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Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, in answer to a resolution of the Senate of January 30, in relation to what contracts have been made in the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the transportation of goods for the Indians.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN ANSWER TO

A resolution of the Senate of January 30, in relation to what contracts have been made in the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the transportation of goods for the Indians.

FEBRUARY 7, 1862.—Read, and ordered to lie on the table.

FEBRUARY 24, 1862.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, *February 6, 1862.*

SIR: I have the honor to communicate herewith a letter from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which furnishes the information required by the resolution of the Senate of the 30th ultimo, in relation to contracts for the transportation of Indian goods.

I enclose, also, a copy of the contract referred to in the communication of the Acting Commissioner. I am informed by the Indian office that the prices of transportation paid during the last year, and which are made the basis of the contract for the present year, are lower than was paid for the same service at any previous time.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CALEB B. SMITH, *Secretary.*

HON. HANNIBAL HAMLIN,
President of the Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, February 4, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report, in obedience to your order, on the resolution of the Senate of the United States, of date January 30th last, as follows:

“Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be instructed to inform the Senate whether any contracts have been made in the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs, or in his department, for the transportation of goods for the Indians under the control of the United States, and with whom such contracts were made, and upon what terms; and whether the same were let to the lowest bidder after due advertisement, or by special contract.”

The period for which the information is desired is not stated, but assuming that it refers to the present year, I have to state that the records and files of this office show that a contract of the character referred to was entered into on the tenth (10th) day of December last, by the department, through the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and David B. Corwin, of Dayton, Ohio, (without advertisement, there being no law requiring it,) by the terms of which contract Mr. Corwin stands engaged to supply necessary transportation for all goods, merchandise, and other property furnished to Indians by the United States for the period of one year succeeding the first of March next, with the proviso that the contract may be cancelled by either party on thirty days' notice. The prices to be paid for this service are to be the same as those paid by the government for like duties in the years 1860 and 1861.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. CALEB B. SMITH,
Secretary of the Interior.

Memorandum of an agreement made and entered into this tenth day of December, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, between William P. Dole, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, on the part of the United States of the first part, and David B. Corwin, of the city of Dayton, in the State of Ohio, of the second part, witnesseth:

That the said party of the first part has appointed and employed, and does hereby appoint and employ, the said party of the second part to carry freight and transport for the United States all the goods, wares, merchandise, or other property of any kind which may be furnished by said United States for all of the Indians under the control of the United States, or with whom they may have intercourse, for the term of one year from and after the first day of March next, or until either of the parties hereto shall notify the other in writing of his wish to cancel this agreement, which notice shall be given at least thirty days before this agreement shall be cancelled.

And the said party of the second part hereby agrees and binds himself to freight, carry, and transport said goods, wares, merchandise, and other property from such place or places, and to such place or places as said party of the first part may from time to time order and direct, and by such mode of transportation, either by water, rail, or wagon, as said commissioner may direct. And the said party of the second part agrees to use due diligence and care in the carrying and transportation of said property so as to avoid, as far as possible, any damage or delay in and to said property.

And for the faithful performance of this agreement and undertaking on his part, the said party of the second part hereby agrees to make, execute, and deliver to the said party of the first part his bond in the sum of fifty thousand dollars, with securities, to be approved by said party of the first part.

And the said party of the first part agrees to pay, or cause to be paid, to the said party of the second part, the same rates of freight as were paid by the government of the United States for similar services during the years 1860 and 1861, as set forth in a schedule of prices hereto annexed and marked (A,) and made a part hereof. But the said party of the first part reserves to himself the right and privilege of sending freights between any other points or places than those designated in said schedule, and at rates corresponding with those set forth in said schedule to be fixed by said party of the first part, subject to alteration

and revision, at the option of the party of the second part, by the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided*, That if any change shall be made in the mode of transportation of any supplies, the same shall be paid for as nearly as practicable according to the rates heretofore paid and set forth in said schedule for water, railroad, and wagon freights.

And it is hereby expressly stipulated and agreed upon the part of the said David B. Corwin, that no member of Congress has or shall have, directly or indirectly, for himself, or any other person in trust for him, or for his use or benefit, or on his account, any interest in the above contract.

In testimony whereof, we hereunto set our hands and seals the day and year above written.

WM. P. DOLE, [SEAL.]
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
DAVID B. CORWIN. [SEAL.]

In presence of—
CHARLES E. MIX.

Statement of transportation contracts.

Name of contractors.	Name of place from whence shipped.	Destination of shipment.	Date of contracts.	Class of goods.	Description of goods.	Rate of freight per 100 lbs.	
John H. Moore, agent N. York Central Railroad	New York city	St. Paul, Minnesota.....	1860.				
			April 20....	No. 1	Dry goods	\$2 20	
				No. 2	Domestics.....	1 80	
				No. 3	Hardware	1 35	
			St. Joseph or Kansas city, Missouri.....	1861.			
		March 22....		No. 1	Dry goods	2 40	
Briant & Bernard	Kansas city, Missouri	St. Louis, Missouri	22....	No. 2	Domestics	1 95	
				No. 3	Hardware	1 45	
John H. Moore, agent N. York Central Railroad	New York city.....	Fort Wise.....	March 27....	No. 1	Dry goods	1 70	
		Santa Fé, New Mexico		No. 2	Domestics	1 30	
Culver & Farrington	St. Paul, Minnesota.....	Detroit, Michigan	June 22....	No. 3	Hardware	1 00	
		Upper Sioux, at Yellow Medicine		All kinds..	Annuity	4 93	
P. Chouteau, Jr., & Co., St. Louis, Missouri..	St. Louis, Missouri	Lower Sioux, at Red Wood	Feb. 15....	do	do	7 38	
		Winnebago agency		No. 1	Dry goods	84	
		Chippewas of the Mississippi.....		No. 2	Domestics	65	
					Flour	1 00	
					Pork, tobacco, and powder.....	1 49	
					Flour	70	
					Pork	1 00	
					Powder and tobacco	1 25	
					Flour	40	
					Pork	97	
Bryant & Sloane.....	Kansas city, Missouri	Flour	March 15....		Pork and tobacco ..	1 25	
		Omaha agency		Annuity.....	75		
		Mouth of Neobrarah.....		do	1 00		
		Yancton agency		do	1 50		
		Fort Pierre		do	2 00		
		Fort Bethold		do	2 25		
		Fort Union.....		do	2 50		
		Fort Benton.....		do	9 00		
		Fort Sarpy.....		do	9 00		
		Deer Creek, Fort Laramie.....		do	7 75		
T. J. Whitney & Co.....	Detroit, Michigan	L'Anse, Lake Superior	Feb. 15	do	50		
		Saut St. Marie.....	June 17....	Provisions.....	30		