.

This amount has been, or will be by the close of the current fiscal year, expended with reasonably advantageous results to the Osages, as will more fully appear by their petition and by the accompanying statements of their agent and superintendent, copies of which are also herewith transmitted. These statements show, approximately, the purposes for which the money has been expended and the results attained.

There is now in the Treasury to the credit of this tribe about \$1,100,000, which will be very largely increased by the payments yet to become due from the purchasers of their lands.

As set forth in their petition, the expenditure authorized by the act of June 22, 1874, has provided them means of support at a critical period of their existence, and has afforded them indispensable material aid at the time it was most needed. Their conclusion is no doubt entirely correct, that in view of the complete extinction of buffalo on their reservation, and as only a portion of them (about 250 families) are provided with homes of their own, they are not in such a condition as would enable them, without distress, to forego the use of the sum asked for, which is only about \$60 per capita. Indeed, it is questionable whether Congress should allow too great an accumulation of their funds in the Treasury when the use of a portion each year is so necessary to their present welfare.

The portion of the tribe who have not yet been provided with houses are, of course, equally entitled with the others to be thus benefited, and the desire to share in the comforts of civilized life is constantly increasing among them. A few more years of quiet, of educational, industrial, and religious progress only, are required to make the Osages as intelligent and respectable as the average of white communities.

The statements of Superintendent Nicholson and Agent Beede were furnished in response to a call from this Office, in order that Congress might see the uses to which the funds provided by the appropriation act of July 15, 1870, (which were, however, in no proper sense "appropriated,") had been put.

In addition to the portion of the amount provided accounted for in the statements referred to, the remainder has been disbursed upon vouchers filed in this Office for settlement for erection of buildings and support of schools; some \$30,000 are yet available upon the books of this Office to meet claims for subsistence, &c., to the close of the present fiscal year.

I have, therefore, the honor to submit herewith for your approval and favorable recommendation to Congress, the form of a joint resolution to accomplish the object desired by the petitioners.

As I concur in the opinion expressed by Superintendent Nicholson, that the proportion of the whole amount proposed by the petition as a per-capita payment is too great, I have provided for what I deem a more reasonable sum.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY,  
*Lawrence, Kans., April 3, 1876.*

I herewith transmit a petition of the Osage National Council, approved by the governor, and certified and recommended by the agent in charge, for an appropriation from their own funds of \$200,000 for the next fiscal year, to be expended as therein definitely indicated. I have no doubt that this petition was fully understood by the Indians, as some of them are very intelligent men, and the governor, though a full-blood Osage, can read and write the English language, and evidently wrote with his own hand his approval. I am also fully satisfied that if this appropriation is made and judiciously expended, it will greatly promote the civilization of the Osages, and I therefore recommend it to your favorable consideration and appropriate action. I desire, however, to remark, that the amount asked for as a per-capita payment seems to me unnecessarily large, especially as these Indians already have a moderate moneyed annuity. I would furthermore suggest that if this petition receives the recommendation of yourself and the honorable the Secretary of the Interior, that you transmit with your recommendation a clause for insertion in the Indian appropriation bill, in which shall be specified the objects and mode of disbursement with such clearness as that no doubts shall arise as to the intention of the law, and that in these respects the desires of the Indians, upon which the law will be based, shall be regarded, so far as they seem to you to be conducive to their own highest interest.

Respectfully,

WM. NICHOLSON,  
*Superintendent.*

Hon. J. Q. SMITH,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

OSAGE INDIAN AGENCY, I. T., *Fifthmonth 9, 1876.*

WILLIAM NICHOLSON,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Lawrence, Kans. :*

