

find proper, I request you to approve, as I believe that Lt. Col. McDouall's instructions to you were to that effect. The accounts of the Department previous to your arrival here, I will settle in the usual manner.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant—

R. DICKSON.

Agt. & Supt.

*Captain Bulger*

*Command'r. Fort McKay.*

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TO DICKSON.

FORT MCKAY, 6th Feb. 1815.

SIR, — In reply to your letter which I would have answered immediately had I not been engaged. I have to inform you that it is not in my power to tell if we shall have any quantity of wheat in store for the subsistence of the Indians during the period they will be on service here, and as to corn, I know not whether we can procure even one bushel.

I cannot comply with your request to approve of the accounts of Provisions expended in the Indian Department since my arrival here, because I never could have sanctioned such a quantity being expended in so short a period and in times of such scarcity as the present when the safety of this Country depends on the frugal management of our resources.

If the Indian Department was allowed to go on as it has for the last 2 months, we should not have an ounce of Provisions left by Spring.

I am highly astonished Sir, at your want of consideration. You must have been well aware that the only possible chance we have of preserving the Country is by husbanding the small quantity of Provisions in it for the approaching critical period, when the Indians will be called out to our assistance, and must be fed. Their present