

NORTHERN SIOUX INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate of appropriation required during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, for the subsistence and support of northern Sioux Indians.

DECEMBER 18, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., December 15, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a copy of a communication dated the 14th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with the accompanying estimate of appropriation required during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, for the subsistence and support of northern Sioux Indians who have been collected on the Red Cloud and Whetstone agencies in Dakota, amounting to \$162,900.

The subject is commended to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER *House of Representatives.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 4, 1874.

SIR: By the act making appropriations for the Indian service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, the sum of \$1,100,000 was set apart for the subsistence of the Sioux Indians, including Santee Sioux, in Nebraska, and the Yankton Sioux and Poncas, in Dakota, in part compliance with the general estimate for that purpose, prepared in this Office and submitted to Congress.

The amount thus appropriated would probably have been sufficient to meet the requirements up to the 1st of July next, if the number of Indians to be subsisted had not been materially increased. At the time the appropriation was made there were about thirteen thousand Indians to be provided for at the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, but by subsequent accession from northern bands of Sioux the number has

increased until it now amounts to over twenty thousand, with a strong probability of a further increase during the winter.

In my report of the 25th May last, in reply to inquiries made by the Hon. W. A. Buckingham, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, as to the necessity of establishing another agency for the northern Sioux, in accordance with the recommendation of the commission of which Bishop Hare was chairman, I had the honor to indorse said recommendation, submitting at the same time, for the favorable consideration of the Department and of Congress, an estimate for the sum of \$200,000, of which \$30,000 for the establishment of the new agency, and \$170,000 for the care and subsistence of such Indians as would be brought within its control.

No appropriation having been made in response to the above, and the greater portion of the Indians referred to having been subsisted from the funds provided for the Sioux, generally, additional means will be required, the exact amount of which it is impossible at this early date to determine, but it is believed that the inclosed estimate for \$162,900 will prove nearly correct.

This estimate is based upon the supposition that there will be, upon an average, at least six thousand Indians to subsist from the 1st January to the 1st July, 1875, in addition to those embraced in the general estimate, and provided for in the appropriation act of June 22, 1874, and that the cost of their subsistence for one hundred and eighty-one days, as above, will be at the rate of 15 cents per day for each person.

Nearly all of the hostile Sioux who were formerly roaming over the country, including the six or eight thousand above mentioned, are now being fed upon the reservation, and in order to keep them there, especially these northern or semi-hostile ones, and prevent depredations upon neighboring settlements, and to encourage them to abandon their nomadic habits, it is of the utmost importance that necessary supplies be provided for their continued subsistence.

I respectfully ask that the inclosed estimate be laid before Congress with such recommendation as the Department may deem proper to make in the premises.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Estimate appropriation required for the Indian service in Dakota during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875.

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the subsistence and support of northern Sioux Indians who have been collected on the Red Cloud and Whetstone agencies in Dakota..... \$162,900