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Letter of the Secretary of War, communicating information relative to the claims of Jordan & McPike and others arising out of the expedition against the Pi-Ute Indians in 1860.

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LETTER
OF
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING

Information relative to the claims of Jordan & McPike and others arising out of the expedition against the Pi-Ute Indians in 1860.

JANUARY 23, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

The Secretary of War has the honor to submit to the Senate of the United States a communication from the Commissary General of the Army upon the subject of the claims now under consideration arising out of the expedition against the Pi-Ute Indians in 1860, it appearing that the claims of Jordan & McPike do not embrace all the unpaid expenses of the expedition, but that other claims, amounting to \$11,240, have been presented to this Department and disallowed for the want of authority to settle them.

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 19, 1871.*

OFFICE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington City, January 17, 1871.

SIR: As the Committee on Claims in making their report, No. 274, forty-first Congress, third session, (copy inclosed,) may have supposed that the accounts therein referred to included all for supplies furnished the expedition against the Pi-Ute Indians in Utah in 1860, I have the honor to invite attention to the inclosed copy of a letter from this office of April 1, 1867, returning to the attorney two accounts for supplies furnished the expedition referred to, in favor of John W. Dorsey, S. B. Wallace, and William Shephard, amounting to \$11,240.

Inclosed is also an abstract from the records of this office as to said accounts.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. EATON,
Commissary General of Subsistence.

Hon. W. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

OFFICE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington City, April 1, 1867.

SIR: Herewith find inclosed single copies of two vouchers, marked triplicate; one for the sum of \$6,190, and the other for \$5,050, both in favor of John W. Dorsey, S. B. Wallace, and William Shephard, for supplies furnished an expedition near Pyramid Lake, Utah, June, 1860, under Colonel Jack Hays, against the Pi-Ute Indians, as received in your letter of March 1, 1867, in which you request to be informed what, if anything further, is required to secure their payment.

No records in this office, or in that of the Adjutant General, show any authorization by the Government of the regiment or command * * * for which the stores appear to have been procured, or that any law has ever been enacted which would authorize the payment of the accounts.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. E. SHIRAS,
Assistant Commissary General of Subsistence.

J. M. LATTA, Washington, D. C.

Abstract from records of office of Commissary General of Subsistence.

PYRAMID LAKE, June 3, 1860.

No. 1.

John W. Dorsey, S. B. Wallace, and William Shephard :

3,500 pounds flour at 70 cents	\$2,450
400 pounds barley, at 55 cents	220
1,000 pounds sugar, at 60 cents	660
600 pounds Java coffee, at 70 cents	420
10 gallons syrup, at \$7	70
20 sacks table salt, at \$3	60
7,700 pounds fresh beef, at 30 cents	2,310
	<hr/>
	6,190
	<hr/>

CARSON RIVER, June 30, 1860.

No. 2.

John W. Dorsey, S. B. Wallace, and William Shephard :

Amounting to

\$5,050

RICH'D N. SNOWDEN,
Commissary Utah Volunteers.

(See letter of April 1, 1867, to J. M. Latta, returning the two accounts.)

[S. R. No. 274, 41st Congress, 3d session.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 59, for the relief of Jordan & McPike, having considered the same, beg leave to submit the following report :

In the spring of 1860 great alarm was excited among the inhabitants of Virginia City and its vicinity, then in Utah Territory, by the depredations of the Pi-Ute Indians. An irregular force, of about one hundred persons, consisting of many of the best citizens, was organized, armed with such weapons as they could procure, and went out from Virginia City to chastise the Indians. The expedition was unfortunate, falling into ambush, where some sixty of said citizens were killed by the Indians, and the others dispersed. This greatly increased the alarm, and there was good reason to fear that the settlements around Virginia City, if not the town itself, would be attacked by the Indians in large force. There were no troops or arms, or government, nearer than Salt

Lake, five or six hundred miles distant. Under these circumstances the governor of California and the United States officer in command of the Department of the Pacific sent forward to Virginia City arms and ammunition, in charge of proper officers. Two or three hundred volunteers also came along with the United States troops. The citizens of Virginia City and vicinity, together with the United States troops and volunteers from California, organized a regiment, and selected Colonel Jack Hays, who happened to be there at the time, to take command thereof. Thus organized and thus commanded this *improvised* regiment marched against the Indians, and, after a hard-fought battle, whipped them severely, and secured peace and safety.

