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S. E. Ward. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior recommending an appropriation to pay a debt due to S. E. Ward for goods furnished Indians at Fort Laramie by order of Indian Peace Commission

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S. E. WARD.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

RECOMMENDING

*An appropriation to pay a debt due to S. E. Ward for goods furnished
Indians at Fort Laramie by order of Indian Peace Commission.*

FEBRUARY 18, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 15, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication dated the 8th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with the papers therein referred to, relative to the claim of S. E. Ward for goods issued to Indians at or in the vicinity of Fort Laramie, in 1868, under instructions of the Indian Peace Commission.

The subject is herewith submitted for the consideration of Congress, with the recommendation that an appropriation of \$8,966 90 be made for the payment of the claim.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. COX,
Secretary.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., February 8, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose, herewith, copies of certain papers relative to a claim of S. E. Ward for goods issued to Indians at or in the vicinity of Fort Laramie in 1868, under instructions of the Indian Peace Commission.

From the papers in this case I think there can be no doubt of the justness of Mr. Ward's claim; but, as there is no money at the disposal of the department applicable to the payment of indebtedness incurred by said commission, no steps can be taken by this office to have the claim in question paid.

I, therefore, respectfully recommend that the matter be submitted to Congress, with the view of having the sum of \$8,966 90 appropriated for the payment of said claim.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. J. D. COX,
Secretary of the Interior.

FORT LARAMIE, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
May 27, 1868.

SIR: A copy of the treaty executed by most of the chiefs and headmen of the Ogallala and Brulé bands of Sioux has been left with the commanding officer of this post, with the request to call any chiefs and headmen of the O'Yoké-Pa and Bad Face bands who have not signed the treaty, and who may hereafter visit this post, into council, and explain provisions, and allow them to execute the same. The commanding officer is notified that when they have signed the treaty you will be authorized to make them a small present.

When the chiefs and headmen, above referred to, shall have executed the treaty, you are authorized to make them a present of the usual Indian supplies, not exceeding in value eight thousand dollars.

All issues to them will be certified to by the commanding officer of the post, and the account audited by the commission on such certificate.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. S. HARNEY,
Brevet Major General, Commissioner.
JOHN B. SANBORN,
Commissioner.

SETH E. WARD, Esq.,
Fort Laramie.

The United States to S. E. Ward,

DR.

For goods issued to the Bad Face (Red Cloud's) and O'Yoké-Pa bands of Sioux Indians and others, as per order of General J. B. Sanborn, president *pro tem.*, and of General W. S. Harney, of the Indian Peace Commission.

1868.		
May 28.—	For 1 sack sugar, \$35; 1 saddle to Big Mouth, \$20.....	\$55 00
29.—	For 4 pairs blankets, at \$21 50, \$86; 4 dress coats, at \$8, \$32; 4 shirts, at \$4, \$16.....	\$134 00
	For 14½ yards red cloth, at \$4, \$57; 4 b. knives, at \$1, \$4; 5 cans powder, at \$2, \$10.....	71 00
	For 8 pounds balls, at 35c., \$2 80; 5 boxes caps, at \$1, \$5; vermilion, \$2.....	9 80
	For chrome yellow, \$2; 10 quart cups, \$2 50; 10 plugs tobacco, \$5.....	9 50
	For 16 pounds sugar, at 40c., \$6 40; 8 pounds coffee, at 60c., \$4 80; 40 pounds bacon, at 35c., \$14.....	25 20
	For 1 fry-pan, \$1 50; 1 camp-kettle, \$2; 1 conec-pot, \$1 50	5 00
	For 1 sack flour, \$15; 20 yards calico, at 35c., \$7.....	22 00
	For 1 piece blue drilling, 48½ yards, at 50c., \$24 25; 1 do. brown muslin, 41 yards, at 35c., \$14 35.....	38 60
		315 10

1868.

