

## LETTER

FROM

# THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*A letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to certain sums due Indian agents.*

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APRIL 17, 1888.—Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, April 14, 1888.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, under date of the 12th instant, relating to certain sums due for salaries to certain agents for the Indians therein named, together with the draught of a bill "To authorize the accounting officers of the Treasury Department to allow certain credits in the settlement of the accounts of Indian agents," and to solicit for the same the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully,

WM. F. VILAS,  
*Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, April 12, 1888.*

SIR: I have the honor to state that, for reasons given below in each case, the accounting officers of the Treasury Department, under a recent ruling of the honorable Second Comptroller, refuse to allow the Indian agents below named pay for part of the time each has been in the service.

Charles E. McChesney was appointed by the President agent for the Cheyenne River Agency, in Dakota, November 13, 1885, during recess of the Senate, at a salary of \$1,500 per annum. This appointment was confirmed by the Senate, to take effect August 2, 1886, but he failed to execute an official bond under said confirmation until September 3, 1886, Congress in the mean time adjourning August 5, 1886.

In view of these facts, the Comptroller now holds that he ceased to be agent on the evening of August 5, 1886, and did not again become an officer of the Government until September 3, 1886; therefore he will

not allow him pay for the period from August 6 to September 2, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$114.13.

W. W. Anderson was appointed agent for Crow Creek and Lower Brulé Agency, in Dakota, December 3, 1885, at a salary of \$1,800 per annum, the Senate not in session; but when Congress next met the appointment was confirmed, to take effect August 4, 1886. He, however, failed to file an official bond under said confirmation until September 1, 1886; therefore, his pay during the period from August 6 to August 31, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$127.17, has been disallowed by the Comptroller.

Israel Green was appointed agent for the Sisseton Agency in Dakota, October 21, 1885, during recess of the Senate, at a salary of \$1,500 per annum, which appointment lapsed when the Senate adjourned August 5, 1886, without confirming it. He was again appointed by the President, under date of August 9, 1886, under which last appointment he filed an official bond, dated August 26, 1886; but the Comptroller now claims that his pay must be disallowed for the period from August 6 to August 25, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$81.52.

John Van Meter Summers was appointed agent for Quapaw Agency, Indian Territory, under date of September 25, 1885, Congress not being in session, at a salary of \$1,500 per annum. This appointment the Senate afterward confirmed, to take effect June 16, 1886; but he did not file an official bond under said confirmation until August 18, 1886, and the Comptroller now decides that this agent's pay must be disallowed for the period from August 6, to August 17, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$48.91.

Charles H. Potter was appointed agent for Omaha and Winnebago Agency in Nebraska August 7, 1885, at a salary of \$1,600 per annum, which appointment lapsed when the Senate adjourned, August 5, 1886, without confirming it, and no further action was taken in the premises until he was relieved by his successor November 1, 1886. It is now held by the Comptroller that his salary for the period from August 6 to October 31, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$378.24, must be disallowed.

Dolores Romero was appointed agent for the Pueblo Agency in New Mexico June 9, 1885, during the recess of the Senate, at a salary of \$2,000 per annum. This appointment the Senate failed to confirm at its next meeting, and no further action was taken (except that the salary of the position was reduced to \$1,800 per annum, commencing with July 1, 1886) until he was relieved by his successor September 13, 1886. In view of these facts the Comptroller now holds that Agent Romero's salary for the period from August 6 to September 12, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$185.87, must be disallowed.

John B. McClane was appointed agent for the Grand Ronde Agency, Oregon, November 9, 1885, at a salary of \$1,000 per annum, the Senate not then in session, and it failed at its next meeting to confirm the appointment. He was therefore again appointed August 9, 1886, during next recess of the Senate, under which later appointment he filed an official bond dated September 3, 1886, and the Comptroller now holds that his pay for the period from August 6 to September 2, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$76.09, must be disallowed.

Thomas M. Jones was appointed agent for Shoshone Agency, Wyoming, under date of September 9, 1885, at a salary of \$1,500 per annum. The Senate failed to confirm this appointment at its next meeting, and he was consequently re-appointed August 9, 1886, under which later appointment he filed an official bond dated October 1, 1886, but the

Comptroller now decides that his pay for the period from August 6 to September 30, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$228.18, must be disallowed.