It became necessary to organize a provisional quartermaster and commissary department to accompany this expedition. Accordingly, one Richard N. Snowden was appointed commissary, and as such entered into a contract with said Jordan & McPike to furnish certain supplies. Said contract is hereunto appended and is marked A. In conformity with this contract the said Jordan & McPike did furnish supplies amounting, in the aggregate, to the sum of \$19,473 50. Their accounts therefor are hereunto appended, marked B, C, D, E.

The evidence shows that this expedition against the Indians was necessary for the preservation of the lives and property of the people of Virginia City and vicinity, and that its organization and success perhaps preserved the people there from destruction. The Government had no troops there; the danger was instant; there were no means of preventing destruction excepting those adopted. The people themselves did what the Government should, perhaps, have been prepared to do. Under these circumstances the committee think there is a moral and equitable obligation resting on the Government to pay the necessary expenses of the expedition.

The prices charged for the supplies seem to be high, but the testimony is all to the effect that, under the adverse circumstances of the case, they could not have been furnished for less. And considering that it is now ten years since the supplies were furnished, the committee recommend the passage of the bill. They invite attention to the affidavit of Colonel Hays, hereunto appended, marked F.

A.

This agreement, made this 22d day of May, in the year 1860, at Virginia City, Utah Territory, between John Jordan and John M. McPike, doing business under the firm name of Jordan & McPike, in said Territory, parties of the first part, and Richard N. Snowden, commissary of the Utah volunteers, under command of Colonel John C. Hays, for an expedition against the Pi-Ute Indians, in said Territory, party of the second part, witnesseth: That the said parties of the first part hereby agree to furnish fresh beef for the use of said expedition, at 30 cents per pound, and to drive the necessary number of beef cattle with said command during such expedition; and the said party of the second part, as commissary as aforesaid, in consideration of the said agreement on the part of the said parties of the first part, hereby agree to furnish the said parties of the first part on demand with proper certificates of the amounts of beef so furnished as aforesaid, and the just value and price thereof at the times and places where the same shall be delivered, to enable the said parties of the first part to present in proper form and with due vouchers their claim therefor against the Government of the United States; and further agrees that said cattle so driven with said command shall be guarded on the road and in camp by guards from said volunteer force.

In witness whereof the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above mentioned.

JORDAN & MCPIKE. [SEAL.]

RICH'D N. SNOWDEN, [SEAL.]

Utah Volunteers.

Scaled and delivered in the presence of—

H. TALER BOAMEN.

Approved May 22, 1860.

JOHN C. HAYS,
Colonel, Commanding.

B.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To JOHN JORDAN AND JOHN M. McPIKE,

DR.

To supplies furnished the expedition under command of Colonel Hays against the Pi-Ute Indians, in Utah Territory, as follows:

33,000 pounds of beef, (furnished at Camp Hays, Carson River; camp at Big Flat, Carson River; camp at Williams's Ranch, at Cattle Crossing of Truckee River,) at 30 cents per pound..... \$9,900

I hereby certify on honor that the above amount of provisions was actually furnished the expedition under command of Colonel Hays against the Pi-Ute Indians, in Utah Territory; that the price charged in the within bill is just and reasonable, and that the provisions charged for therein were necessary for the public service.

RICH'D N. SNOWDEN,
Commissary Utah Volunteers.

SILVER CITY, June 11, 1860.

