

C. E. HEDGES.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN RELATION TO

*The claim of C. E. Hedges for supplies furnished Yancton Sioux Indians.*

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JANUARY 23, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on Claims and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 17, 1871.*

SIR: I transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a copy of a report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 10th instant, together with the papers connected with the claim of C. E. Hedges, of Sioux City, Iowa, amounting to \$11,329, for supplies furnished the Yancton Sioux Indians during November and December, 1866, and January, February, March, April, and May, 1867, to prevent suffering and absolute starvation of said Indians.

There being no funds at the disposal of the Department applicable to the payment of this claim, the attention of Congress is respectfully invited to the subject, with a view to the necessary appropriation for the payment of said claim.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,  
*Secretary.*

Hon. JAS. G. BLAINE,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 10, 1871.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith two copies of a claim, amounting to \$11,329, of C. E. Hedges of Sioux City, Iowa, for supplies furnished the Yancton Sioux Indians during November and December, 1866, and January, February, March, April, and May, 1867, at the urgent request of the Indians, to prevent suffering and absolute starvation, and upon the promise of the agent, P. H. Conger, that he would use his influence to obtain payment of the claim by the Department.

The claimant submits, in support of the claim, the affidavit of A. C.

Guyon, to the effect that a large lot of flour, bacon, sugar, and coffee were furnished said Indians, and that it was their wish that the trader, Mr. Hedges, should be paid for the provisions furnished. C. F. Picotte testifies also that the Indians in conversation frequently told him that if it had not been for the kindness of their trader, Charles E. Hedges, they would have suffered severely from starvation, and that the said Hedges did, from time to time, make large issues to them, by order or request of the acting agent, Hiram Conger, and that it was their wish that he should be paid for the provisions furnished at the time. F. B. Chardon also testifies that the claimant did furnish, upon the order or request of the agent, and during his absence, on the order or request of the acting agent, Hiram Conyer, provisions as charged in the bill; and that he acted both as clerk and interpreter, and knows that the Indians received the goods as billed to them. Louis Mallett makes affidavit that he is married to an Indian woman, and speaks the same language, and knows that had it not been for the provisions issued by the claimant, the Indians would have suffered from starvation.

The governor and ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs, A. J. Faulk, in reporting upon this claim, refers to the destitute condition of said Indians, and that he had the most reliable information from the interpreter, agent, and the Indians themselves, that almost their only dependence was upon the credit obtained from Mr. Hedges, through the intercession of their resident agent, Mr. Conger, and that the Indians in council gave unmistakable evidence that in their opinion they owed even their lives to the assistance thus liberally extended, and recommends the payment of the claim.

From the papers presented in this case, I am satisfied that the articles named in the account were actually furnished, and that Mr. Hedges has a just claim for the amount thereof and should be paid.

There are no funds at the disposal of this Bureau that can be used to pay this claim, and I, therefore, respectfully recommend that the papers in the case be submitted to Congress, with the view of having the necessary appropriation made for that purpose.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. COLUMBUS DELANO,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

*Yancton Sioux Indians in account with Charles E. Hedges, Dr.*

November 1, 1866.	For 60 sacks of flour, at \$6 per sack.....	\$360 00
	For 622½ pounds bacon, at 22 cents.....	136 95
	For 80 pounds coffee, at 28 cents.....	22 40
	For 100 pounds sugar, at 16 cents.....	16 00
November 20, 1866.	For 155 sacks flour, at \$6.....	930 00
	For 722 pounds bacon, at 22 cents.....	158 85
	For 80 pounds coffee, at 28 cents.....	22 40
	For 115 pounds sugar, at 16 cents.....	18 40
December 3, 1866.	For 118 sacks flour, at \$6.....	708 00
	For 80 pounds coffee, at 28 cents.....	22 40
	For 110 pounds sugar, at 16 cents.....	17 60
	For 50 pounds tobacco, at 60 cents.....	30 00
	For 750 pounds bacon, at 22 cents.....	165 00
December 25, 1866.	For 80 sacks flour, at \$6.....	480 00
	For 60 pounds coffee, at 28 cents.....	16 80
	For 100 pounds sugar, at 16 cents.....	16 00
	For 500 pounds bacon, at 22 cents.....	110 00

