

—report.

Proviso.
Amount for supplies
immediately avail-
able.

the consent of said tribes, expressed in the usual manner; and that he cause report to be made to Congress, at its next session thereafter, of his action under this provision. *Provided*, That so much of the appropriations herein made as may be required to pay for goods and supplies, for expenses incident to their purchase, and for transportation of the same, for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, shall be immediately available; but no such goods or supplies shall be distributed or delivered to any of said Indians prior to July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.

Rejection of bids.

—purchases in open
market.

SEC. 5. That whenever, after advertising for bids for supplies, in accordance with sections three and four of this Act, those received for any article contain conditions detrimental to the interest of the Government, they may be rejected, and the articles specified in such bids purchased in open market, at prices not to exceed those of the lowest bidder, and not to exceed the market price of the same, until such time as satisfactory bids can be obtained, for which immediate advertisement shall be made.

Transfer or sale of
Government property
on reservations au-
thorized.

SEC. 6. That hereafter at any of the Indian reservations where there is now on hand Government property not required for the use and benefit of the Indians at said reservation, the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to move such property to other Indian reservations where it may be required, or to sell it and apply the proceeds of same in the purchase of such articles as may be needed for the use of the Indians for whom said property was purchased; and he shall make report of his action hereunder to the next session of Congress thereafter.

Commutation of ra-
tions, etc.

SEC. 7. That hereafter when, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Interior, any Indian tribe, or part thereof, who are receiving rations and clothing and other supplies under this Act, are sufficiently advanced in civilization to purchase such rations and clothing and other supplies judiciously, they may commute the same and pay the value thereof in money per capita to such tribe or part thereof, the manner of such payment to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior.

Report on employees
to be made annually.

SEC. 8. That the Commissioner of Indian Affairs shall report annually to Congress, specifically showing the number of employees at each agency, industrial, and boarding school, which are supported in whole or in part out of the appropriations in this Act, giving name, when employed, in what capacity employed, male or female, whether white or Indian, amount of compensation paid, and out of what item or fund of the appropriation paid, and whether in the opinion of such Commissioner any of such employees are unnecessary.

Flathead Indians,
reappraisal of certain
unsold lands of.

—sale.

Vol. 25, p. 871.

SEC. 9. That with the consent of the Indians, severally, the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to cause a reappraisal of the unsold tracts of land of the Flathead Indians, situated in the Bitter Root Valley, Montana, by such person connected with the Indian service as he may designate, and that such lands shall then be sold, at the reappraised value, as provided for in the Act of Congress of March second, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, chapter three hundred and ninety-one, Twenty-fifth Statutes at Large, page eight hundred and seventy-one.

Northern Cheyenne
Reservation, Mont.

—report on existing
conditions by in-
spector.

SEC. 10. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, directed to send an inspector of his Department to the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Indians, in the State of Montana, and said agent shall be instructed to make a full and complete report to the Secretary of the Interior upon the conditions existing upon said reservation, said report to be available for use on or before the fifteenth day of November, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.

—duties of inspector.

It shall be the duty of the said inspector to ascertain if it is feasible to secure the removal of said Northern Cheyenne Indians from the present reservation to some portion of the Crow Indian Reservation, in the State of Montana. He shall also ascertain and report in detail the number and names of the white settlers legally upon the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, the number of acres of land owned by them, its

location and the value thereof and of the improvements thereon. Also the number and names of white settlers who are alleged to be illegally settled upon the reservation, the circumstances attending their settlement thereon, and their location. He shall also enter into negotiations with the white settlers upon said reservation, who have valid titles, for the sale of their lands and improvements to the Government; and he is hereby authorized and empowered to make written agreements with such settlers, which agreements shall not be binding until ratified and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. He shall also make recommendations as to the settlement of the claims of such white settlers as have gone upon said reservation under circumstances which give them an equitable right thereon.

He shall investigate the subject of fencing in the said reservation and shall indicate the lines such fence should follow and the estimated cost of same, and shall report upon the number of cattle and sheep which may safely be pastured within the limits recommended to be fenced. He shall further report upon and make recommendations with reference to any and all matters which in his judgment have any bearing upon the question of securing an equitable adjustment of the difficulties now existing upon said reservation and with especial reference to bringing about a satisfactory settlement with the white settlers, both as to the sale of their lands to the Government and the adjustment of the reservation limits.

SEC. 11. That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby directed to pay out of the appropriation of the Act of Congress of June seventh, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, such of the Creek warrants as are proven to be held by innocent holders who acquired them in good faith for value and without knowledge, actual or constructive, of irregularity or fraud in the issuance thereof, and such warrants shall upon payment be canceled by the Secretary of the Interior; and all the warrants so issued by said Creek Nation shall be presented to the Secretary of the Interior within ninety days from the passage of this Act, and all warrants not so presented are hereby declared null and void, and such warrants so presented which are not proven to have been issued or acquired in good faith for value and without knowledge, actual or constructive, of irregularity or fraud in the issuance thereof, shall be held by the Secretary and marked upon their face "fraudulent and void."

Payment of Creek warrants in hands of innocent holders. *Ante*, p. 68.

Warrants not presented void, etc.

Approved, July 1, 1898.