

SIOUX INDIANS.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING,

In response to a resolution of the House of February 3, a report of Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt, of the Ninth Cavalry, charged by the Secretary of War with the duty of making inquiries into the causes of the exhaustion of the appropriation for the support and subsistence of Sioux Indians for the present fiscal year.

MARCH 23, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives:

In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 3d of February last, requesting the President "to require a competent experienced military officer of the United States to execute the duties of an Indian agent so far as to repair to the Red Cloud agency, and, in his discretion, other Sioux agencies, with instructions to inquire into the causes of" the exhaustion of the appropriation for the subsistence and support of the Sioux Indians for the present fiscal year; "as also his opinion as to whether any further and what amount should be appropriated for the subsistence and support of said Indians for the remainder of the current fiscal year," I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt, of the Ninth Cavalry, who was charged by the Secretary of War with the duty of making the inquiries called for by said resolution.

U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, March 23, 1876.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 22, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to return, herewith, the House resolution of February 3, 1876, requesting the President of the United States to require a military officer to investigate the cause of the exhaustion of the appropriation for the subsistence and support of the Sioux Indians for the current fiscal year, left by you at the Department, with copy of the report of the officer assigned to this duty (Lieut. Col. W. Merritt, Ninth

Cavalry,) regarding the deficiency of Indian supplies at Red Cloud agency, as called for by said resolution. The report is accompanied by a list of heads of Indian families at Red Cloud agency entitled to receive rations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALPHONSO TAFT,
Secretary of War.

To the PRESIDENT of the United States.

Forty-fourth Congress, first session.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 3, 1876.

Mr. Atkins, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following, which was agreed to :

It appearing from the letter of the Secretary of the Interior, (Executive Document No. 57,) addressed to the Speaker of this House, and from the papers accompanying the same, that the appropriation for the subsistence and support of the Sioux Indians for the current fiscal year is already exhausted ; and a deficiency appropriation of \$225,000 being asked for, and it being alleged that a portion of said first-named appropriation was misapplied in the subsistence and support of other than Sioux Indians : Be it

Resolved, That the President of the United States be respectfully requested, under the power given him by law, to require a competent experienced military officer of the United States to execute the duties of an Indian agent, so far as to repair to the Red Cloud agency, and, in his discretion other Sioux agencies, with instructions to inquire into the causes of said deficiency, and to report them to the President with all practicable dispatch ; as also his opinion as to whether any further and what amount should be appropriated for the subsistence and support of said Indians for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

Attest :

GEO. M. ADAMS, *Clerk.*

[Special Orders No. 21.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, Ill., February 29, 1876.

Lieut. Col. Wesley Merritt, Ninth Cavalry, will repair to the Red Cloud agency, Nebraska, for the purpose of making the investigation and report called for in a resolution of the United States House of Representatives, of the 3d instant, a copy of which will be furnished for his information and guidance. Should he find it necessary, while conducting the inquiry with which he is charged, to visit other agencies of the Sioux tribe, he is hereby authorized to do so.

On the completion of the investigation, Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt will return to these headquarters.

By command of Lieutenant General Sheridan :

R. C. DRUM,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Official :

R. C. DRUM,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, Ill., March 17, 1876.

SIR: In compliance with Special Orders No. 21, dated these headquarters, February 29, 1876, I proceeded to the Red Cloud Indian agency for the purpose of making the investigation called for in a resolution of the United States House of Representatives, of February 3, and have the honor to submit the following report as the result of my investigation:

I would premise that, in making this investigation, I was forced to rely on such statements as were made by the Indian agent and his employés, and that because of their lack of information on many points with reference to which all knowledge is confined to the Indian Department in Washington, my report, in some particulars, may be incomplete. In regard to everything of which they had knowledge, the Indian agent and his employés gave me all required information.

1st. The following is a list of the supplies needed to feed the Indians now reported at the Red Cloud agency for the remainder of the fiscal year, viz:

Coffee, 26,400 pounds; sugar, 52,800 pounds; bacon, 92,400 pounds; flour, 330,000 pounds; beef, 3,636,000 pounds, gross.

