

WM. F. AND G. M. DYER.

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LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

*An account of Wm. F. and G. M. Dyer for beef-cattle furnished the Pi-Ute Indians in Nevada during the winter of 1861-'62.*

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MARCH 1, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., February 28, 1872.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 26th instant, together with the accompanying papers, in relation to an account of Wm. F. and G. M. Dyer for beef-cattle said to have been furnished the Pi-Ute Indians at Walker River reservation, in Nevada, during the winter of 1861-'62, valued at \$4,360.

An estimate of appropriation for the amount named is herewith inclosed, and, in view of the facts stated by the Commissioner, and the recommendation of the then governor and *ex officio* superintendent of Indian affairs for Nevada, I respectfully submit the subject for the favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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., February 26, 1872.*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to present copies (in duplicate) of an account of W. F. and G. M. Dyer, for beef-cattle, said to have been furnished the Pi-Ute Indians on the Walker River reservation, in Nevada, during the winter of 1861 and 1862, valued at \$4,360, together with copies of correspondence connected with said account.

Senator Nye, the then governor and *ex officio* superintendent of Indian

affairs for Nevada, certifies to the correctness of the account, and recommends payment of the same, stating that the cattle were furnished the Indians to save them from actual starvation at a time when they were hemmed in by high waters and cut off from their ordinary means of support.

Although there is nothing to be found on the records of this office to substantiate the above statement, yet the high source from whence it emanates leaves no room for doubt in regard to the merits of the case.

I therefore respectfully recommend that the inclosed papers be laid before Congress, with the request that an appropriation be made for the amount of \$4,360, or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy the claim of Messrs. W. F. and G. M. Dyer on account of beef-cattle furnished by them for the Indian service in Nevada during the winter of 1861 and 1862.

An estimate for the amount referred to is herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,  
*Commissioner.*

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

ORDNANCE OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, December 8, 1870.*

MY DEAR GENERAL: I transmit herewith an account of my brothers, W. F. and G. M. Dyer, against the United States for beef-cattle furnished the Pi-Ute Indians during the winter of 1861-'62, duly certified by Senator Nye, who was at the time superintendent.

You will oblige me very much if you will have the account examined as early as possible, and paid through me, if correct.

Should you require any further information respecting the account, I do not doubt it can be furnished by Senator Nye.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. DYER.

General E. S. PARKER,  
*Commissioner of Indian Department, Washington, D. C.*

The UNITED STATES to W. F. AND G. M. DYER,

DR.

To beef-cattle furnished the Pi-Ute Indians, on Walker River, during the winter of 1861 and 1862, under the direction of James W. Nye, superintendent of Indian affairs for Walker River Indian reservation, in the Territory of Nevada, amounting to .....

\$4,360 00

State of Nevada, County of Elko, ss :

I, W. F. Dyer, being the same W. F. Dyer referred to in the above account, being first duly sworn, do depose and say that the above account is true and correct, and that the amount of beef-cattle furnished said Indians was worth the full sum charged, and that the same was furnished the said Indians while they were in a starving condition, owing to the immense flood on said Walker River during that winter.

W. F. & G. M. DYER,  
By W. F. DYER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of November, A. D. 1870.

[L. s.]

T. A. WATERMAN.

[ELKO, ELKO COUNTY, STATE OF NEVADA, November 29, 1870.

I hereby certify that the within account is just and correct, and that the beef-cattle were furnished said Indians during the high water of the winter of 1861 and 1862, and when it was necessary to keep the Indians from starving, and recommend the same to be paid by the Department.

JAMES W. NYE,  
*Late Superintendent, &c.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., December 15, 1870.*

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, inclosing an account of Messrs. W. F. and G. M. Dyer for beef-cattle furnished the Pi-Ute Indians in Nevada during the winter of 1861 and 1862, amounting to \$4,360.

In reply, I have to say that, before the matter can be considered by this office, the claimants will be required to furnish an itemized account, showing the number of cattle furnished, and the price per pound, gross weight; also, to whom the same was delivered, in order that this office may ascertain all the facts in the case, and whether the issue was correct.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

Brigadier General A. B. DYER,  
*Ordnance Office, War Department, Washington, D. C.*

ORDNANCE OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, January 31, 1871.*

SIR: Referring to your letter of December, 1870, asking further evidence in the claim of my brothers, W. F. and G. M. Dyer, for beef-cattle furnished the Indians under Senator Nye's superintendency, in 1861 and 1862, I have the honor to transmit herewith the accompanying letter received from my brother in relation thereto, and respectfully request your early examination of and report on the case.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. DYER,  
*Chief of Ordnance, United States Army.*

General E. S. PARKER,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*

ELKO, January 24, 1871.

MY DEAR BROTHER: While in Carson I received your letter, asking me to give you an itemized account against the Indian Department for the cattle.

The circumstances are these, and from which you will readily see it will be impossible for me to make out an exact account:

I had, during the winter of '61 and '62, some five or six hundred head of oxen on Walker River. During the winter, the Indians were in a starving condition, caused by the high water, which prevented their getting away; and they killed these cattle, or a portion of them. One Clinlo, who was a sub-agent under Governor Nye, killed and issued a portion of these cattle to them. Now the amount of cattle we lost was worth over \$10,000, but I only made out a bill for what we were certain the Indians got; but I have little doubt they got the whole of them, as the cattle were fat enough for beef, and the range was good, so they did not die from starvation.

Governor Nye is posted about the whole transaction, and can give all the information necessary, and I presume will do so.

If it is necessary, I can make out an account and swear to the best of my knowledge and belief, but as Governor Nye can give the Department the information, I presume that it will be better. He knows the claim is a just one, and really for a much less amount than we lost by these Indians. Please have the matter represented to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and if he requires an itemized account, I will swear to the number of pounds I believe they got. This is a matter of much importance to me, as I have nothing left but this claim.

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Your affectionate brother,

W. F. DYER.

A true copy:

A. B. DYER,  
*Chief of Ordnance, U. S. A.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, July 21, 1871.*

SIR: Referring to office-letter of December 15, 1870, and your reply thereto of January 31 last, relative to the claim of W. F. and G. M. Dyer, for beef-cattle furnished

the Pi-Ute Indians in Nevada during the winter of 1861 and '62, amounting to \$4,360, I have to say that in order to complete the papers in the case, it will be necessary that the claimants should file an affidavit to the effect that the requirements contained in said office-letter cannot be complied with, and stating the reason why they cannot.

I would also state that there are no funds applicable to the payment of the claim, but that it will be laid before Congress at its next session for an appropriation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,  
*Commissioner.*

General A. B. DYER,  
*Chief of Ordnance, War Department, Washington, D. C.*

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*Estimate of appropriation required for payment of beef-cattle furnished for the Indian service in Nevada, during the winter of 1861 and 1862.*

For this amount or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy a certain claim of W. F. and G. M. Dyer, on account of beef-cattle furnished the Pi-Ute Indians on the Walker River reservation, in Nevada, during the winter of 1861 and 1862..... \$4,360 00