30.—For 15 pairs 3 pt. blankets, at \$21 50, \$322 50; 60 yards scarlet and blue cloth, at \$4, \$240.....	\$562 50	
For 40 yards brown muslin, at 35c., \$14; 48 yards blue drilling, at 50c., \$24.....	38 00	
For 45 yards ticking, at 60c., \$27; 2 kegs powder, at \$20, \$40; 100 pounds balls, \$35.....	102 00	
For 20 boxes caps, at \$1, \$20; 2 doz. b. knives, at \$12, \$24; vermilion, \$12.....	56 00	
For 24 combs, at 60c., \$14 40; 12 combs, at 75c., \$9; 12 shirts, at \$4, \$48.....	71 40	
For 12 hats, at \$4, \$48; 24 files, at 50c., \$12; 38 pounds tobacco, at \$2, \$76.....	136 00	
For 12 tin-pans, at 75c., \$9; 12 tin-pans, at 60c., \$7 20; 24 tin-pans, at 25c., \$6.....	22 20	
For 6 iron kettles, at \$2, \$12; 6 coffee-mills, at \$1 25, \$7 50	19 50	
For 12 cotton handkerchiefs, at 50c., \$6; 12 dress coats, at \$8, \$96; 4 axes and handles, at \$3 50, \$14.....	116 00	
For 8 shirts, at \$4, \$32; 10 hats, at \$4, \$40; 10 b. knives, at \$1, \$10.....	82 00	
For 5 papers vermilion, at 50c., \$2 50; 25 pounds sugar, at 40c., \$10.....	12 60	
For 10 pounds coffee, at 60c., \$6; 1 pound tea, \$3; 2 pounds soda, at 50c., \$1; thread and needles, \$3 50.....	13 50	
		\$1,231 60
June 3.—For 7 pairs blankets, at \$21 50, \$150; 28 yards blue and red cloth, at \$4, \$112.....	262 50	
For 43 yards blue drill, at 50c., \$21 50; 36 yards brown muslin, at 25c., \$12 60.....	34 10	
For 7 dress coats, at \$8, \$56; 7 shirts, at \$3 50, \$24 50; 4 hats, at \$6, \$24.....	104 50	
For 1 hat, \$4; 3 hats, at \$2 50, \$7 50; 12 b. knives, at \$1, \$12; 20 pounds tobacco, at \$2, \$40.....	63 50	
For vermilion, \$6; chrome yellow, \$5; 12 files, at 50c., \$6	17 00	
For 6 tin-pans, at 75c., \$4 50; 6 tin-pans, at 60c., \$3 60; 5 coffee-mills, at \$1 25, \$6 25.....	14 35	
For 3 fry-pans, at \$2, \$6; 9 looking-glasses, at 50c., \$4 50; 10 pounds powder, \$10.....	20 50	
For 25 pounds balls, at 35c., \$8 75; 10 boxes caps, at \$1, \$10; 18 combs, at 60c., \$10 80.....	29 55	
For 12 quart cups, at 25c., \$3; 10 cotton handkerchiefs, at 50c., \$5; 5 coffee-pots, at \$1, \$5.....	13 00	
For 10 pounds sugar, at 40c., \$4; 5 pounds coffee, at 60c., \$3; 25 pounds bacon, at 35c., \$8 75; 10 pounds crackers, \$5.....	20 75	
For 4 guns, at \$22 50, \$90; 8 pounds soda, at 50c., \$4.....	94 00	
		673 75
June 9.—For 4½ pair blankets, at \$21 50, \$96 75; 1½ yards blue cloth, at \$4, \$6.....	102 75	
For 5 yards blue drilling, at 50c., \$2 50; 7 cans powder, at \$2, \$14; 15 pounds balls, at 35c., \$5 25.....	21 75	
For 7 boxes caps, at \$1, \$7; 9 butcher knives, at \$1, \$9; 9 combs, at 60c., \$5 40.....	21 40	
For 9 looking-glasses, at 50c., \$4 50; matches, \$1 50; 8 quart cups, at 25c., \$2.....	7 70	
For 9 papers vermilion, at 50c., \$4 50; 2 hats, at \$3 50, \$7; 10 plugs tobacco, at 50c., \$5.....	16 50	
For 6 files, at 60c., \$3 60; 2 pair pants, at \$5, \$10; 6 cards buttons, at 50c., \$3.....	16 60	
For 1 paper brass tacks, \$4; 2½ pounds tea, at \$3, \$7 50; 25 pounds sugar, at 40c., \$10.....	21 50	
For 10 pounds coffee, at 60c., \$6; 2 dress coats, at \$8, \$16; 1 coffee-pot, \$2; 1 coffee-mill, \$1 25.....	25 25	
For 1 fry-pan.....	2 00	
		235 45
June 12.—For 4½ pair blankets, at \$21 50, \$96 75; 24 yards blue drilling, at 50c., \$12.....	108 75	
For 24 yards muslin, at 35c., \$8 40; 4 yards blue cloth, at \$4, \$16; 8 shirts, at \$2, \$16.....	40 40	

