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Andrew J. Smith. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting claim of A. J. Smith for supplies furnished to the Sheep-eaters, a northern band of Shoshone Indians.

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ANDREW J. SMITH.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Claim of A. J. Smith for supplies furnished to the Sheep-Eaters, a northern band of Shoshone Indians.

JANUARY 26, 1871.—Referred to the Committee of Claims and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 26, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to submit to Congress herewith, for such action thereon as shall be deemed proper, the claim of A. J. Smith for goods and provisions furnished by him to the Sheep-Eaters, or northern band of Shoshone Indians, in Montana Territory, in January, 1870.

The report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 21st instant, transmitting the claim to this Department, is also herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 21, 1871.

SIR: By the inclosed papers, which I have the honor herewith to submit, it appears that in January, 1870, while the Sheep-Eaters, or northern band of the Shoshone tribe of Indians, were encamped near Virginia City, Montana Territory, they received at the hands of A. J. Smith certain goods and provisions to the value of \$707 05, and agreed to pay for the same "out of the first annuities allowed by the United States."

Mr. Smith now presents, through the superintendent of Indian affairs for Montana, by whom it is approved, a claim against the Government for the amount above stated, together with certificates and affidavits to substantiate the said claim.

These Indians, having no treaty relations with the United States, are

not recipients of annuities; and there are no funds on hand from last year's appropriations that can be applied to the payment of Mr. Smith's claim.

I have no doubt, however, that the goods and provisions were actually furnished, as stated in the papers herewith inclosed, although without any knowledge or authority on the part of this office, and would respectfully recommend that the claim be laid before Congress for such action in the premises as shall be deemed proper.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. CLUM,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

The following is a bill of items furnished by the Hon. A. J. Smith to the Sheep-Eaters, or northern band of the Shoshone tribe of Indians, at Virginia City, Montana Territory, on the 4th day of January, A. D. 1870:

31 sacks of flour, at \$8.....	\$248 00
2 sacks of sugar, at \$30.....	60 00
1 sack of coffe, (160 pounds,) at 40 cents.....	64 00
1 case of powder, at \$25.....	25 00
100 pounds of lead, at \$32.....	32 00
5,000 gun caps, at \$1 50.....	7 50
41 pounds of tobacco, at \$1.....	41 00
1 pair of blankets, at \$14.....	14 00
23 yards of domestic, at 35 cents.....	8 05
1 axe and helve, at \$3 50.....	3 50
60 pounds of beef, at 15 cents.....	9 00
Cash advanced for freight on goods to camp.....	45 00
Cash for expenses.....	50 00
1 fat ox.....	100 00
Total.....	<u>707 05</u>

I hereby acknowledge to have received the articles specified above from A. J. Smith, at Virginia City, January 4, 1870; and I hereby agree that the amount of the same is to be paid back to him out of the first annuities allowed to my band by the Government of the United States.

his
DIN + DOG, *Chief.*
mark.

We, the undersigned, certify that the articles specified in the foregoing bill of items were delivered to the Indians, in our presence, as before stated, by the said A. J. Smith.

ROBERT DEMPSY,
Interpreter.
W. S. SCRIBNER,
Secretary of Montana.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, HELENA, M. T., January 5, 1871.

Respectfully forwarded, approved, to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

J. A. VIALL,
Superintendent of Indians, Montana.

TERRITORY OF MONTANA, *Madison County:*

Andrew J. Smith being duly sworn, upon his oath says, that on the 4th day of January, A. D. 1870, I did deliver and furnish at Virginia City, Madison County aforesaid, the goods mentioned in the voucher hereto annexed, amounting to \$707 05, including

therein \$95 cash paid by me for freighting said goods, &c., to the camp of the Sheep-Eaters, or northern band of the Shoshone tribe of Indians, (for whom said goods were furnished,) and also for necessary expenses in freighting the same.

A. J. SMITH.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of December, 1870.

F. C. DEIMLING,
Notary Public.

TERRITORY OF MONTANA, *Madison County* :

J. T. Conner being duly sworn, upon his oath says, that he personally knows of, and was present at the furnishing of the goods mentioned in the annexed voucher by A. J. Smith, on January 4, 1870, at Virginia City, Madison County aforesaid, for the use of the Sheep-Eater band of Indians, and that the goods were sent in wagons from Virginia City for use of said Indians.

J. T. CONNER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of December, A. D. 1870.

F. C. DEIMLING,
Notary Public.

DECEMBER 24, 1870.

I certify that F. C. Deimling is a notary public, and duly authorized to administer oaths for general purposes, and his signature above is genuine.

B. F. POTTS,
Governor of Montana.

VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA, *December 24, 1870.*

From a careful examination of the claim of A. J. Smith for supplies furnished the Sheep-Eater band of Indians at Virginia City, Montana, January, 1870, and the affidavits exhibited to sustain said claim, I believe the supplies were furnished and that the price charged is reasonable, and that the same should be paid.

B. F. POTTS,
Governor of Montana.