

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A letter of the Secretary of the Interior with an estimate for an appropriation of \$10,000 for Mission Indian Commission.

FEBRUARY 26, 1891.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 24, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 20th instant, submitting an estimate for an additional appropriation of \$10,000 for the Mission Indian Commission.

Respectfully, yours,

A. B. NETTLETON,
Acting Secretary.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, February 19, 1891.

SIR: The act of Congress approved January 12, 1891, authorizing the appointment of a Commission to arrange a just and satisfactory settlement of the Mission Indians upon reservations, makes an appropriation of \$10,000 for the payment of the compensation of the Commissioners, including their necessary traveling expenses, and of the expenses of surveying. This amount was inserted in the bill as prepared in this office, and appears to have been based upon the expectation that the work could be completed in about 4 months. Further consideration of the matter, however, in consultation with two of the Commissioners, leads me to believe that it may require a considerably longer period for the Commission to properly perform its duties. There are some forty reservations and settlements of the Mission Indians, scattered over the whole of Southern California, many of them remote from usually traveled routes and accessible by private conveyance only. Many and difficult questions are to be considered and determined, which will necessarily require considerable time for consideration.

It is important that this Commission should have sufficient time for the careful investigation of all matters intrusted to and coming before it, and that all the questions affecting these Indians, which have been so long pending, should now be settled. A possibility that the Commission shall fail to perform all of its duties and to submit a final report should not be allowed to exist.

I am satisfied that the Commissioners would not in any case prolong their duties unnecessarily, and that if an additional appropriation were made it would not be used unless it should be found essential to the proper performance of the work.

In order, therefore, that the settlement of these matters may be placed beyond question, so far as the necessary funds are concerned, I have the honor to recommend that Congress be requested to make an additional appropriation of \$10,000 for the compensation of the Mission Indian Commission. I inclose draft of an item for that purpose, to be inserted in one of the appropriation bills.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

For compensation and expenses of the Mission Indian Commission, in addition to the amount appropriated by the act of January twelfth, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, entitled "An act for the relief of the Mission Indians in the State of California," the sum of ten thousand dollars.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
February 20, 1891.

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury with the recommendation that the additional appropriation asked for be appropriated by Congress.

GEO. CHANDLER,
Acting Secretary.