

of that...  
up in the...  
about...  
we are...  
my...  
The...  
day...  
here...  
Ex. Hoog.

Vaukton August 1877

W 3206 Oliver St

St Louis Mo

Received your two letters Saturday night  
on return from agencies. write dan Harrison  
many congratulations

L.H. Hammond

In the region...  
of merit...  
to do...  
their bread

When...  
Cattle...  
and...



Wm. H. Rogers

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 1877

My Dear Sir

I have seen the speech of the President in answer to the Spotted Tail & Red Cloud delegations. I have heard nothing before from anyone in authority calculated to tell them what they must do soon or late. In this region they regard the reception of favors, as acts of merit on their part! Nothing has heretofore been said or done to make the Indians understand that they must earn their bread.

When Mr. Hayes said "Cattle & hoes & plows will be more useful to you than ponies & guns," he sounded the key note of what must be done, before the Sioux will make any substantial advance towards self support. As long as they have ponies & guns, they will visit & wander around, and will not settle themselves down. They are really excitable & timid only in the presence of whites.

In my annual report dated Aug 27<sup>th</sup>, I recommended. First that ponies & guns be taken & compensation made in chickens and domestic cattle. Second an active policy leading leading to settlement on land held in severalty without loan of alienate.

Indred My Dear Sir, It is in common sense to say, such as lead to success in ordinary business pursuits, that one must look for success in leading Indians to self support. How can we expect them to become self supporters



making war?

to listen to no

all but as these are

than in idleness, with no

it must be otherwise -

encies where honestly conducted are  
 elements, where dishonestly operated,  
 ditto.

agents receive \$1500 cash - House rent, garden,  
 pasture (no end of it) fuel, use of cows & horses.  
 & too often, all the duties required - I don't want  
 to hear any thing more about Agents being self sacrificing.  
 There is not one in the Superintendency, could do half so  
 well at any thing else.

Whether all this can be brought to an honest business  
 bottom - I am not yet quite clear - but I know that  
 things can be improved. Mean while, The President  
 has made the start & we have heard something more than  
 the old stuff about good & bad hearts & great fathers -  
 For which I thank him & praise God most sincerely. -

My position here is not a bed of roses. When I came here, many  
 men told me that "my aff't was regarded as a trust to the ring."  
 I find they were right: There is a ring - not as people suppose; but  
 a material, supporting society on business principles -  
 among other things. I will mention - confidentially, that Walpin  
was & is a correspondent & friend of a man out here, who was a  
private soldier & married a waiter girl in a hotel, & who is now a  
clerk on one of the agencies & a partner in several trading ships.  
 How is that for an extended business connection? This is con-  
 fidential & I may say here. I hope the Secretary should not know that I write  
 you about Indian business - I will explain why when I see you  
 Very sincerely Yours A. Hammond



Personally appeared before me the undersigned  
 Authority Jeremiah Brown who being duly sworn deposes and  
 says, that he commenced work on the 2nd day of Aug 1876. on  
 Cheyenne River Agency & was a soldier before that. Nancy  
 Bingham was Agent at that date. He came here when  
 the two companies of the 7th Infy came in 1872. Durfee &  
 Peck had the Trader Store - Indian Trader Store. -  
 what did you do -

Ans. I worked at everything, I worked at the cattle scales.  
 Paxton was Contractor Clerk Robt. Cox weighed the cattle  
 straight along all the time - The men all thought Bingham  
 had a good thing, by dividing the over weights, this was  
 what we all thought who worked around the scales.

Ques. Now was it done. what made you think there were over  
 weights. Well, we could not think any else, when little  
 thin poor steers weighed 600 or 700 pounds, & a big one  
 would go 800 lbs. They were weighed as soon as they were

Ans. - brought in

Ques. when they weighed over the River, how did they do.

Ans. They killed them & weighed on small scales, no cheating  
 could be done, because an Officer was there.

