

Mr. Rolette, having contracted for, and being able immediately to commence the supplying the garrison, is very opportunely; for the Commissary stores were quite exhausted, and the troops began to feed on Indian corn. There is still a barrel of pork remaining, which I kept as a stand-by. I shall as soon as these dispatches are gone, transfer to Mr. Rolette what small quantity of salt is remaining, say about forty pounds, and will immediately go about putting everything respecting the garrison, etc., in a regular way, according to the forms I have received.

With respect to the payment of the troops, Mr. Rolette has offered to furnish the money for that purpose, they having been paid up to the 24th August last. The cold weather setting in, and the absolute necessity they are in for some articles of clothing, will make it necessary for me to pay them up to the 24th inst., which I would not otherwise do till I receive your orders to that effect. Whatever disbursements I have been obliged to make, shall be all transferred to Mr. Rolette, in order to give less trouble, being under one head. Mr. Rolette appears to wish to do everything in his power for the good of the service, and says he will at all times furnish what money he can for that purpose, and as to his contract, I am convinced he will do everything possible to complete it. The greatest inconvenience will be on account of salt, which cannot be procured here to preserve the Summer's supply of meat.

I am putting Fort McKay in as strong and comfortable a situation, and at as little expense, as possible, at the same time omitting nothing that may tend to the safety of the place. The four barrels of powder sent out by Mr. Rolette were received, as also some half-pound round shot, and the case of round shot mentioned as deficient in my letter of the 11th inst.

In conformity to your orders, I sent off the Green Bay Volunteers, and nine of my own company, under Lieut. Graham, of the Indian Department. I have given orders to Lieut. Graham to proceed with all possible haste, till he meets Robert Dickson; that should he meet the troops previous to meeting Mr. Dickson, to give them every assistance in his power. My motive for doing this is because I understand they are greatly in need; and as