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Claim of Northwest Fur Company. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, in relation to the claim of the Northwest Fur Company for subsistence furnished by them for the Indians of the Fort Berthold Indian Agency.

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CLAIM OF NORTHWEST FUR COMPANY.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN RELATION TO

The claim of the Northwest Fur Company for subsistence furnished by them for the Indians of the Fort Berthold Indian agency.

FEBRUARY 7, 1871.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 7, 1871.

SIR: The accompanying copy of the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 6th instant, together with one copy of the papers therein referred to, in relation to the claim of the Northwest Fur Company for subsistence furnished by them for the Indians of the Fort Berthold Indian agency, are respectfully submitted for such action as Congress may deem proper to take in the case.

I have the honor to be, 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., February 6, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith duplicate copies of an account in favor of the Northwest Fur Company for subsistence furnished by them for the Indians of the Fort Berthold Indian agency during the winter of 1865-'66; also copies of an affidavit from M. Wilkinson, at that time agent for said Indians, showing under what circumstances the subsistence was furnished.

The amount of this account is \$12,243 61, and I have to say that this office has no knowledge of the facts and circumstances in the case, except as is shown by the accompanying papers.

I have no reason to doubt the correctness of the account, but as there are no funds at the disposal of the Department that can be used to pay

the same, I respectfully recommend that the papers in the case be laid before Congress for such action as that body may deem proper.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER, *Commissioner*.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.

United States to Northwestern Fur Company,

Dr.

<i>United States to Northwestern Fur Company,</i>		<i>Dr.</i>
March, 1866.		
To 80 sacks corn, at \$10 per sack		\$800 00
To 30 pounds tea, at \$3 per pound		90 00
To 120 pounds powder, at \$1 50 per pound		180 00
To 800 pounds dried meat, at 25 cents per pound		200 00
To 3,600 pounds bacon, at 31 cents per pound		1,178 00
To 45 barrels corned beef, at \$60 per barrel		2,700 00
To 8 barrels pickled pork, at \$56 per barrel		448 00
To 420 pounds rice, at 26 cents per pound		109 20
To 225 pounds salt, at 10 cents per pound		22 50
To 320 pounds lard, at 33 cents per pound		105 60
To 2,900 pounds sugar, at 39 cents per pound		1,131 00
To 12 barrels hard-bread, (1,056 pounds,) at 18 cents per pound		190 05
To 8,500 W. P. caps, at \$2 75 per 1,000		23 37½
To 400 pounds ball and buckshot, at 29 cents per pound		116 00
To 275 sacks flour, at \$15 per sack		4,125 00
To 460 pounds coffee, at 48 cents per pound		220 80
To 420 pounds hominy, at 26 cents per pound		109 20
To 60 gallons molasses, at \$2 75 cents per gallon		165 50
To 18 pounds saleratus, at 22 cents per pound		3 96
To 3,650 pounds fresh meat, at 18 cents per pound		657 00
Total		12,575 18½

I certify on honor that the above claim is correct and just, and the supplies were necessary to prevent starvation among the Indians comprising my agency, and that I had no money in my hands applicable to the payment of the same.

M. WILKINSON,
United States Agent.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA; *County of Washington, ss :*

In the matter of claim for supplies of the Northwest Fur Company, of Chicago, county of Cook, State of Illinois, personally came before me, a justice of the peace in and for aforesaid county, M. Wilkinson, of Henry County, of Mount Pleasant, State of Iowa, who, I hereby certify, is a respectable and credible person, and who, being duly sworn, declares, in relation to the aforesaid claim, as follows: that early in the winter of 1865 and 1866 the Indians comprising my agency, stationed at Fort Berthold, started out on a hunt up the Yellowstone; on their arrival at Fort Union, being in a destitute and starving condition, the Northwest Fur Company, with my sanction, provided them with supplies to continue the hunt. They were absent some three or four months in quest of game without any success, as they were continually harassed by the Sioux. When they returned to Fort Union, about the 1st of April, many had already perished from starvation, and their condition was lamentable. To prevent deaths by the hundred, the Northwest Fur Company again, with my approval, provided them with supplies, and the Indians, in council, requested that the amount be withheld from their annuities; but as they are very small, it has been impossible to do it.

He further declares that he has no interest in said claim, and is not concerned in its prosecution.

M. WILKINSON.

Attest:

SAM'L B. LAUFFER,
JOHN H. JOHNSON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant; and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same. I further certify that I am in no wise interested in said claim, nor am I concerned in its prosecution.

Witness my hand and official seal this 3d day of February, 1871.

[SEAL.]

JOHN H. JOHNSON,
Justice of the Peace.