Referring to Commissioner's letter of 25th ultimo, under thy indorsement of 28th ultimo, requesting, for reasons given, immediately from the books of this office a statement showing approximately the uses to which the \$200,000 per annum, for two years, appropriated by act of June 22, 1874, for Osages has been applied, and the results of the expenditure, I have to inform, first, that of the \$400,000 appropriated for the two years, but \$182,406.90 appears to have been placed at the disposal of Agent Gibson; of the remainder, upward of \$100,000 were disbursed by Superintendent Hoag, for purposes shown by the books and files of thy office, and the balance of the sum referred to was, I suppose, disbursed under direction of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Of the disbursements made by this office, I may say that many of the important vouchers embrace articles of various kinds and character, rendering it impracticable, without a vast amount of labor and much time, to classify them definitely and accurately under the different heads as required. I have, however, hastily examined the accounts, and glean from them such general information (not aiming to be perfectly accurate in all respects) as I think will answer the Commissioner's purpose. In this connection it may also be stated that the same difficulty exists in classifying certified vouchers as actual disbursements made by the late agent. I have therefore made my classification general, including all vouchers issued, from which the certified ones as a whole may be deducted. I deem it but proper to state here that the list herewith furnished but faintly exhibits the real application of these funds, in some instances, at least; nor is it hardly practicable to make a definite showing of the results from this particular appropriation, while other funds were used at the same time and for the same purposes as this appropriation. A large amount is reported as expended on service vouchers, to wit, \$54,380.61. This, without some explanation, would seem extravagant; but it should be taken into consideration that a large stone building for a grist-mill has been erected by employé force; also a two-story stone building for doctor's office and shoe and harness shop. These two buildings will probably account for \$10,000. Two hundred and forty-seven rods of stone fence have been built and a great deal of labor has been performed by employés in opening small farms, in the erection of Indian houses, stables, corn-cribs, in making and repairing agricultural implements and wagons, digging wells, &c., in excess of those in the list. This reservation is perhaps fifty miles square, and as stated heretofore there were five stations at which head farmers or station-agents were placed in charge. (This number included one station and farmer for the Kaws.) These station-agents labored exclusively with assistants for the respective bands among whom they were located, and from them the agent was from time to time enabled to get statistical information of the amount of labor performed for and by the Indians, and the results thereof; but owing to exhaustion of funds, the agent was unable to carry on the work as commenced, and on my arriving at the agency, I found that these stations had been abandoned and the farmers having them in charge relieved, save the one

among the Little Osages, so that for my information as to results of expenditure for the past two years, I must only largely report the files of the office, from which I learn that as a result of the expenditure of this fund, and the interest on the invested funds of the Osages, 4,869 acres of land have been fenced; 3,876 acres have been cultivated; 1,248,670 rails have been made, 1,167,107 of which have been put in fence; 170 log buildings (dwellings) have been erected, and 15 frame-buildings; 120 out-buildings; 29 dwellings partly completed; 109 wells dug, and upward of 20,000 fruit-trees set out. The foregoing includes none of the permanent improvements at the agency, but among members of the tribe in their various localities over the reservation. As a further result, 11,800 bushels of wheat raised on the reservation was thrashed, at an expense of about \$1,200. The agency-farm under fence and in cultivation embraces 233 acres, from which a fair crop of corn was raised last year, most of which was used as subsistence by the Osages, and for feed of stock before regular harvest-time. With a favorable season for maturing, the average of wheat to be harvested this year will probably equal that of the preceding. It must be understood, however, that these houses built, patches of ground inclosed, and crops maturing are the property of individual members of the tribe, and, without purchase, the wheat-crop maturing can in no wise be made available for subsistence of the tribe. While the Indians have actually performed labor themselves in making these improvements, and have thus acquired title to their individual provisions respectively, yet it is doubtful whether skilled labor would not have performed the whole service at less than actual cost, especially so since they were paid for all their labor out of the common tribal funds; yet it is supposed that this incentive offered to those who evinced a willingness to make an effort for themselves will not be altogether lost on the tribe as a whole. But I desire more especially to call attention to the necessity existing for the appropriations for which the Osages have petitioned for the coming year. When the former appropriation was made, they had been able, to a great extent, to subsist themselves by the hunt in the winter, and from the proceeds of the sale of their robes in summer. This source of revenue is utterly cut off, and the amount asked for is but about \$60 each for a year, an insignificant sum truly, compared to the cost of supporting a white population of the same number.

The funds are their own, and when they were induced to part with their lands in Kansas, they were led to believe they would receive an annual income greater than that asked in this petition. They are very much like white people in some respects, one of which, I firmly believe, is, they will not be kept, without force, upon their reservation to starve.

Very respectfully,

CYRUS BEEDE,  
United States Indian Agent.