1868.

June 12.—For 6 dress coats, at \$8, \$48; 3 handkerchiefs, at 75c., \$2 25; 10 yards calico, at 35c., \$3 50.....	\$53 75	
For 9 b. knives, at \$1, \$9; vermilion, \$4; 8 combs, at 60c., \$4 80.....	17 80	
For 6 cans powder, at \$2, \$12; 10 pounds balls, at 35c., \$3 50; 3 boxes caps, \$3.....	18 50	
For 4 tin-pans, at 60c., \$2 40; 3 fry-pans, at \$2, \$6; 2 coffee- mills, at \$1 25, \$2 50.....	10 90	
For matches, \$1; 2 coffee-pots, at \$2, \$4; thread and needles, \$2.....	7 00	
For 15 plugs tobacco, at 50c., \$7 50; 5 tin-buckets, at 50c., \$2 50; 10 tin-cups, at 25c., \$2 50.....	12 50	
		\$269 60
June 16.—For 36 pair blankets, at \$21 50, \$774; 103½ yards blue and red cloth, at \$4, \$415.....	1,189 00	
For 174 yards brown muslin, at 35c., \$60 90; 144 yards blue drill, at 50c., \$72.....	132 90	
For 2 kegs powder, at \$20, \$40; 100 pounds balls, \$35; 24 boxes caps, at \$1, \$24.....	99 00	
For 40 pounds tobacco, at \$2, \$80; 12 coffee-mills, at \$1 25, \$15; 2 dozen tin-pans, at \$9, \$18.....	113 00	
For 4 dozen tin-cups, at \$3, \$12; 6 dozen b. knives, at \$12, \$72; 4 dozen combs, at \$6, \$24.....	108 00	
For needles and thread, \$12 50; 29 dress coats, at \$8, \$232	244 50	
For 47 shirts, at \$3 50, \$164 50; 20 pounds soda, at 50c., \$10; 30 files, at 50c., \$15.....	189 50	
For 36 fry-pans, at \$2, \$72; 80 papers vermilion, at 50c., \$40.....	112 00	
For 15 straw hats, at 75c., \$11 25; 10 felt hats, at \$7, \$70; 5 felt hats, at \$5, \$25.....	106 25	
For 30 pocket looking-glasses, at 50c., \$15; 3 guns, at \$22 50, \$67 50.....	82 50	
For 50 pounds sugar, at 40c., \$20; 25 pounds coffee, at 60c., \$15.....	35 00	
		2,411 65
June 23.—For 7 pairs blankets, at \$21 50, \$150 50; 47½ yards blue drill, at 50c., \$23 75.....	174 25	
For 40 yards brown muslin, at 35c., \$14; 6 yards blue cloth, at \$4, \$24.....	38 00	
For 8 yards scarlet cloth, at \$4, \$32; 12 b. knives, at \$1, \$12.	44 00	
For 12 combs, at 50c., \$6; 12 papers vermilion, at 50c., \$6; 7 dress coats, at \$8, \$56.....	68 00	
For 12 files, at 75c., \$9; 10 pounds powder, at \$1, \$10; 20 pounds lead, at 35c., \$7; 7 boxes caps, at \$1, \$7.....	33 00	
For 7 shirts, at \$3 50, \$24 50; thread and needles, \$4; 7 coffee-mills, at \$1 25, \$8 75.....	37 25	
For 7 coffee-pots, at \$2, \$14; 7 fry-pans, at \$1 50, \$10 50; 12 quart cups, at 25c., \$3.....	27 50	
For 25 plugs tobacco, at 50c., \$12 50; 24 yards blue drill, at 50c., \$12.....	24 50	
		446 50
June 24.—For 45½ pair blankets, at \$21 50, \$978 25; 99½ yards blue and scarlet cloth, at \$4, \$399.....	1,377 25	
For 252 yards brown muslin, at 35c., \$88 20; 200 yards blue drill, at 50c., \$100.....	188 20	
For 3½ kegs powder, at \$20, \$70; 150 pounds lead, at 35c., \$52 50; 35 boxes caps, at \$1, \$35.....	157 50	
For 79 pounds tobacco, at \$2, \$158; 36 coffee-mills, at \$1 25, \$45; 36 tin-pans, at 75c., \$27.....	230 00	
For 6 dozen quart cups, at \$3, \$18; 9 dozen b. knives, at \$12, \$108; 5 dozen combs, at \$6, \$30.....	156 00	
For needles and thread, \$21; 40 dress coats, at \$8, \$320.	341 00	
For 5 dozen shirts, at \$3 50 each, \$210; 10 felt hats, at \$7, \$70.....	280 00	
For 10 pounds soda, at 50c., \$5; 48 bed quilts, at \$10, \$280	285 00	
For 24 files, \$18; 24 fry-pans, \$48.....	66 00	
For 84 papers vermilion, at 50c., \$42; 12 bal. skirts, at \$5, \$60.....	102 00	