2d. The cost of the supplies, transportation not included, is reported as follows:

Beef, \$2.46½ per 100 pounds, gross; bacon, \$14.90 per 100 pounds, gross; flour, \$2.88½ per 100 pounds, gross, delivered at Sidney or Cheyenne; corn, \$3.50 per 100 pounds, gross, delivered at Red Cloud agency; coffee, \$21.37 per 100 pounds, gross; sugar, \$8.94 per 100 pounds, gross; beans, \$3.28 per 100 pounds, gross; tea, 30 cents per pound; tobacco, 55 cents per pound; soap, 6⁶/₁₀ cents per pound.

3d. The only information I could gather in regard to the cost of transportation of these supplies is contained in the following extract from the transportation contract furnished me by the Indian agent, viz:

That said party of the second part agrees to receive in the cities of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore, Saint Louis, Saint Paul, Sioux City, and Kansas City, between the date of this agreement, and the 30th of June, 1876, all such goods and supplies as may be purchased by the Indian Department for the fiscal year ending on said 30th of June, 1876, the same to be shipped in sound and water-proof cars, and good covered wagons, to the following-named points, and at the rate hereto annexed, viz:

From New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, to Cheyenne, Wyo., or Sidney, Nebr., at the rate of \$1.05 per 100 pounds; and from Sioux City to same points, \$1.31 per 100 pounds; and from Saint Paul to same points, \$1.21 per 100 pounds; and from (blank in original,) to same points, \$1.76 per 100 pounds. From New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, to Red Cloud agency, at the rate of \$2.70 per 100 pounds, and from same points to Spotted Tail agency, at the rate of \$1.75 per 100 pounds.

4th. The ration issued at the agency since the 3d of December, 1875, during the service of the present agent, is as follows:

Two pounds coffee to the 100 rations; four pounds sugar to the 100 rations; seven pounds bacon to the 100 rations; five pounds beans to the 100 rations; twenty pounds flour to the 100 rations; 300 pounds beef, gross, to the 100 rations.

5th. The Indians now fed at the agency number 13,000, (approximated.)

THE DEFICIENCY.

The supplies enumerated in first, constitute the deficiency at this agency. This deficiency results, it is claimed, from feeding the visiting Indians who belong to other agencies, and to the northern wild tribes, during the past year, and also to the short appropriation for the year.

The deficiency from feeding the visiting Indians is a matter easy of calculation, and there should be a corresponding surplus at the agencies from which these Indians came. In pursuance of this branch of the investigation, I found the visiting Indians fed at Red Cloud agency to be as follows, viz:

Santees, Yantonnais, and Yanktons.....	300
Cheyenne River agency	3,000
Standing Rock agency	1,80
Spotted Tail agency.....	7,500
Lower Brulés.....	400

It is claimed that all the above-named Indians, except the Spotted Tail agency Indians, were fed for six weeks, the latter for only ten days. This last was compensated for by feeding the visiting Indians at the Spotted Tail agency for ten days or more. This information, given me by Mr. Hastings, agent at Red Cloud, as coming from Mr. Howard, agent at Spotted Tail, and vouched for by the latter's chief clerk, now at Red Cloud, removed the necessity for my visiting the Spotted Tail agency, as I had intended to do. The chief clerk also informed me that there was no deficiency at the Spotted Tail agency, but barely enough supplies, used with economy, to get through the year.

All my inquiries convinced me that the Department at Washington must know more of the causes of the deficiency and the management of the supply department than the agents do, or at least more than they are willing to tell. The agent at Red Cloud could not tell me how much had been appropriated to the support of his agency during the year, nor how much had been expended. He reported all records of the agency bearing on these points, if there ever had been any, either lost, destroyed, or carried away by his predecessor in the agency.

I could not discover that estimates for supplies are made in any regular manner. The Indian agent, it appears, reports the number of Indians at his agency, and the supplies are apportioned and forwarded by the Department. It also appears that, though quarterly returns of the supplies on hand are required at the Indian Department from the agencies, no regular form of return is prescribed, and that no retained reports are kept, at least at the Red Cloud agency. I mention these matters to indicate how difficult it is to make an intelligent investigation under the circumstances.