*A list showing the expenditures, approximately, made by Isaac T. Gibson, late United States Indian agent, from the appropriation of June 22, 1874, of \$200,000 per annum for two years, in which is included certified vouchers, made payable in Washington.*

Amount paid for services.....	\$54,380 61
Amount paid for subsistence.....	51,626 38
Amount paid for Indian houses.....	31,678 51
Amount paid for merchandise.....	9,412 84
Amount paid for agricultural implements.....	3,684 70
Amount paid for hay.....	4,544 51
Amount paid for transportation.....	2,525 12
Amount paid for mules and horses.....	525 00
Amount paid for corn and oats.....	3,587 02
Amount paid for seed-wheat.....	2,919 14
Amount paid for wagons.....	6,085 00
Amount paid for blacksmith's coal.....	792 57
Amount paid for stock-hogs.....	381 00
Amount paid for wood.....	431 28
Amount paid for wells.....	3,717 74
Amount paid for rails.....	11,050 56
Amount paid for saw-mill.....	3,263 62
Amount paid for school-buildings.....	14,022 43
Amount paid for traveling-expenses.....	194 25
Amount paid for agency-buildings.....	1,408 87
Amount paid for drugs.....	359 30
Amount paid for furniture.....	3,074 02
Amount paid for harness.....	1,745 29
Amount paid for breaking prairie.....	6,203 39

	217,613 15
Deduct amount of certified vouchers.....	35,206 25

Leaves amount actually received by Agent Gibson.....	182,406 90
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OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY,  
Lawrence, Kans., May 13, 1876.

Hon. J. Q. SMITH,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.:

I herewith transmit letters of Agent Beede, of 9th instant, according to instructions of your letter of 25th ultimo, and in addition to the information given by Agent Beede as to the disbursement of the \$200,000 per annum for two years for Osage Indians, I furnish from the files of this office the following statement of the mode of expenditure of \$111,584.68 disbursed by late Superintendent Hoag from said appropriation:

1874.		
Nov. 30.	Per-capita payment to Osages .....	\$31,500 00
1875.		
Jan. 13.	Bangs Bros., soap .....	294 00
Jan. 15.	W. Leighton, coffee and sugar .....	9,923 21
Jan. 27.	L. Wilson, beef .....	14,654 76
Aug. 13.	Per capita .....	55,039 46
Dec. 22.	Leavenworth Commercial, advertising .....	85 50
Dec. 31.	Lawrence Journal Company, advertising .....	87 75
Total .....		111,584 68

Respectfully,

WM. NICHOLSON, Superintendent.

OSAGE AGENCY, INDIAN TERRITORY,  
March 29, 1876.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:*

We, your petitioners, the chiefs and councillors, headmen, braves, and members in council of the Great and Little Osage tribe of Indians, beg leave most respectfully to represent that, though possessed of means held in trust by the Government amply sufficient for our maintenance, including the education of our children and the advancement of ourselves and people in the avenues of civilization to self-support, that in the Indian appropriation act approved July 15, 1870, 12th and 13th sections thereof, the terms of which we accepted in council of our people on the 10th day of September, 1870, and disposed of our lands in Kansas upon conditions therein embraced, it is provided that said lands shall be sold to actual settlers, "payment to be made in cash within one year from the date of settlement of the passage of this act, and the United States, in consideration of the relinquishment by said Indians of their lands in Kansas, shall pay annually interest on the amount of money received as proceeds of sale of said lands, at the rate of five per centum, to be expended by the President for the benefit of said Indians, in such manner as he may deem proper;" that under the provision recited above, we were led to believe by the commissioners sent among us to obtain our ratification to this law, making it obligatory upon us to remove at once to the Indian Territory, thus opening a large and valuable tract of choice land to white settlement; that our annual income, or interest on the proceeds of the sale of near eight millions of acres of lands at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, would be sufficient to meet all our necessities, providing us with homes and the comforts of life in our new country. We anticipated a yearly income from the source named of at least three hundred thousand dollars, after deducting all the expenses of survey and sale and the purchase of our present country. In fact, we expected a much larger sum than that named. And upon these representations made by the commissioners we were induced to give our assent to the law above quoted. Six years have now passed and our aggregate receipt of interest accrued from the proceeds of the sales of these lands has been less than we were led to suppose would have been due us in one year—less even than one hundred thousand dollars. And upon making known to our agent our sad disappointment at the amount of interest accruing from year to year averaging less than twenty thousand dollars, he informs us that many of our Great Father's white children, who have made claims and settled upon our lands in Kansas, are poor and unable to pay for the same promptly, and that Congress has been very lenient with them, extending the time of payment several years. We suppose, however, that the white men are paying us interest for the time during which these payments are delayed, but our income is so small that we sometimes doubt whether all this interest is promptly paid.

