

Dec. 12/83

Forbes
~~long, ruled notebook paper~~

Note on back: Copy of letter to Wm. H. Lyon, 483 Broadway N.Y. Board of Ind. Commissioners, Dec. 12/83.

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Stdg. Rock, Agency, D.T. Dec 12/83.

Hon. Wm. H. Lyon,

Board of Indian Commissioners,

No. 483 Broadway, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of Sept. 17th last to which I would have replied earlier but was waiting until after opening and issuing the annuity goods furnished this year so that I could include the current fiscal years purchases in my report.

Replying now to your inquiries I desire to say that both subsistence supplies and annuity goods as now being furnished are entirely satisfactory and are very suitable for the Indian service. The jeans and lined duck suits are far preferable to the satinet goods formerly furnished, while the hose, gloves, mittens, scarfs, etc. are also of better quality, and the calicoes being principally of dark colors are better adapted for the Indian womens wear than the lighter colors so largely furnished in the past.

The quality of the goods and their adaptability has steadily improved during the past few years but delivering them at the agencies earlier in the season yet remains to be remedied & even in this respect the present fiscal year has been freer from such annoyances than formerly. I would recommend that less cloth be dispensed with in future purchases, substituting substantial civilized clothing instead. The list cloth is issued for womens wear, and if used by them for the purpose intended, would be a comfortable and serviceable garment but it is rarely ever worn by the women, the young men appropriating it for fancy dress blankets and leggings to adorn their persons after the most approved Indian custom of gorgeous dress.

If a sufficient supply of clothing could be furnished the Indians