1868.	
June 24.—For 12 pounds chrome yellow, at \$1, \$12; 18 coffee-pots, at \$2, \$36	\$48 00
For 32½ pounds brass wire, at \$1, \$40 25; ¼ gross matches, at \$6, \$4 50	44 80
For 10 pair pants, at \$5, \$50; 10 pair tweezers, at 25c., \$2 50	52 50
	<hr/>
	\$3,328 25
	<hr/>
	8,966 90
	<hr/>

I hereby certify that the above account is a just and correct account of issues made by me to the aforementioned Indians, under direction of General A. J. Slemmer.

CHAS. E. GUERU,

Special Indian Interpreter, appointed by the Indian Peace Commission.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this seventeenth day of October, A. D. 1868.

W. G. BULLOCK,

United States Commissioner for the Territory of Dakota.

Approved:

JOHN B. SANBORN,

*Late Commissioner and Disbursing Agent,
Indian Peace Commission.*

I hereby certify on honor that I was in command of the military post of Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, from the 6th day of June, A. D. 1868, to the 25th day of June, A. D. 1868, and that I empowered Charles E. Gueru, special United States Indian interpreter, (appointed by the United States Indian Peace Commission,) to procure from S. E. Ward, post trader at Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, goods to be distributed to the aforementioned Indians, and this distribution was made by authority of the Indian Peace Commission, and under my supervision; and I further certify that while General A. J. Slemmer was in command of the said military post previous to the 6th day of June, A. D. 1868, and after the 24th day of June, A. D. 1868, he did instruct the aforesaid Charles E. Gueru, special interpreter, to procure goods from S. E. Ward, post trader, for distribution to the aforementioned Indians, and that distributions were made by the said Charles E. Gueru under that order; and I further certify that I am convinced that the foregoing account of S. E. Ward against the United States for goods issued to Indians is correct and just.

ROBT. P. MCKIBBIN,

Captain Fourth Infantry, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel U. S. A.