We recognize our dependence upon, and acknowledge our allegiance to, the Government, and are desirous to obtain the means of civilization. We fully appreciate the assistance afforded us in the appropriation made by Congress two years ago, from our invested funds, to wit, two hundred thousand dollars per annum for two years, and with it we are able to inform you, that in the absence of the buffalo, one former means of support, we have obtained the means of subsistence, and many of our people hitherto dependent almost solely upon the hunt are now located in houses, and have well-fenced patches of ground in cultivation; a saw and grist mill have been erected, at which latter the wheat of our own raising has been ground; a large addition has been made to our stone school-house, and we now have nearly one hundred of our children in the agency-school, where they are boarded and clothed, and nearly the same number at the Catholic mission in Kansas. A commodious school-barn has been built, a doctor's office and shoe-shop (both in one building) has been erected, at which latter members of our tribe have served as apprentices; orchards have been planted and wells dug for those living in houses; wagons, harness, and farm implements have been furnished to considerable extent, and our sick administered to by the agency-physician. All this has been done with the money thus appropriated, added to the small annual interest accruing from our invested funds.

We now recognize the necessity of seeking a better means of support than that of the buffalo, our former ever-available resort, not one having been seen on our reservation for a long time, and no alternative is left us but to civilize. But we are incompetent to inaugurate this new mode of life ourselves, and a majority of our people are yet destitute of the necessary assistance to start on this new road to a better life; those who have already entered it are unaccustomed to it and unacquainted with its burdens; we need further aid, and without it we must suffer; we cannot live during this apprenticeship. Even those who have made the start and felt themselves somewhat advanced, will become discouraged and disheartened; and, surrounded and cut off as we are from all the avenues to the life of the chase, we must inevitably give up in despair.

We need houses and farms for those who have none; wagons and farm implements, subsistence and clothing, also, while we are learning to subsist ourselves. And we therefore most earnestly ask your honorable body, as an absolute and pressing necessity for our support, maintenance, and advancement in civilization, including pay of employes, building houses, making and improving farms, purchase of agricultural and mechanical implements, including iron and steel for the blacksmiths, pay of physicians, and purchase of medicines, the proper care and education of our children and such other assistance as our agent may deem proper, an appropriation from our invested funds of two hundred thousand dollars, one-half of which to be paid to us in money in the same manner as our annuities are usually paid, in which amount shall be included the usually salary of governor, chief councilor, pay of chiefs, and five thousand dollars to be disposed of by our national council, and the remaining one-half to be disbursed by our agent, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

In asking for this large amount of money we do not desire to be classed in the attitude of beggars, asking alms of the Government. On the contrary, we are only asking for a small portion of our own funds made absolutely necessary to prevent actual suffering. The amount is not large comparatively, when it is remembered that our tribe numbers upward of three thousand souls, and the amount asked is less than seventy dollars each to support and subsist us, including the necessary aid in civilization, and would be but the interest of our invested funds, were our lands in Kansas disposed of and paid for. We also ask, in connection with the foregoing, that our agent be authorized, under direction of the Secretary of the Interior, to disburse the funds thus provided to our best advantage in advancing us to a better life, not limiting him in his employé force to any specified amount, as might be necessary if we could depend on the hunt as in former years for subsistence, and thus require but little aid in industrial pursuits. We now need farmers, mechanics, and school-teachers to learn us to do for ourselves.

We do most earnestly request you to hear us and grant our petition.

