

RENT FOR BUILDING FOR USE OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

ASKING FOR AN

Appropriation to pay for use of building for Department of Education.

MARCH 15, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., March 12, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of papers relating to the rent of the second story of the fire-proof building corner of G and Eighth streets, in this city, by the then Department of Education, from November 12, 1868, until April 16, 1869, for which an account has been presented to this department for payment by Mr. John W. Wright, the owner of said building. The amount due Mr. Wright, according to agreement, is \$427 78, being at the rate of \$1,000 per annum.

The papers are as follows:

A. Copy of letter from Henry Barnard, esq., Commissioner of Education, dated February 3, 1870.

B. Copy of letter from this department to Brevet Brigadier General Michler, Commissioner of Public Buildings, dated February 5, 1870.

C. Copy of letter from the Commissioner of Public Buildings, dated March 7, 1870; and

D. Copy of letter from the Commissioner of Education, dated March 11, 1870.

The account presented by Mr. Wright is for rent which accrued prior to the date when the office of Education was attached to this department, viz., June 30, 1869, as provided by the act approved July 20, 1868, (U. S. S., vol. 15, p. 106,) and during the period within which the Commissioner of Public Buildings was required by the fourth section of the act approved March 2, 1867, (U. S. S., vol. 14, p. 434,) "to furnish proper offices" for the then Department of Education.

I respectfully recommend that a clause be inserted in the deficiency bill, appropriating the sum of \$427 78 to pay for the use and occupation of said building by the Department of Education, as aforesaid, and also the further sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) for compensation of

persons employed in preparing documents for the use of the Bureau of Education, and in preparing the report of the Commissioner thereof, making, altogether, the sum of \$927 75, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. COX,
Secretary.

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION,
Washington, February 3, 1870.

SIR: The 12th of November, 1868, with the consent of General Michler, Commissioner of Public Buildings, I removed this office into the second story of the fire-proof building on the corner of G and Eighth streets, and occupied the same till the time you took possession, about the 18th of April, 1869. I had previously occupied rooms (at a rent of \$1,000 per year) assigned me by the Commissioner of Public Buildings, on the corner of Fourteenth and New York avenue. These rooms being in a building where there were numerous fires over which I had no control, were not deemed safe or perfectly convenient. I had no appropriation to pay the rent, and Judge Wright, the proprietor of the building on the corner of G and Eighth streets, is entitled to a fair compensation for the occupancy of the same.

Respectfully, yours,

HENRY BARNARD,
Commissioner of Education.

Hon. J. D. Cox,
Secretary of the Interior.

B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 5, 1870.

SIR: I inclose, herewith, a copy of a letter dated the 3d instant, from Henry Barnard, esq., Commissioner of Education, which was inclosed on the same day to this department by Mr. J. W. Wright, together with an account against the government for rent of portion of his building corner of G and Eighth streets, occupied by the then Department of Education, by your consent, (as stated in Mr. Barnard's letter,) from November 12, 1868, until the date upon which this department took possession of the entire building, amounting to \$1,020.

This account is for rent which accrued prior to the date upon which the Office of Education was attached to this department, viz: June 30, 1869, as provided in the act approved July 20, 1868, (U. S. S., vol. 15, p. 106,) and during the period within which you were required by the fourth section of the act approved March 2, 1867, (U. S. S., vol. 14, p. 434,) "to furnish proper offices for the (then) Department of Education."

I will thank you to inform me whether there are any funds at your disposal, applicable to the payment of said account, and if not, will cheerfully co-operate with you in any measure that may be adopted to secure a settlement of the same.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. COX,
Secretary.

Bvt. Brig. Gen. N. MICHLER,
Commissioner of Public Buildings.

C.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND WORKS,
UNITED STATES CAPITOL,
Washington, D. C., March 7, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 5, inclosing a copy of a letter from Henry Barnard, esq., Commissioner of Education, in relation to an account of Mr. J. W. Wright for rent of a portion of his building, corner of G and Eighth streets, occupied by the Department of Education from November 12, 1868, to June 30, 1869, amounting to \$1,020.

In reply I have to state that, although section 4 of the act approved March 2, 1867, to establish a Department of Education, authorizes the Commissioner of Public Buildings to furnish proper offices for the use of that department, yet no funds were placed at my disposal for payment of rent, it having been paid, prior to the time claimed above, from funds under control of the State Department upon vouchers approved by me.

As there are no funds at my disposal applicable to the payment of Mr. Wright's account, I respectfully suggest that a special appropriation be asked from Congress for its settlement.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. MICHLER,
Major of Engineers, Brevet Brig. Gen'l U. S. A.

Hon. J. D. COX,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

D.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION,
Washington, D. C., March 11, 1870.

SIR: The following is a copy of a letter addressed to Judge Wright November 12, 1868, on the back of which he wrote "I accept the within terms."

Respectfully, yours,

HENRY BARNARD,
Commissioner of Education.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 12, 1868.

MY DEAR JUDGE: I have seen the Commissioner of Pensions and Patents and can get no aid. If anything is done it must be done by an

arrangement between us, and I must trust to the courtesy of the Secretary of the Interior not to disturb our arrangement until after July 1st, should he come into possession before. Now if I can have the rooms on the second floor and two rooms on the first floor, (which is about the same space I am now occupying,) for the same I am now paying, (at the rate of \$1,000 per year,) and you will furnish such gas fixtures as will furnish light in such room as I shall designate, and will put in registers into the hot-air openings of each room, I will arrange to take possession within ten days.

Yours, truly,

H. BARNARD.

NOVEMBER 12, 1868.

I accept the within terms.

J. W. WRIGHT.