COUNTY OF LARAMIE, *Territory of Dakota, ss :*

Personally appeared before me, J. W. Hutchinson, a notary public of the aforesaid Territory, William G. Bullock, who being first duly sworn according to law, states:

That he is a resident of Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, and that he is the agent of S. E. Ward, the post trader at that post; and that on the 27th day of May, A. D. 1868, he received from John B. Sanborn and Brevet Major General W. S. Harney, members of the United States

Indian Peace Commission, authority to distribute goods to Sioux Indians, under the supervision of the commanding officer of the post, and that when the Indians came into the post and signed the treaty of peace, he applied to the post commander, General A. J. Slemmer, for permission to make presents to the Indians, under the authority he had received from the United States Indian Peace Commission, and requested General Slemmer to supervise the distribution of the goods to the Indians, or to appoint some officer of his command to supervise the distribution; and he further states that General Slemmer did instruct him to make the distribution of the goods to the Indians, under the supervision of Charles E. Gueru, special United States Indian interpreter, appointed by John B. Sanborn and Brevet Major General W. S. Harney, United States Indian Peace Commissioners; and he further states that General Slemmer told him that he (General Slemmer) would certify to the correctness of the account, when he was informed of its correctness by Charles E. Gueru, special United States Indian interpreter; and he further states that before the account was closed and finished that the said General Slemmer suddenly died, his death taking place on or about the 7th day of September, 1868.

W. G. BULLOCK.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of April, A. D. 1869.
Witness my hand and notarial seal.

[SEAL.]

J. W. HUTCHINSON,
Notary Public.

* * * Also find inclosed one Indian account amounting to \$8,966 90, which I am directed by Mr. Ward to send you for collection. The amount overruns the amount authorized by the letter of the Indian Commission, but General Slemmer authorized me to make the issue. General Slemmer died before he approved the account, as the accounts were all made out for his approval a few days before his death; he died suddenly, having gone to bed in apparent good health; he was a corpse before one o'clock in the morning; said to have died with disease of the heart. I hope there will be no difficulty in collecting the account, as I have attached my affidavit, together with interpreter's, and a certificate of Colonel R. B. McKibbin, who was, a part of the time, in command of the post, and was always present at the distribution of these goods to the Indians. We have a new commanding officer, General F. F. Flint, colonel of the Fourth Infantry. He is an officer of the old school, and formerly of the Sixth Infantry, an accomplished gentleman, and a superior soldier. We are very much pleased with him, and I really feel like one relieved out of the penitentiary. Colonel Dye has not yet received his New York Herald. Could you have it sent to Fort Fetterman, as he has been sent up there?

Yours, truly,

W. G. BULLOCK.

ST. PAUL, June 14, 1869.

SIR: Herewith I return the S. E. Ward vouchers approved. From my knowledge of the character of Mr. Ward, and of his agent, Mr. Bullock, taken in connection with the fact that the account is approved by the commanding officer of the post of Fort Laramie, I can have no doubt of the correctness of the account.

When the order to furnish these goods was given, it was supposed that the account would stand upon the same footing and be paid out of the same appropriation as the other accounts made by the commission. We had no money at that time and paid for everything in vouchers, by direction of the Committees on Indian Affairs in the two houses of Congress. The act of July, 1868, appropriated sufficient money to pay all expenses incurred by the commission; but also provided in substance that any amount remaining of the money appropriated by that clause of the bill, after paying these expenses, should be applied to carrying into effect the policy and stipulations of the commission. This money was placed at the disposal of General Sherman. General Sherman called for and was furnished by me with a schedule of all indebtedness known to have been incurred through the commission and remaining unpaid. No information had been received by me at that time, nor indeed ever before the reception of your letter and the account, that Mr. Ward had furnished any goods under that order. The result is, that the money that has been appropriated by Congress to pay such accounts has all been expended in subsisting and clothing Indians, and I know of no appropriation at the disposal of the department now out of which this account can be paid. It will not do to pay it out of the \$22,000 appropriated to pay audited vouchers of the commission until the vouchers and accounts specially estimated for are paid. It seems to me the account must stand as it is until Congress passes another appropriation bill, and appropriates money to pay this account.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN B. SANBORN,
*Late Commissioner and Disbursing Agent,
Indian Peace Commission.*

General E. S. PARKER,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.