In this connection I would call attention to the fact that there are two kinds of rations or allowances which enter into this question of supplies. The one I have given above in four is the ration now issued to the Indians at Red Cloud. The other is Government allowance or ration, as follows: Four pounds coffee to the 100 rations; eight pounds sugar to the 100 rations; seventy-five pounds flour to the 100 rations; one pound salt to the 100 rations; one pound soap to the 100 rations; one-half pound tobacco to the 100 rations; three hundred pounds fresh beef, gross, or one hundred and fifty pounds, net, to the 100 rations. One pound of bacon four times a month to each person, in lieu of beef.

With the ration as now issued, the agent tells me, the Indians are well satisfied. Its cost is about half of the ration allowed by Government.

THE APPROPRIATION.

As I have intimated, it is difficult to arrive at the exact figures of the amount to be appropriated to cover the deficiency and feed the incoming Indians. I think I can safely say that the estimate given below is not too small, as it is based on figures and facts given me by those who are sufficiently interested in making the sum as large as it can properly be

made. Besides, when in doubt, I have erred, if at all, in favor of the appropriation rather than against it.

I find the amount needed to supply the 13,000 Indians now at the Red Cloud agency, estimating from the time of expiration of present supplies as reported by agents, to be \$134,711. In case there is not a surplus at the agencies of the Missouri River, arising from their two months' or more absence from their agencies, this amount will be necessary to feed the Indians reported at Red Cloud.

The agent at Red Cloud informed me that since the 10th of last month, though he had been feeding the ration as reported, the beef issued was "borrowed beef." Seven hundred and thirty-five head of beef-cattle, said to be "borrowed," have been issued since the year's supply of beef has been exhausted. The "borrowed beef," the agent says, arises from an arrangement made by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs by which beef is taken from the other agencies and given to the Red Cloud agency until the deficiency is made up.

The Department in Washington can explain this transaction, of which no agent can be thoroughly informed, from the nature in which supplies are managed in the Indian Department.

APPROPRIATION FOR INDIANS EXPECTED TO COME TO AGENCY FROM THE NORTHERN TRIBES.

The agent at Red Cloud informed me that the Indians at the agency had considerably increased in numbers since his predecessor's last issues. These indicated the presence of from 8,000 to 10,000 Indians at the agency. The agent now claims, as has been stated, 13,000. He estimates that 2,000 more will probably come into the agency to be fed. The cost of supplies for this number of Indians for four months is found to be \$22,545, which should be appropriated for the support of the Indians coming to the agency from the north. As no new Indians had arrived at the agency, not included in those reported at the agency, it would seem that the above amount is not too small.

In addition to the causes given in the foregoing for the deficiency at the Red Cloud agency, I would respectfully call attention to the fact that these Indians have never been properly counted. They are estimated by lodges, the numbers in which are reported by the Indians. This being the case, the number of Indians reported at the agency is more or less fictitious, depending on the quantity of stores on hand, the character of the weather, and resulting from the character of the agent and of the Indians. If supplies are plenty, the agent is, perhaps, not so careful of restricting the number of Indians reported to the least possible; if the weather is inclement, the Indians exaggerate their numbers, in order to secure a more abundant supply of food for consumption and barter. To illustrate, during the last month (November, 1875) that Dr. Saville, former agent, controlled at Red Cloud agency, the issue of beef between the 1st and 20th of the month differed by 123 head of cattle, representing a decrease of over 3,300 Indians in that time. The present agent thinks Saville's last estimates of the number of Indians much too small. It must be attributed to other causes than the departure of that number of Indians from the reservation; possibly to a scarcity of supplies, perhaps to an impending investigation of the affairs at the agency. When I proposed to have the Indians at the agency counted, I was told, by both military and Indian officials, that it would be impracticable without a larger force of troops than was available. The Indians should be carefully counted, and their numbers verified at least once a month.

A great loss of supplies, as food, results from issuing flour instead of hard bread to the Indians. I am told that the Indians underrate the value of flour as food, because they do not understand how to use it properly, and that they will give a sack of their flour for a few pounds of hard or other bread. The truth is, they dispose of their flour and get little or nothing in return for it.

