

continued

Total number of Indians 5004			
	Amount required for the year.	Amount purchased and Contracted for.	Deficiency.
Bacon	100.000		
Beef	5,179.380	3.750.000	1.429.380
Flour	913.230	600.000	313.230
Corn	913.230	150.000	763.231
Beans	54.793	Not yet known	
Lard	20.000	10.000	
Salt	18.264	Not yet known	
Coffee	73.058	38.018	35.040
Sugar	146.116	80.028	66.088
Tobacco	9.132	Not yet known	
Soap	18.264	10.000	8.264

The figures speak for themselves and comment is unnecessary, and unless the deficiency is supplied, great suffering to these Indians must of necessity result. It has been the practice and policy of the Indian Dept. to send a large part of the Indians on a buffalo hunt four or five months each year, and it is presumed that with such an expedient in view, only eight months supplies have been furnished, with a hope that the Indians can subsist themselves for a least four months during the present fiscal year, such a hope will, I am satisfied, be a vain one, and should not, and indeed cannot be depended upon.

Two years ago the Indians had a successful hunt and subsisted themselves for about five months. A year ago their hunt was a disastrous failure, and a very large number of the Indians absent from the Agency without rations, suffered greatly for want of food. They soon destroyed all the small game that could be found, then lived for a time on dogs, coyotes, and horse flesh until beef could be issued to them on Camp Supply to keep them from starving until they could reach the Agency.

Permission was granted the Indians to go on a hunt in July, but