

SUPPLIES FOR INDIANS AT RED CLOUD AGENCY.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

UPON

The subject of supplies required at the Red Cloud agency.

FEBRUARY 1, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 26, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated the 24th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with inclosure from J. S. Hastings, esq., United States Indian agent at Red Cloud agency, in relation to the condition of supplies for his Indians.

The subject is respectfully presented for the consideration of Congress in connection with the communication from this Department of 10th instant, addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, presenting an estimate of appropriation for supplies for Red Cloud and Whetstone agencies.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. CHANDLER,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER *House of Representatives.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 24, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith, in connection with my communication of the 4th instant, copy of letter from J. S. Hastings, esq., United States Indian agent at Red Cloud agency, in which, under date of the 10th instant, Agent Hastings states the condition of the supplies for his Indians.

This letter from Agent Hastings is in response to communication from this Office of the 29th ultimo, in which he was instructed to use the ut-

most care and economy in the distribution of supplies yet remaining in his hands. I am fully convinced that the agent does not exaggerate the needs of his Indians, and while temporary relief might be given Agent Hastings by diverting to the Red Cloud agency some share of the beef which has been designed for other bands of the Sioux, yet such a relief would be only temporary and at the expense of other agencies whose Indians would soon become equally clamorous and dangerous under a short supply.

In view of the known power and chronic restlessness of this band of Sioux, which may be increased by not improbable collision between other bands of the same nation and the military, I very earnestly request that, if deemed advisable by you, the attention of Congress be again called to the urgency of this case.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. Q. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

RED CLOUD AGENCY, NEBRASKA,
January 10, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, and in reply would inform you that the ration as issued to Indians here is so small that to reduce it would cause suffering among them. It will be utterly impossible to make the present supply last till the end of the year. There are yet due from the contractor about eleven hundred thousand pounds of beef. Allowing that the utmost economy is exercised in the distribution of same, it will have been exhausted before the end of February, leaving them four months unprovided for with the substantial portion of the ration, and on which they principally depend. The balance of the ration will last about a month later. Unless some provision is made to supply the deficiency, they will be reduced to a starving condition, depredations on the frontier settlements will necessarily follow, and may possibly cause a general outbreak.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. S. HASTINGS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. J. Q. SMITH, *Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*