I respectfully call attention to the clause in contract, extract in foregoing, which provides for delivery of supplies at Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies. If it is not a clerical error, it must arise from a want of knowledge of the exact location of these two agencies. In reality, Red Cloud is nearer than Spotted Tail to both Sidney and Cheyenne—to Sidney by about fifteen miles, and to Cheyenne by about forty.

The agent at Red Cloud thinks it would be better in every view of the case to ship freight for both agencies *via* Sidney.

I inclose list of Indian heads of families now reported at Red Cloud agency. The figures indicate the number of heads of beef the families under these sub-chiefs are entitled to.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. MERRITT,
Lieutenant-Colonel Ninth Cavalry,
Brevet Major-General U. S. Army.

Forwarded by Lieutenant-General Sheridan.
March 18, 1875.
Official copy.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

W. D., A. G. O., March 20, 1876.

List of heads of families (Indians) at Red Cloud Agency entitled to receive rations.

SIOUX LIST.

No Water	20	Black Horn	1
Afraid of Bear	1	Blunt Arrow	1
American Horse	4	Black Bull	1
Lodge-Skin Shirt	1	Swift Bird	1
Black Spotted Horse }	1	Takes Things }	1
Between Lodges	2	Rapid Water	1
Black Bear	1	Washerwoman }	1
Blue Horse	1	John Bear }	1
Bear Killer	1	Wood }	1
Big Crow	3	Sand }	1
Blue Horse No. 2	1	Frog }	2
Big Weeds	1	Two Eagle	2
Bob-Tail	2	Elk Head	2
Big Ribs	1	Big-Belly Wolf, 20 days.	1
Black War Bonnet	1	Buck-parts	1
Bear-goes-around	1	Bear's Foot	1
Big Foot	1	Badly Frightened	1
Bad Wound	2	Bald-Face Bull	1
Brush-Breaker	1	Calf-Skin Shirt	2
Bizzard	1	Cut Hand	2
Medicine Horse }	1	Cedar Face, 20 days.	1
Biting-Dog	1	Captain Long Dog	1
Big Head	1	Cloud Shield	1
Black Bear	2	Charging Shield	2
Black Hawk	1	Crooked Eyes	2
Big Star	1	Cherry Seed	1
Black Dog	1	Chicken-Packer, 20 days.	1

Sioux list—Continued.

Big White Horse.....	1	Died in Lodge.....	1
Bad Hand.....	1	Day.....	2
Fast Thunder.....	2	Face.....	3
Feather Man.....	1	Feather on Head.....	2
Four Hands.....	1	Man Afraid Horses, jr.....	4
Grass.....	1	Man Afraid Horses, sr.....	1
Hunts the Enemy.....	2	Mule Head.....	1
Hairy Leggins.....	1	Old Eagle.....	1
Hand.....	2	Old Arapahoe.....	2
Hunts his Horses.....	2	Old Warrior.....	1
High Wolf.....	3	One-dont-plait-his-hair.....	1
Half Rope.....	1	Owl Shield.....	1
High Bear.....	1	Old Stabber.....	1
Hole-in-ground.....	1	Old Bear.....	3
Iron Cane.....	1	Pacer.....	2
Hump Ribs.....	3	Pawnee Killer.....	2
Kicking {.....	1	Pumpkin Seed.....	1
Fire-Crow {.....	1	Pretty Crow.....	2
Keeps the Battle.....	1	Poor Elk.....	2
Living Bear.....	1	Quick Bear.....	1
Long Bull.....	1	Red Cloud.....	2
Long Whirlwind.....	1	Race Horse.....	2
Lone Wolf.....	1	Red Top.....	1
Little Dog.....	1	Red Fly.....	1
Spotted Horse }.....	1	Red Dog.....	1
Left Hand }.....	1	Rockey Bear.....	1
Sallie Mills }.....	1	Grey Eyes {.....	1
Lodge Shadow.....	1	Louse.....	1
Long Wolf.....	1	Red Beaver }.....	2
Little Chief.....	1	Red Leaf.....	1
Lightning Striker }.....	1	Sitting Bull.....	1
Black Heart }.....	1	Swimming Over.....	1
Little Wound.....	5	Spotted Cow.....	3
Stand Up {.....	1	White Man's Bear.....	1
Racer {.....	1	Wolf Ear.....	1
Little Crow }.....	1	Wolf-Road.....	1
Red Bear }.....	1	White White.....	2
Shoulder }.....	1	White Crane Walking.....	3
Turning Over }.....	1	White Goose {.....	1
Spider.....	1	White Bear }.....	2
Sorrel Horse.....	1	White Thunder.....	1
Slow Horse.....	1	Walking Eagle.....	1
Slow Bull.....	1	White Bull.....	2
Small Bull.....	1	Yellow Shirt.....	1
Sword.....	3	Yellow Hair.....	1
Stabber.....	1	Yellow Robe.....	2
Screw, or Little Moon.....	1	White Tail.....	1
Scraper and Guts.....	1	Whetstone.....	1
Turkey Legs.....	2	Man Marries Yancton.....	1
Three Stars.....	1	Two Bulls.....	1
Two Lance.....	2	Torn Belly.....	1
Thunder Hawk.....	1	Tod Randall {.....	1
Trunk.....	1	Old Beads }.....	1
Thunder Hawk No. 2.....	1	Wolf Catcher {.....	1
Torn Blanket }.....	1	Two Tails }.....	1
Roan Horse }.....	1	Tongue.....	1
White Lodge, 20 days.....	1	The Fly.....	1
White Eyes.....	1	White Skirt, 20 days.....	1
		White Cow Killer.....	3