January	8, 1867.	For 110 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	\$660 00
		For 90 pounds coffee, at 28 cents .....	25 20
		For 120 pounds sugar, at 16 cents .....	19 20
		For 700 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	154 00
January	15, 1867.	For 110 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	660 09
		For 70 pounds coffee, at 28 cents .....	19 60
		For 120 pounds sugar, at 16 cents .....	19 20
		For 620 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	136 40
January	23, 1867.	For 150 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	900 00
		For 800 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	176 00
		For 80 pounds coffee, at 28 cents .....	22 40
		For 125 pounds sugar, at 16 cents .....	20 00
February	3, 1867.	For 120 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	900 00
		For 800 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	176 00
February	17, 1867.	For 125 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	750 00
		For 600 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	132 00
		For 50 pounds coffee, at 28 cents .....	14 00
		For 100 pounds sugar, at 16 cents .....	16 00
February	28, 1867.	For 100 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	600 00
		For 500 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	110 00
		For 400 pounds coffee, at 28 cents .....	11 20
		For 80 pounds sugar, at 16 cents .....	12 80
March	13, 1867.	For 100 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	600 00
		For 600 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	132 00
March	30, 1867.	For 50 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	300 00
		For 400 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	88 00
		For 25 pounds coffee, at 28 cents .....	7 00
		For 50 pounds sugar, at 16 cents .....	8 00
April	11, 1867.	For 75 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	450 00
		For 500 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	110 00
April	30, 1867.	For 50 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	480 00
		For 550 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	121 00
		For 60 pounds coffee, at 28 cents .....	16 80
		For 100 pounds sugar, at 16 cents .....	16 00
May	10, 1867.	For 30 sacks flour, at \$6 .....	180 00
		For 201 pounds bacon, at 22 cents .....	44 20
		For 40 pounds coffee, at 28 cents .....	11 20
Total .....			<u>11,329 00</u>

I do solemnly swear that the foregoing account is just and correct, and that I have never received any payment, either directly or indirectly, for the same.

CHAS. E. HEDGES.

Subscribed and sworn to before me and in my presence, by Charles E. Hedges, on this 1st day of April, A. D. 1870.

[SEAL.]

JOHN CURRIER,

*Notary Public in and for Woodbury County, Iowa.*

I certify on honor that the foregoing account is correct and just, and that the said supplies and goods were actually furnished to the Yancton Indians by Mr. Hedges, under the emergent necessity of the Indians at the time, to prevent suffering and absolute starvation; and that the same was furnished at my request and upon my promise that I would use my influence with the Department to obtain the pay for him as soon as possible, as I had not at the time, nor have not since had in my hands, the necessary funds belonging to the Indians to pay the same, and I further certify that the prices charged for the said supplies were reasonable.

P. H. CONGER,

*Late United States Yancton Agent.*

Personally appeared before me, Alexander C. Guyon, a resident of the Yancton agency, Dakota Territory, and interpreter for the Yancton Sioux Indians, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That on the 5th day of February, 1867, I left the Yancton agency for Washington, in company with the Yancton agent and a delegation of the chiefs and headmen of the Yancton Sioux Indians, to act as interpreter; that we were absent from the agency over three months; that before leaving the agency we had no provisions on hand for subsisting the Indians; that the agent told me he had no provisions, and that he had no money to purchase any with; that he called on the

trader, Mr. Charles E. Hedges, for provisions, and that on or about the 23d of January the said Hedges furnished a large lot of flour, bacon, sugar, and coffee; and that since my return to the agency the Indians have frequently told me that had it not been for the issues of provisions by Hedges, under the order or request of Acting Agent Hiram Conger, they would have suffered from starvation, who issued several times to them in large quantities; and that after my return, on April 11 and 30, and May 10, and July 11th, provisions were issued, as enumerated in the annexed bill; and the Indians further state that it is their wish that the late trader (said Hedges) be paid for all the provisions furnished.

A. C. GUYON.

YANCTON AGENCY, TERRITORY OF DAKOTA,  
February 3, 1870.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, judge of probate in and for Charles Mix County, Dakota Territory.

B. E. WOOD.

Personally appeared before me, Charles F. Picotte, a resident of Yancton agency, Dakota Territory, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That on the 5th day of February, 1867, I left the Yancton agency, in company with the Yancton agent and a delegation of the chiefs and headmen of the Yancton Sioux Indians, for the city of Washington; that we were absent from the agency about three months; that at the time of leaving the agency there were no provisions whatever on hand at the agency for subsisting the Indians; that since my return the Indians have in conversation frequently told me that if it had not been for the kindness of their trader, Charles E. Hedges, they would have suffered seriously from starvation; and that the said Hedges did from time to time make large issues of provisions to them, by order or request of the acting agent, Hiram Conger, and that it is their wish that their late trader, Charles E. Hedges, be paid for the provisions furnished at that time.

C. F. PICOTTE.

YANCTON AGENCY, TERRITORY OF DAKOTA,  
February 3, 1870.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, judge of probate in and for Charles Mix County, Dakota Territory.

