

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

*Washington, D. C., July 20, 1880.*

SIR:

It is deemed desirable by this Office that hereafter all issues of beef to your Indians shall be made from the block except in cases of absolute impracticability. A trained butcher, properly equipped, with a few Indian assistants, whose services can be obtained at the minimum of compensation, would easily and promptly slaughter the beef required for each day's issue.

You are directed upon and after the receipt of this circular to make your issues of beef from the block, if possible, retaining a sufficient number of hides, the proceeds of sales of which will cover the expenses of butchering; the remainder of the hides obtained from the slaughter of cattle issued to your Indians for subsistence you will give to those of the Indians who work on their farms or for their own support.

The hides obtained from the slaughter of the cattle you will take up on Abstract "C" to your Property Return, and drop the same as issued from Abstract "D," taking the receipts of the Indians who receive them, properly witnessed, as required on vouchers for articles issued to Indians.

You will carefully watch the disposition made of the hides by the Indians, and require the licensed traders to pay cash when buying them.

At the agencies in the Indian Territory, Dakota Territory, Nebraska, and east of the Missouri river, the traders must pay the quoted market rate for them less 20 per cent. At the agencies elsewhere the quoted market rate less 25 per cent.

You will require the licensed trader to furnish you weekly with a statement showing the number of hides purchased by him of your Indians, and the prices paid therefor, and you will include the information in your regular monthly report to this Office.

Should you find that the trader is paying less for the hides than the rate established herein, you will report the fact immediately to this Office.

Respectfully,

E. J. BROOKS,

*Acting Commissioner.*

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Directing beef to be issued  
from the black and giving  
instructions relative to hides