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Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, transmitting an estimate for appropriation of \$35,000 for the purchase of one township of land in White Earth Reservation, for the use of the Pembina band of Chippewa Indians.

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RESERVATION FOR PEMBINA INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*An estimate for appropriation of \$35,000 for the purchase of one township of land in White Earth reservation, for the use of the Pembina band of Chippewa Indians.*

JANUARY 18, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, D. C., January 13, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 11th instant, together with copies of the papers therein referred to, recommending that the sum of \$35,000 be appropriated, to enable the Indian Bureau to purchase one township of land in the White Earth reservation, for the use and occupancy of the Pembina band of Chippewa Indians, and to establish said band upon the land so purchased.

The letter of Agent E. P. Smith, herewith inclosed, describes the condition of these Indians, and shows the necessity, in view of the influx of white settlers in Northwestern Minnesota and Northeastern Dakota by the opening of the Northern Pacific Railroad, for early action, to prevent serious difficulty between the Indians and the settlers.

I therefore respectfully ask that the favorable consideration of Congress may be given to the subject, with a view to the appropriation of the amount asked for.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,  
*Speaker U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, January 11, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of a communication from Agent E. P. Smith, dated the 17th ultimo, relative to the wretched and hopeless condition of the Pembina band of Chippewa Indians.

Some of these Indians are now on the White Earth reservation in Minnesota, and others desire to remove there. They have no rights to any portion of this reservation, or even to reside upon it without permission from the Mississippi bands of Chippewas, to whom it belongs. The last-named bands are willing to sell one township of said reservation, which will be sufficient for the Pembina band, for the sum of \$25,000. This sum would enable the agent to carry on the improvements that have been commenced on said reservation, in erecting houses and opening farms for the Mississippi bands, a measure which should by all means be carried on to completion.

Should this sum of \$25,000 be appropriated for the purchase of a tract of land from the Mississippi bands of Chippewas for the Pembina band, the agent reports that the further sum of \$10,000 will be required to establish the last-named band upon the tract purchased.

The Pembina band of Chippewas have for several years been a great annoyance to the settlers in Northwestern Minnesota and Northeast Dakota, and since that section of country has been opened up by the Northern Pacific Railroad passing through it, resulting in an influx of whites, this annoyance has increased, and great danger is apprehended unless prompt action be taken to remedy the evil, of serious trouble between them and the settlers.

In view of the foregoing, and approving the agent's recommendations respecting the matter, I have caused an estimate to be prepared for the sum necessary to be appropriated to accomplish the objects desired, and respectfully recommend that the same be submitted to Congress for its favorable consideration and action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,  
BECKER COUNTY, MINNESOTA,  
*White Earth, December 17, 1881.*

SIR: I respectfully invite the attention of the Commissioner to statements in my annual report respecting the Pembina Chippewas.

These Indians, in their present condition, are extremely wretched and entirely hopeless, and are also a constant annoyance to the settlers who are now coming into the country opened up by the North Pacific Railroad. These Indians have no right in the country where they are roaming, and, practically, are without a home.

In the treaty of 1864 with the Red Lakes and Pembinas, the country ceded included a portion of the country occupied by the Red Lakes, and all of Pembina, so that, nominally they may have a right in the Red Lake reservation, the right is not acknowledged by the Red Lakes, and the Pembinas would never think of intruding themselves upon them. Some of this band are already on White Earth reservation, and others have told me they desire to come. The White Earth Indians are willing to sell them a township of land, which will be sufficient for their occupation, for the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, (\$25,000.)

I therefore respectfully recommend, as the easiest solution of the difficulty respecting these Indians, that this purchase be made from the White Earth Indians, the purchase money to be expended in improvements at White Earth, under the direction of the Commissioner, and that the Pembina Indians be brought to White Earth.

If this action is taken, a further appropriation of \$10,000 will be required for improvements to establish the Pembinas upon the reservation. Besides being an indispensable aid to the Pembinas, the purchase-money will be of great value to the White Earth reservation, in carrying on improvements that are already commenced and necessary for other Indians entitled to be removed by treaty.

I earnestly hope this matter may receive the favorable consideration of the Indian Office.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW'D P. SMITH,  
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. A. WALKER,  
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

*Estimate of appropriation required for the benefit of the Pembina band of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota.*

For this amount, or so much thereof as may be required, for the purchase from the Mississippi bands of Chippewa Indians one township of land in the White Earth reservation in Minnesota, for the use and benefit of the Pembina band of Chippewas.....	\$25,000
For this amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to aid and assist the Chippewas of the Pembina band in establishing themselves upon the White Earth reservation in Minnesota .....	10,000
	<u>35,000</u>