

GOODS PURCHASED FOR INDIANS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

ASKING

For an appropriation to pay for supplies of goods purchased for Indians in place of certain goods destroyed.

FEBRUARY 2, 1865.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 1, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of the 31st ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, representing the necessity that exists for an appropriation by Congress of the sum of \$54,771 83 to pay for supplies of goods purchased for the Indians named by him; said purchase having been made to meet the exigencies of the tribes, occasioned by the destruction of previous invoices of supplies on board the steamer Welcome at St. Louis on the 15th of July last. I recommend the subject to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. USHER, *Secretary.*

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, January 31, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to call your attention to the fact that, on the 15th of July, 1864, at St. Louis, the steamer Welcome was burned, having on board a large amount of Indian goods for various tribes. The invoices of these goods show that the amounts were as follows, for the respective tribes named, viz:

For the Winnebagoes, (at Usher's landing,).....	\$30,000 00
For the Sioux, (at Usher's landing,).....	15,000 00
For the Yancton Sioux.....	19,086 00
	64,086 00
	64,086 00

The above-mentioned goods were all insured. Protest was duly made, and the wreck being taken possession of by underwriters, a considerable amount of property was recovered, and the sum of \$9,314 17 has been received by this office on account of the loss. Demand for reimbursement for the loss sustained, to wit, the sum of \$54,771 83, has been made of the insurance company, and, on refusal to make such reimbursement, a suit has been commenced.

On account, however, of the necessity of getting the supplies to the Indians before winter should set in, duplicate invoices of the goods were purchased on credit; and, in order that these bills may be paid, I beg leave to suggest that the subject may be laid before the proper committees of Congress, so that an appropriation may be made for the purpose. No doubt is entertained of the ultimate recovery of the sum claimed of the insurance company; but I submit that the goods purchased in lieu of those burned should be paid for without subjecting the parties in interest to further delay.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. MIX,
Chief Clerk, for the Commissioner.

Hon. J. P. USHER,
Secretary of the Interior.