

RED CLOUD AND WHETSTONE AGENCIES.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate of an appropriation to subsist the Sioux Indians at Red Cloud and Whetstone agencies, &c.

JANUARY 12, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 10, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication, dated the 6th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs—together with the copies of correspondence therein noted—upon the subject of the subsistence of the Sioux Indians at Red Cloud and Whetstone agencies, and estimates of appropriation stated.

The Commissioner states, that owing to the fact that extraordinary issues were required to subsist the numerous bands of Sioux, called together at the Red Cloud agency in the conference held at that point by the late commission to treat for the cession of the Black Hills, and to other circumstances stated, the supplies have become nearly exhausted, and that the flour, corn, and beef furnished for Red Cloud agency will be expended by the 10th proximo, the bacon by the 10th of March next, and the sugar and coffee by the 1st of April.

Upon consideration, I have deemed it expedient to suggest that the subsistence called for be reduced as follows, viz: that the item of flour be changed to corn, making a difference of \$2,070, and that the items of sugar and coffee be entirely omitted, making a further reduction of \$9,386, and a total difference of \$11,456 in the amount of the estimate.

An estimate of appropriation is herewith submitted—amounting to \$225,000—for the purpose mentioned; and, with the modification before suggested, the subject is respectfully recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER,
House of Representatives.

Estimate of appropriations required to subsist Sioux Indians, and to pay for the transportation of Indian supplies for same Indians.

For this amount to supply the Sioux Indians with necessary subsistence until June 30, 1876.....	\$150,000 00
For this amount to pay for transportation of Sioux Indian supplies, to be transported under existing contracts, and for such supplies as may be purchased during the remainder of the present fiscal year.....	75,000 00
	225,000 00

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 6, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a copy of a letter from James S. Hastings, United States Indian agent at the Red Cloud agency, Nebraska, in which, under date of December 14, 1875, he states that the supplies of flour, corn, and beef, heretofore and yet to be furnished for the use of his agency, under existing contracts, will be exhausted by February 10th, of bacon by March 10th, and of coffee and sugar by April 1st.

In reply to his communication from the agent, he was directed, under date of the 29th ultimo, to reduce his issues of supplies to the lowest practicable point. I forward a copy of my letter so instructing him. That Agent Hastings will be able, however, to so reduce his weekly ration as to avoid the necessity for further purchases, I do not believe; and the temper and numbers of the Indians under his charge seem, in my opinion, to justify a full statement of the facts, to be laid by you, if thought advisable, before Congress at an early day.

Agent Hastings explains this deficiency as, in part, caused by the issue of supplies to the large number of Indians visiting the agency in September last, during the negotiations for the purchase of the Black Hills, a contingency not anticipated when the estimates for the year were under consideration.

In further explanation of this deficiency, I have the honor to state that the amount appropriated for the subsistence of these Indians in 1874, and for some years prior thereto, was \$1,314,000. For the last and the present fiscal years, the appropriation for this purpose was \$1,100,000, though an additional appropriation of \$120,000 for the last fiscal year was made by the act of March 3, 1875.

Moreover, in 1874, Congress appropriated \$100,000 for the subsistence of the Northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes (over 3,500 in number) at the Red Cloud agency, which amount was reduced in 1875 to \$45,000, while for the present year no appropriation whatever was made, and these Indians have been subsisted from the funds appropriated for the Sioux.

After a careful consideration of all the facts, I do not see how the amount required to feed these Indians during the remainder of the present fiscal year can be placed at less than \$150,000. My estimate is based upon the best obtainable data as to the number of Indians at the Red Cloud agency, (which number is now understood to be nearly 13,000,) and has been made with an earnest desire to reduce the heavy expenses for these Indians to the lowest practicable point.

For the further information of yourself and of Congress, I submit herewith tabular statements, showing, in detail, the estimated amount of supplies required for the present fiscal year at each of the Sioux agencies; the amount contracted for; the amount delivered under existing contracts, so far as can be ascertained from the returns in this

Office; the amount required to pay for provisions yet to be delivered under existing contracts, and the balance of the appropriation of \$1,100,000 yet unexpended. From this statement, the sum required to meet existing engagements is shown to be \$326,187.30, while the balance of the appropriation is \$317,851.65, leaving to be provided by further legislation the sum of \$8,335.75.

In this connection, I venture to call your attention to the condition of the fund for the transportation of supplies for these Indians. The amount appropriated for this purpose for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874, was \$150,000, which amount was reduced by Congress to \$75,000 for 1875, and also for the present year.

By the act of March 3, 1875, Congress increased this amount by a deficiency appropriation of \$75,000, leaving, however, the appropriation for the present fiscal year at \$75,000, only one-half of what had heretofore been found necessary. Of this appropriation of \$75,000, \$69,050.20 has already been expended, while many of the vouchers for transportation during the year have not been presented, and, indeed, a large part of the service contracted for, and necessary, is yet to be performed.