Jason Wheeler was appointed agent for the Warm Springs Agency in Oregon, under date of July 25, 1885, at a salary of \$1,000 per annum, Congress not then in session. This appointment was not confirmed when the Senate subsequently met, therefore, on August 9, 1886, he was re-appointed by the President, under which latter appointment he filed an official bond, dated September 8, 1886, in view of which the Comptroller now holds that his pay for the period from August 6 to September 7, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$39.67, must be disallowed.

W. L. Powell was appointed agent for the Neah Bay Agency in Washington Territory, September 25, 1885, at a salary of \$1,000 per annum, the Senate not being in session, and during its next session it failed to confirm his appointment. He was again appointed, however, by the President, August 9, 1886, under which latter appointment he filed an official bond dated October 1, 1886, and the Comptroller now holds that his pay for the period from August 6 to September 30, 1886, both dates inclusive, amounting to \$152.25, must be disallowed.

It is not denied by the Comptroller that these men remained under the responsibilities and continued to faithfully discharge the duties of their positions as Indian agents, during the entire time he has decided to disallow their pay, and as I believe it would be in the nature of a hardship to deprive them of their pay on these merely technical grounds, and for no fault or negligence of theirs, the interests of the Indians and of the Government having been carefully protected by them during these intervals, I respectfully recommend that the necessary steps be taken towards obtaining relief for them from Congress, and for this purpose will inclose with this a draught of a bill to be submitted to that body, if it meets with your approval, to authorize the accounting officers of the Treasury Department to allow these agents credit in the settlement of their accounts, for the various sums disallowed in their pay, as above stated.

Respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,  
*Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

A BILL to authorize the accounting officers of the Treasury Department to allow certain credits in the settlement of the accounts of Indian agents.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:* That the accounting officers of the Treasury Department are hereby authorized and directed to allow credit in settlement of the accounts of the following-named Indian agents for the amounts stated below:

To Charles E. McChesney, United States Indian agent for the Indians of the Cheyenne River Agency, in Dakota, for pay for his services from August 6 to September 2, 1886, both dates inclusive, one hundred and fourteen dollars and thirteen cents.

To W. W. Anderson, United States Indian agent for the Indians of the Crow Creek and Lower Brulé Agency, in Dakota, for pay for his services from August 6 to August 31, 1886, both dates inclusive, one hundred and twenty-seven dollars and seventeen cents.

To Israel Green, United States Indian agent, for the Indians of the Sisseton Agency, in Dakota, for pay for his services from August 6 to August 25, 1886, both dates inclusive, eighty-one dollars and fifty-two cents.

To John Van Meter Summers, United States Indian agent for the Indians of the Quapaw Agency, in the Indian Territory, for pay for his services from August sixth to August seventeenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, both dates inclusive, forty-eight dollars and ninety-one cents.

To Charles H. Potter, United States Indian agent for the Indians of the Omaha and Winnebago Agency, in Nebraska, for pay for his services from August sixth to October thirty-first, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, both dates inclusive, three hundred and seventy-eight dollars and twenty-four cents.

To Dolores Romero, United States Indian agent for the Indians of the Pueblo Agency, in New Mexico, for pay for his services from August sixth to September twelfth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, both dates inclusive, one hundred and eighty-five dollars and eighty-seven cents.

To John B. McClane, United States Indian agent for the Indians of the Grand Ronde Agency, in Oregon, for services from August sixth to September second, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, both dates inclusive, seventy-six dollars and nine cents.

To Thomas M. Jones, United States Indian agent for the Indians of the Shoshone Agency, in Wyoming Territory, for pay for services from August sixth to September thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, both dates inclusive, two hundred and twenty-eight dollars and eighteen cents.

To Jason Wheeler, United States Indian agent for the Indians of the Warm Springs Agency, in Oregon, for pay for his services from August sixth to September seventh, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, both dates inclusive, eighty-nine dollars and sixty-seven cents.

To W. L. Powell, United States Indian agent for the Indians of the Neah Bay Agency, in Washington Territory, for pay for his services from August sixth to September thirtieth, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, both dates inclusive, one hundred and fifty-two dollars and twenty-five cents.