

[*ammunition*,] and their families furnished with a little provisions [*during the*] absence of the Indians from home upon service. Unless [*something*] of this sort be adopted, they will continue to kill [*the cattle as*] often as their necessities require, and in the end [*we will*] have to abandon the place altogether. I have devoted [*as much*] time as the lateness of the season would permit, to the investigation of such losses as have already been sustained, but I am unable to send you a statement of them by this conveyance. It shall, however, be forwarded by the first express from Fort McKay.

On the 9th inst. I met Captain Graham of the Ind. Dept. who had been detached with a party of men from Fort McKay to meet our Brigade, & assist it in ascending the rapids; he was accompanied by 3 of the principal Saulk Chiefs, deputed by their nation to represent their wants, and to demand the assistance which they had been taught to expect. I am sorry as well as much surprised, to find that the quantity of ammunition sent with Mr. Dickson, is by no means adequate to supply one-fourth part of those Tribes who have claims upon us.

I understand that there are at least 20,000 persons, whose existence during the approaching winter, will entirely depend upon hunting; formerly they had Traders to resort to for assistance, and they were also in the habit of planting and securing a supply of corn; but this year they are deprived of both resources, the latter chiefly from being so often called from home. The Saulks in particular, who have given such striking proof of their zeal in the cause, & who received scarcely anything last year, I wish it was in my power to furnish amply, but I am concerned to find that it will not. Indeed, the little that will remain for them after the Winnibagoes, Follesavoines & others on our route have been supplied (all of whom stand in equal need, and have strong claims upon us), will be so far beneath what they expect and deserve, that I assure you, I have my fears for the effect which it may produce in their conduct towards us. A vast concourse of Indians of differ-