The additional amount required to meet existing contracts for transportation, and to provide for the transportation of the further supplies needed, and hereinbefore called for, will not be less than \$75,000.

In this connection I beg leave to suggest that, in my view, this appropriation should be made applicable to both the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies, so that this Office might utilize the supplies now at Spotted Tail agency out of the supplies herein called for.

In conclusion, I have the honor to request that this matter be laid before Congress at an early day, with such favorable recommendations from the Department as you may be disposed to give.

An estimate of appropriation, as above stated, is herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

RED CLOUD AGENCY, NEB.,
December 14, 1875.

SIR: I would respectfully inform the Department that the supplies on hand, and to arrive, will be insufficient to meet the demand for the time for which they were intended. Allowing the issue to be made at the minimum, except in the item of beef, the supplies will have been consumed as follows: Flour, corn, and beef, by February 10, bacon by March 10, coffee and sugar by April 1.

As I understand it, the principal cause of the deficiency is attributable to the issue of supplies to a large number of visiting Indians, who attended the council held here in September last.

In order to successfully carry out the wishes of the Department, and to prevent suffering among the Indians, which must necessarily occur if more food is not supplied, more especially in the item of beef, I urgently request that action be taken in the premises with as little delay as possible.

The additional amount required is as follows: Beef, 4,000,000 pounds; bacon, 80,000 pounds; flour, 200,000 pounds; corn, 200,000 pounds; coffee, 20,000 pounds; sugar, 38,000 pounds.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. S. HASTINGS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 29, 1875.

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, reporting that there is not a sufficient quantity of supplies on hand to last until the close of the present fiscal year, and desiring to be furnished with an additional quantity.

In reply, I have to call your attention to section 6, page 34, of the present appropriation bill, which provides that the supplies shall be distributed to the Indians so as to last during the entire year, and to state that owing to the limited amount of funds at the disposal of the Department applicable to the purchase of supplies for the Indians at your agency, no additional purchases can be made unless Congress shall make a special appropriation for that purpose.

Owing to these facts, I have to direct that you use every effort within your power to reduce the issues of the Red Cloud agency to the lowest practicable point, in order that the supplies now on hand and to be delivered at your agency may last, if possible, to the close of the fiscal year, reporting your progress in the matter to this Office in full.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner

JAS. S. HASTINGS,
United States Indian Agent, Red Cloud Agency, Nebraska.

Statement showing number of Sioux Indians, by agencies, with quantities of supplies they would be entitled to according to established ration; also the quantities contracted for.

Kind of supplies.	Ponca agency, 734 Indians.		Santee, 800 Indians.		Yankton, 2,000 Indians.		Red Cloud, 9,136 Indians.		Northern Cheyennes at Red Cloud, 2,172 Indians.	
	Entitled to—	Contracted for—	Entitled to—	Contracted for—	Entitled to—	Contracted for—	Entitled to—	Contracted for—	Entitled to—	Contracted for—
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Beef	698,034	300,000	760,800	400,000	1,902,000	1,500,000	8,688,336	9,000,000	2,065,572	.....
Bacon	35,232	Pork 10,000	38,400	.....	96,000	{ Pork 25,000 } { Bacon 25,000 }	438,528	200,000	101,756	.....
Flour	267,910	50,000	292,000	Wheat 300,000	730,000	Wheat 180,000	3,334,640	500,000	792,780	.....
Corn	66,977.2	50,000	73,000	.....	182,500	200,000	833,660	500,000	198,195	.....
Coffee	10,716 2-5	5,058	11,680	5,948	29,200	11,959	133,385 3-5	150,044	31,711 1-5	.....
Sugar	21,432 4-5	10,043	23,360	12,008	58,400	23,960	266,771 1-5	74,612	62,422 2-5	.....
Kind of supplies.	Spotted Tail, 9,610 Indians.		Crow Creek, 3,000 Indians.		Cheyenne River, 7,586 Indians.		Standing Rock, 7,322 Indians.		Arapahoes at Red Cloud agency, 1,565.	
	Entitled to—	Contracted for—	Entitled to—	Contracted for—	Entitled to—	Contracted for—	Entitled to—	Contracted for—	Entitled to—	Contracted for—
	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Beef	9,139,110	8,000,000	2,853,000	1,800,000	7,214,286	5,000,000	6,963,222	6,500,000	1,482,315	.....
Bacon	461,280	150,000	144,000	{ Pork 37,000 } { Bacon 37,000 }	364,128	{ Pork 50,000 } { Bacon 75,000 }	351,456	75,000	75,120	.....
Flour	3,507,650	400,000	1,095,000	250,000	2,768,890	350,000	2,672,530	350,000	571,225	.....
Corn	876,912	300,000	273,750	300,000	692,222	400,000	668,132	450,000	142,806	.....
Coffee	140,306	59,877	43,800	18,074	110,755	36,127	106,901	39,740	22,849	.....
Sugar	280,612	120,064	87,600	36,081	221,511	72,004	213,802	80,052	45,698	.....