CHEYENNE LIST.

Antelope Skin.....	1	Little Wolf.....	3
Arapahoe Chief.....	1	Left Hand.....	1
American Horse.....	1	Limber.....	2
Big Head, 2 E. D.....	1	Red Neck {.....	1
Black Wolf.....	1	Long Mandan }.....	1

Cheyenne list—Continued.

Big Wolf	1	Duck }	1
Broken Chin, 20 days.		Red Antelope }	1
Black Antelope }	1	Bald-Face Bull	1
Bull Head }	1	Living Bear	1
Black Horse	1	One-Eyed White Man	1
Black Bear	1	Yellow Wolf	1
Black Rock }	1	Wolf }	
Long Hair }	1	Pawnee }	1
Bull A	1	Better Woman }	
Big Left Hands	1	Wolf Man }	
Slow Horse	1	Night Setter }	1
Dusting Bull }	1	No Account }	
Elk Eye	1	Mischief Maker	1
Elk Gets Up }	1	Medicine Wolf	2
Foundered Horse	1	Never Full	1
Gambler	1	Old Grey Hair	1
He Wolf	1	Old Wolf	2
Iron Shirt, 20 days.		Old Slab }	
Itching	1	Wolf-Eater }	1
White Crow	1	Plenty Bear	1
Crow	2	Red Owl	1
Cut Nose	1	Sitting Bear }	
Split-Nose Crow	1	Red Blanket }	1
Crazy Head	1	Standing Elk	2
Two Hill	1	Snow Bird	1
Short Antelope	1	Swimming Blanket }	
Iron Shirt, 2 E. O. T.	1	Sleeping Rabbit }	1
Plenty Crow	1	Vermilion	1
Spotted Wolf	1	Wild Hog	2
Poor Bull	1	Lone Wolf }	
Dull Knife	2	Black Horn }	1
Many Camps	1		

ARAPAHOE LIST.

Feather-on-Head	1	Spotted Horse	2
Iron Pipe	1	Yellow Eyes	2
Little Wolf	2	Road of the Sun	1
Six Feather	2	Fox	1
Spotted Crow	2	Little Shield	1
Sharp Nose	4	Dog Chief	1
Spoon Hunter	1	Big Bear's Track	1
Died Old	1	Kill	37
Short Shoulder-Blade	2	Crazy Bull	2
Cherry }	1	Curley Hair	1
White Horse }	1	Friday	4
Wood	1		

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION MISSOURI,
Chicago, March 19, 1876.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.
This list was inadvertently omitted to be inclosed in Colonel Merritt's report, forwarded on the 18th instant.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

Official copy.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

W. D., A. G. O., MARCH 21, 1876.