B. E. WOOD.

Personally appeared before me F. B. Chardon, a resident of the Yancton agency, Territory of Dakota, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That during the winter of 1866 and 1867 he acted in the capacity of clerk in the store of Charles E. Hedges, trader at the Yancton agency; that I personally know of my own knowledge that there were no provisions of any kind in the hands of the agent for subsisting the Indians, and that Charles E. Hedges, trader, furnished upon the order or request of the agent, P. H. Conger, when here, and during his absence of three months, upon the order or request of his brother, Hiram Conger, provisions as charged upon the annexed bill; that I acted frequently both as clerk and interpreter, and know that the Indians received the goods as billed in the annexed bill; and that the Indians told me at the time of the issues, and have since told me, that they want the trader, C. E. Hedges, to be paid in full for all the provisions furnished.

F. B. CHARDON.

YANCTON AGENCY, TERRITORY OF DAKOTA,  
February 3, 1870.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, judge of probate in and for Charles Mix County, Territory of Dakota.

B. E. WOOD.

Personally appeared before me Louis Mallett, a resident of the Yancton agency, Territory of Dakota, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That during the winter of 1866 and 1867 I was engaged in the capacity of laborer at the Yancton agency, Dakota Territory; that during that winter the agent of the Indians, in company with the chiefs and headmen of the Yancton Sioux, also the interpreter, visited Washington, and were absent over three months; that both before they departed, during their absence, and after their return, there were no provisions in the hands of the agent to feed the Indians. I also know that I was frequently called upon to assist in the delivery of provisions from Hedges's store to the Indians; that I am married to an Indian woman, and speak the Sioux language, and know that, had it not been for the provisions issued by Hedges, the Indians would have suffered from starvation; and that I frequently assisted F. B. Chardon to deliver the goods and

interpret for the Indians and trader; and the Indians particularly desire the payment of the same to Hedges for the provisions furnished.

his  
LOUIS + MALLETT.  
mark.

Witness:  
C. E. HEDGES.

YANCTON AGENCY, TERRITORY OF DAKOTA,  
February 3, 1870.

Subscribed and sworn before me, judge of probate in and for Charles Mix County, Territory of Dakota.  
B. E. WOOD.

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA, *County of Bon Homme, ss:*

I hereby certify that Bligh E. Wood is judge of probate in and for the county of Charles Mix, Territory of Dakota, duly elected and qualified according to law.

Witness my hand and official seal at Bon Homme, this 8th day of February, A. D. 1870.

[SEAL.]

BENTON FRALEY,  
Clerk U. S. District Court, 3d Judicial District, Dakota Territory.

YANCTON, DAKOTA TERRITORY,  
May 5, 1870.

SIR: I have been requested by Charles E. Hedges, late trader at the Yancton Sioux Indian agency, to examine the annexed account, extending from November, 1866, to May, 1867; and amounting to the sum of \$11,329, and communicate to you by letter what facts came within my observation concerning the creation of this debt against the Yancton Indians, and my knowledge of their necessities at the time referred to.

I have the honor to inform you that it came within my official knowledge (as I think the reports from the said agency, on file in your office, will show) that these Indians, during the period referred to, and for the two subsequent years, ending only with the abundant crops of 1869, were in a condition of extreme destitution and suffering; and, further, that I had the most reliable information from the interpreter, the agent, and the Indians themselves, that almost their only dependence was upon the credit obtained from Mr. Hedges, through the intercession of their resident agent, Mr. Conger. In council the Indians gave unmistakable evidence that, in their opinion, they owed even their lives to the assistance thus liberally extended; and, so far as my recollection of prices will go, I do not find, on examination, that anything is overcharged, but that the prices named are as low as the markets and circumstances would justify.

Fully recommending the payment of the annexed claim, I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

A. J. FAULK,  
Late Governor and ex-officio Superintendent Indian Affairs.

HON. ELI S. PARKER,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

WATERLOO, April 15, 1870.

DEAR SIR: On my return from Washington I found your letter of the 1st instant, inclosing the account of Charles E. Hedges against the Yancton Indians, amounting to \$11,329, for supplies furnished and delivered by the said Hedges to the said Yancton Indians, at different times during the years 1866 and 1867, and asking me that if I find the same correct, to append to the said account my certificate. I have carefully examined the account and find it, I believe, correct, and have accordingly certified to the same, which I return herewith, as you request.

As to Mr. Hedges feeling aggrieved toward me, because I have not before this taken some steps to assist him in getting his pay from the Department, I wish you to say to him (as I have before told him) that when I was in Washington, a year ago last winter, I laid the subject before Commissioner Taylor, and the Commissioner then informed me that at that time there was not at his command any funds that could be applied for that purpose; since which time I have been removed from office, but I have been ready, at any time, to certify to the justness of his claim, and to give him all proper assistance in my power to secure his pay, which I know, as well as himself, that he was justly entitled to have received long ago.

Respectfully yours,

P. H. CONGER.

JOHN CURRIER, Esq.  
H. EX. 66—2.

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