
BIDS FOR INDIAN GOODS.

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A draught of a bill for regulating bids for Indian goods, &c.

MAY 2, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., April 11, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication dated the 7th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, reporting the difficulties to which the Indian Department is subjected in making contracts for goods, supplies, transportation, &c., for the Indian service, by reason of persons making bids who have no intention of executing a contract should one be awarded to them, and recommending that legislation be enacted by Congress to remedy the evil complained of.

In compliance with the recommendation of the Commissioner, I have the honor to present a draught of a bill to effect the object contemplated, and respectfully request that it receive the favorable consideration and action of Congress.

Very respectfully,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., April 7, 1874.

SIR: In order to avoid the annoyance and difficulties to which this Office is subjected in making contracts for goods, supplies, transportation, &c., for the Indian service, by reason of persons bidding who have no intention of executing a contract should one be awarded to them, I respectfully suggest the propriety of asking Congress to take such action as will, in the future, tend to prevent persons from submitting bids that they do not intend to carry out.

I herewith inclose a copy of a proposed bill which, it is thought, will

meet the case; and if the Department concur in the provisions thereof, I respectfully recommend that it be laid before Congress for its action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDW. P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, hereafter, all bidders under any advertisement published by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for proposals for goods, supplies, transportation, &c., for and on account of the Indian service, whenever the value of the goods, supplies, &c., to be furnished, or of the transportation to be performed, shall exceed the sum of \$5,000, shall accompany their bids with a certified check or draft, payable to the order of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, upon some United States depository or solvent national bank, which check, or draft, shall not be less than five per centum on the amount of the goods, supplies, transportation, &c., as aforesaid; and, in case any such bidder, on being awarded a contract, shall fail to execute the same with good and sufficient sureties, according to the terms on which such bid was made and accepted, such bidder shall forfeit the amount so deposited to the United States, and the same shall forthwith be paid into the Treasury and be placed to the credit of the "civilization fund," to be used for the civilization of Indians; but if such contract shall be duly executed as aforesaid, such draft or check so deposited shall be returned to the bidder.