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Report from the Secretary of War, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 10th instant, in relation to the payment of Indian annuities in goods, &c

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REPORT
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,
IN COMPLIANCE,
With a resolution of the Senate of the 10th instant, in relation to the payment of Indian annuities in goods, &c.

JANUARY 17, 1838.
Read, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Indian Affairs, January 16, 1838.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit a report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in answer to the resolution of the Senate, of the 10th inst., requiring information respecting the payment of Indian annuities in goods, during the past year.

Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
Hon. R. M. Johnson,
President of the Senate.
section of the act of June 30th, 1834, organizing the Department of Indian Affairs. If they refused to accept them, there would have been no departure either from that provision or the stipulations in the treaties; the only consequence would have been delay until the Government should be able to make other arrangements for the payment of the balance. It is not known or believed that the instructions upon this point were disregarded.

The merchandise was purchased in New York, of Suydam, Jackson, & Co., upon a contract framed in strict conformity with the terms of the 13th section of the act just referred to. The payments upon the contract were made as follows:

- By drafts on banks in New York: $41,254.94
- By drafts on banks in Detroit: $53,978.00
- By drafts on receivers of the land offices at Ionia and Bronson, Michigan: $51,714.00

According to the understanding of the parties to the contract, at the date of its inception, all the payments were to be made in current funds in New York. But when the requisitions for the last two sums were issued, on the 23d of August, the Treasury Department was unable to give warrants on banks at that place, and it proposed, therefore, to give, in lieu thereof, the drafts on Detroit, and the receivers, as above stated.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Commissioner.

P. S.—A copy of the letter to the acting superintendent of the western superintendency, of June 23d, on the subject of the payment of the annuities to the tribes in his superintendency, is transmitted, as explanatory of the different views entertained in regard to them, founded on the improvement of the largest among them.

C. A. H.