NOTE.—A ration consists of 3 pounds gross beef; 1 pound of bacon four times a month, in lieu of beef; 1 pound of flour; $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of corn; 4 pounds of coffee per 100 rations; 8 pounds of sugar per 100 rations.

RED CLOUD AND WHETSTONE AGENCIES.

Statement showing the kind, quantity, and cost of supplies furnished and paid for from the appropriation for the subsistence of the Sioux Indians from July 1, 1875, to January 5, 1876.

Kind of supplies.	Santee agency.		Ponca agency.		Red Cloud agency.		Spotted Tail agency.	
	Quantity.	Cost.	Quantity.	Cost.	Quantity.	Cost.	Quantity.	Cost.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
Bacon	12,000	\$1,498 20	10,000	\$1,248 50	210,105	\$31,305 63	156,444	\$23,310 16
Pork			50,000	1,485 00	520,100	15,622 65	200,000	5,058 30
Flour			50,486	1,009 72	224,456	7,630 19	240,489	5,050 26
Corn			252,760	6,230 53	7,559,074	186,331 14	3,659,962	90,168 73
Beef	367,524	9,059 46	1,960	17 15	27,440	240 10	10,080	98 20
Salt	3,120	34 30						
Wheat	300,797	4,110 88						
Sugar	12,008	1,067 51	10,043	892 82	150,044	13,416 93	120,064	10,733 73
Coffee	5,948	1,282 59	5,058	1,090 64	74,612	16,087 83	59,877	12,913 21
Tea					6,000	1,800 00		

Kind of supplies.	Standing Rock agency.		Cheyenne River agency.		Crow Creek agency.		Yankton agency.	
	Quantity.	Cost.	Quantity.	Cost.	Quantity.	Cost.	Quantity.	Cost.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
Bacon	74,684	\$10,784 37	76,779	\$11,086 87	36,822	\$5,317 10	25,227	\$3,642 78
Pork			50,000	6,242 50	37,600	4,619 45	25,000	3,121 25
Flour	350,032	10,395 95	350,000	10,395 00	250,900	7,451 73		
Corn	454,570	9,091 44	402,395	8,047 93	300,007	6,000 14	205,851	4,117 02
Beef	2,468,752	60,854 74	3,750,638	92,453 22	409,135	10,085 18	1,492,957	36,801 39
Salt	5,880	51 45	3,080	26 95			1,960	17 15
Wheat							196,915	3,019 37
Sugar	80,052	7,107 95	72,004	6,401 16	36,051	3,207 60	23,960	2,130 04
Coffee	39,740	8,568 94	36,127	7,789 84	18,074	3,897 16	11,959	2,578 64
Tea								

Total cost of bacon	\$185,446 91
Total cost of pork	16,729 90
Total cost of flour	50,408 63
Total cost of corn	41,136 70
Total cost of beef	491,984 39
Total cost of salt	475 30
Total cost of wheat	7,130 25
Total cost of sugar	44,957 73
Total cost of coffee	54,208 85
Total cost of tea	1,800 00
Cost of inspecting sugar and coffee	31 47
Cost of advertising for supplies	4,121 40
Total cost of supplies	798,431 60
Balance on hand	301,568 40
Amount appropriated	1,100,000 00

Statement showing quantity and cost of supplies yet to be furnished under contracts for Sioux Indians.

Kind of supplies.	Agency.	Quantity contracted for.	Quantity delivered.	Still due.	Cost of the latter.
		<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	
Corn	Red Cloud	500,000	224,456	275,544	\$9,643 04
Flour	Spotted Tail	200,000	None	200,000	5,400 00
Corn	do	300,000	240,489	59,511	1,249 73
Wheat	Yankton	180,000	136,708	43,292	663 32
Beef	Santee	400,000	367,524	32,476	
Do	Yankton	1,500,000	1,492,957	7,043	
Do	Spotted Tail	8,000,000	3,659,962	4,340,038	
Do	Crow Creek	1,800,000	409,135	1,390,865	
Do	Cheyenne River	5,000,000	3,750,638	1,249,362	309,091 22
Do	Standing Rock	6,500,000	2,468,752	4,031,248	
Do	Red Cloud	9,000,000	7,559,074	1,440,926	
Do	Ponca	300,000	252,760	47,240	
Amount required to make payment					326,047 31

RED CLOUD AND WHETSTONE AGENCIES.

Statement of funds at the disposal of Interior Department applicable to payment of supplies for Sioux Indians.

Sioux subsistence fund	\$301,568 40	
Northern Cheyenne and Arapahoe fund	16,283 25	
	<hr/>	\$317,851 65

Statement of transportation fund.

Amount appropriated	75,000 00	
Amount expended	69,050 20	
Balance on hand	5,949 80	
Balance of clothing fund applicable to transportation of same	10,241 85	
	<hr/>	16,191 65
Estimated amount of funds required to complete the transportation of Indian supplies up to the close of the present fiscal year		75,000 00

