

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An increase in the estimate for education of children in Alaska, as submitted by the Secretary of the Interior, for the fiscal year 1891.

MARCH 28, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
March 27, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication from the Commissioner of Education of the 22d instant, forwarded by the Secretary of the Interior, submitting an increase in the estimate on page 61 of the Book of Estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891, for "Education of children in Alaska," from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Respectfully yours,

GEO. S. BATCHELLER,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
Washington, D. C., March 22, 1890.

SIR: The estimates of appropriations for this office were required to be submitted in September last, and had been sent in a few days before my assuming the duties of Commissioner. Not having time to study the various interests concerned, I contented myself with revising a few of the items which I thought needed modification and repeating in most cases the estimates of the preceding year.

I desire now to recommend, and to request you to recommend to the Congress, a modification of the estimate submitted last September under the very important item, the "Industrial and elementary education of the children of school age in Alaska." The appropriation for that pur-

pose, I am now convinced, ought to be increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

The Government's educational work in that Territory, which is managed and supervised by this office, is at least firmly established and well organized, and the moderate and healthy growth which is already apparent imperatively demands the opening and maintenance of new schools. One of the sections of the rules for the government of education in Alaska, issued by the Secretary of the Interior June 14, 1887, declares that "a common school should be established in every settlement where there are children of sufficient number, and at least one school in every tribe of Indians or native settlement." This requirement has not yet been complied with, but the times are now ripe for the establishment of schools at a number of stations, where they will surely do great good to the cause of commerce and civilization. The Government officers who are connected with the educational work in Alaska and are most conversant with the condition of the various communities are unanimous in recommending an increase of the appropriation to \$75,000; and a careful estimate of the expense of the work that ought to be undertaken next year, on the most economical basis, slightly exceeds that figure.

I therefore urgently recommend the increase to \$75,000, and respectfully request that you submit the matter to the proper committee with as strong a recommendation in its favor as you may deem the importance of the interest involved to merit.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. HARRIS,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