TA WA CHE HE, his X mark, *Chief of the Big Hill Band.*

BIG CHIEF, his X mark, *Chief of the Big Chief Band.*

WHITE HAIR, his X mark, *Chief of the White Hair Band.*

BLACK DOG, his X mark, *Chief of the Black Dog Band.*

NE KAH WAH SHE TAH KAH, his X mark, *represents Joe's Band.*

YOUNG STRIKE AX, his X mark, *Chief of his Band.*

LITTLE CHIEF, his X mark, *Chief of Nompavala Band.*

YOUNG CLAMMORE, his X mark, *Chief of Clammore Band.*

HO WAH SO, his X mark, *representing Harmony Band.*

TALL CHIEF, his X mark, *Tall Chief Band.*

TOWN MAKER, his mark, *Chief of Tall Chief's Band.*

MAH SA NOMPA, his X mark, *Saucy Osage Band.*

SAUCY CHIEF, his X mark, *Saucy Chief Band.*

JAMES BIG HEART, his X mark, *representing Beaver Band.*

WILLIAM PENN, his X mark, *Chief of his Band.*

WILLIAM TINKER, *representing Half Breed Band.*  
 WILLIAM CONER, *representing Little Osages.*  
 AUGUSTUS CAPTAIN, *President of the Council.*  
 T. L. ROGERS, *Secretary of Council.*  
 HARD ROPE, his X mark, *Councilor White Hair Band.*  
 YOUNG NONPA WA LA, his X mark, *Chief Little Osages.*  
 GEORGE BEAVER, his X mark, *Chief Beaver Band.*  
 CON SA GAR RA, his X mark, *Councilor Big Hill Band.*  
 WAH TE IN KAH, his X mark, *Councilor Big Chief Band.*  
 BILRESO, his X mark, *Councilor Beaver Band.*  
 SAUCY OSAGE, his X mark, *Councilor Saucy Osage Band.*  
 HO LAH CHE, his X mark, *Councilor Tall Chief Band.*  
 KAHTAH MO HE, his X mark, *Chief White Hair Band.*  
 OH CUN CHE WASH KAH, his X mark, *Councilor C Band.*  
 TALLEY, his X mark, *Second Chief Clarrimore Band.*  
 DISTANT MAN, his X mark, *Brave White H Band.*  
 OH KE SHAR, his X mark, *Brave Non pa wah by Band.*  
 WASH SHE PE, his X mark.  
 BLACK BIRD, his X mark.  
 OH KAH HA PAH, his X mark.  
 BLACK HORSE, his X mark.  
 LITTLE EAGLE, his X mark.  
 ONE STICK, his X mark.  
 DRUM, his X mark.  
 WASH KAH HA, his X mark.  
 DOG THIEF, his X mark, *Second Chief Big Hill Band.*  
 WAH HO PA SHIN KAH, his X mark, *Second Chief L. O. B.*  
 SOP PA KE AH, his X mark, *Councilor Harmony Band.*  
 TALE AWAY A GUN, his X mark.  
 LOW MAN, his X mark.  
 SAUCY PE O LAH, his X mark.  
 LAND WALKING, his X mark, *Fourth Chief Joes Band.*  
 WAH SAH SHE WAH TE IN KAH, his X mark.  
 B. L. OSAGE, his X mark.  
 WHITE HORN, his X mark.

OSAGE AGENCY, I. T., *March 29, 1876.*

Having read and duly considered the foregoing petition, we unite in and approve the same.

JOSEPH PAW NO NE PASHE,  
*Governor of Osages.*  
 CHE TO PAH, his X mark,  
*Chief Councilor Osages.*

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we were present at the signing of the foregoing petition, and that the signatures and marks of the governor, chief councilor, chiefs, councilors, and others were made in our presence and are genuine.

March 29, 1876.

JONATHAN OGBENO.  
 SAMUEL BEIVUN.

OSAGE AGENCY, I. T., *March 29, 1876.*

I, Paul Aikin, United States interpreter for the Osage tribe of Indians, do hereby certify that the foregoing petition has been read to the Osages in council; that the same has been duly interpreted to them, and I am satisfied of my own knowledge that they thoroughly understand its meaning; and I further certify that they signed the same of their own free will, without any compulsory efforts on the part of the agents or any other person.

PAUL AKEN,  
*United States Interpreter.*

Attest:

AUGUSTUS CAPTAIN,  
 SAMUEL BEIVUN,  
 W. H. CONNOR,  
 THOS. L. ROGERS,  
 JAMES BIGHART,  
*Interpreters.*

OSAGE INDIAN AGENCY, I. T., *Thirdmonth* 29, 1876.

I hereby certify that the foregoing petition of the Osages, for an appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars from their invested funds to aid them in civilization, has been read to the Indians in council and its objects explained, and I believe the same is understood by the governor, chief-councilor, chiefs, councilors, and headmen; and I further certify that I have carefully examined the same and approve it, and recommend that favorable action be taken thereon to relieve the urgent and pressing necessities of the tribe.

CYRUS BEEDE  
*United States Indian Agent.*