C.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To JOHN JORDAN AND JOHN M. McPIKE,

(Doing business under the firm name of Jordan & McPike,)

DR.

To supplies furnished the expedition under command of Colonel Hays against the Pi-Ute Indians, in the Territory of Utah, as follows:

To 100 pounds crackers, at 80 cents.....	\$80 00
To 120 pounds loaf sugar, at 60 cents.....	72 00
To 10 gallons brandy, (medicinal,) at \$10.....	100 00
To 1 dozen camp kettles.....	30 00
To 1 dozen frying pans.....	20 00
To 1 dozen coffee pots.....	20 00
To 1 set butchers' tools.....	30 00

At Williams's Ranch, Carson River.

To 350 pounds coffee, at 65 cents.....	227 50
To 2,500 pounds flour, at 70 cents.....	1,750 00
To 305 pounds bacon, at 80 cents.....	244 00
To 200 pounds salt, at 50 cents.....	100 00
To use of one wagon and two horses for transportation, 21 days, at \$20.....	420 00
	<u>3,093 50</u>

I hereby certify on honor that the amounts of provisions and services in the within bill set forth were actually furnished the expedition under the command of Colonel Hays against the Pi-Ute Indians, in the Territory of Utah, and that the same were necessary for the public service, and that the prices charged therefor are just and reasonable.

RICH'D N. SNOWDEN,
Commissary Utah Volunteers.

SILVER CITY, June 11, 1860.

D.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To JOHN JORDAN AND JOHN M. McPIKE,

(Doing business under the firm and name of Jordan & McPike,)

DR.

To supplies furnished the expedition under the command of Colonel Hays against the Pi-Ute Indians, in Utah Territory, as follows:

16,800 pounds of fresh beef, furnished at camp at Big Meadows of Truckee; camp at Pyramid Lake, and relieving at Lamee Crossing of Truckee, and at camp at Williams's Ranch..... \$5,040

I hereby certify on honor that the above amount of provisions was actually furnished by Jordan & McPike to the expedition under command of Colonel Hays against the Pi-

Ute Indians, in Utah Territory; that the prices charged in the within bill are just and reasonable, and that said provisions were actually necessary for the public service.

RICH'D N. SNOWDEN,
Commissary Utah Volunteers.

SILVER CITY, June 11, 1860.

E.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To JOHN JORDAN AND JOHN M. McPIKE,
(Doing business under the firm name of Jordan & McPike,)

DR.

To supplies furnished the expedition under command of Colonel Hays against the Pi-Ute Indians, in Utah Territory, as follows:

4,800 pounds of fresh beef, furnished at the camp near Virginia City, at 30 cents per pound	\$1,440
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I hereby certify on honor that the above amount of provisions was actually furnished the expedition under command of Colonel Hays against the Pi-Ute Indians, in Utah Territory; that the price above charged is reasonable and just, and that said provisions were necessary for the public service.

RICH'D N. SNOWDEN,
Commissary Utah Volunteers.

SILVER CITY, June 11, 1860.

F.

I was temporarily in the Territory of Utah, on private business, when the Indian outbreak spoken of in the annexed papers occurred. The outbreak was believed by the inhabitants to be of a formidable character, the danger great and imminent. I considered it my duty, at the unanimously expressed desire of the volunteers, to accept the command of the expedition, and did so with great reluctance and not a little personal sacrifice. The campaign was conducted to a successful termination with dispatch, and with as much economy as possible in that *then* almost inaccessible country. The volunteers neither asked nor received any pay. I believe the annexed contract, entered into with Jordan & McPike, was a reasonable and proper one, and was faithfully executed on their part.

I recognize the annexed contract as the one at that time made with Jordan & McPike, and approved by myself as the commanding officer. I informed them at the time the contract was made that I believed there would be no difficulty in their receiving their pay from the Government. I think the claim a just one, and believe it should be paid.

JOHN C. HAYS.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 3d day of May, 1870.

N. CALLAN,
Notary Public.