

distress I allow to be great, and it excites my commiseration as much as it can possibly do yours: but we must not forget that there is another and more imperious call to attend to, the duty we owe our Sovereign, and the preservation of the Country from the grasp of our Enemies.

You have Sir, consumed in your Department since your and my arrival here, upwards of 4654. Rations of corn and flour, whilst to provision the Officers & Interpreters of the Indian Department, would only require 900. Rations.

Disapproving of your mode of management with regard to provisions, I must desire that you will not in future make any purchases for the Indian Department without my knowledge. The Indians are to be supplied only when on Service.

I am

Sir,

Your obedient Humble Servant,

A. BULGER, Captain,

Commanding Fort McKay

& on the Mississippi.

*Robert Dickson Esq.*

*Agent & Superintendent,  
Western Indians.*

---

TO BULGER.

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN 8<sup>th</sup> Feby. 1815.

SIR—In answer to your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst: I have to say that I am sorry that you cannot approve of my accounts, for the Provisions furnished the In' D't. only so far as it may injure the service. Having authority from the commander of the Forces, as agent to the Western Nations & Superintendent of the conquered Countries, to purchase provisions, I have hitherto done so, and have had my accounts paid to the amount of many thousand pounds. As you command at this place, I ask'd your approval for the purchase of the corn from Mr. Brisbois, which you granted, and as the officers, Interpreters, and men attached to the department drew no rations, I thought myself authorized to get four for their support.

I cannot allow you, to put the construction you wish, on my management of provisions. Please to reflect coolly on