Ques. How long after you commenced work on the Agency before

Ans. I didn't haul <sup>you hauled any 500 lbs away from the warehouses</sup> it away, it was John Green, he was using  
 a wheelbarrow. He was working for Durfee & Peck, Robt  
 was in charge of the Store. He had a wheelbarrow  
 wheeling flour from the Indian Warehouse to Durfee &  
 Peck's store. I saw him twice & each time he had what  
 the barrow would hold, say two or three sacks of flour  
 Ques. - each time.



Ques - Did you see sugar & Bacon & other provisions hauled  
to any other place besides Douglas Creek alone.

Ans - Yes to the Root House built by Bingham & Robt & John  
John who kept & kept the Root House.

Ques - Did they build it together.

Ans - Yes - they did build & pay for it in partnership.

Ques - How much did you see go in.

Ans - About 6 barrels of sugar, 3 sacks of Bacon,  
3 or 4 or well 5 sacks of coffee, I saw this only and  
I don't know whether more went in or not -

This occurred in spring following the August  
when I commenced work.

Ques - Was John receiving pay for his mess work

Ans - Yes he was getting \$10<sup>00</sup> per month from every man  
for board & getting the provisions out of the Root  
House & warehouse

Ques - when did he get provisions <sup>from</sup> warehouse

Ans - Every Ration day a pile of them, all he could want  
under.

Alex Charbonnier also Blacksmith, got rations & made  
used the rations to run a Rancho opposite to Fort  
Pierce He received a very large amount, I helped  
to fill the sacks, under orders of the Agent, also  
Frank McCarty received about 20 lbs of coffee  
& 200 or 25 lbs of sugar for his trip to the Black Hills  
in spring of 1876 -

Bingham was a good fellow & got provisions & rations  
to a great many different people.

Ques - How about the Black Hills



I have seen a whole wagon load of provisions go  
 to the Black Hills from the Indian Warehouse. -  
 I started from the carpenter shop, John Welch, James  
 Lawler, were taking it. Welch was working for the  
 manager of the Hotel at Stone, he bought on a barrel of  
 Peck, I have seen whole box of tobacco with paper  
 carried out of the warehouse at one time - A man  
 carried it out, Charbonnier found the order  
 signed by Robt Cox to deliver the box to James  
 Lawler, who was Carpenter, I have seen March  
 McCarty drive up to a pile of flour & bring in a  
 couple of sacks at once. I have pulled a many  
 a sack of flour, & corn & sugar, & coffee & sugar  
 all taken to Medicine Creek to Bingham's Ranch.  
 The men beside Bingham, Roth, Craun, Wright  
 were all interested, also I have taken over  
 farming implements there - I saw the men  
 by the Brothers Renoir - I also saw a whole  
 wagon load of provisions at one time, John  
 Bingham the Agent's brother driving the wagon  
 & the stuff taken from the Indian Warehouse  
 to the Medicine Creek (Bingham's Ranch). Craun  
 while Contract Physician went over & bought  
 the cattle to start the Ranch. Question was  
 Paston up here in those days -  
 Yes - I saw him often, once or twice month, two or  
 three days at a time. He stayed with Bingham & was a  
 contractor, I have also seen Ryne & Helges Contractors  
 & stayed with Craun. I also saw John Bingham



take to the Ranch a new Indian wagon; bring it  
 & exchange it. & then take the second one to the Ranch  
 which never came back. I heard a great deal of the  
 Flat Boat loads of goods going to the Little Rock  
 where Robt. Hoar had wood contracts but did not  
 see that myself. Charley Foster could it up & can  
 tell you the whole thing. I have seen Wright take  
 a whole caddy of tobacco for his own personal  
 use, have seen it in his house. He was & is now farmer.  
 I have seen whole wagon loads, big wagon loads of  
 provisions go to McKenzies Point and to the mission  
 two miles from here they went to the mission there.  
 The Carpenter told me that he saw a caddy of tobacco  
 in Dr. Graves's quarters. Clemons borrowed a  
 barrel of sugar from Agent Bingham and never  
 returned it. I have seen Wright take various provisions  
 out of the warehouse & give them to squaws, I have seen  
 a great deal of provisions taken over the river to the  
 mail station opposite for the use of the soldiers  
 who were taking care of Bingham's horses, John  
 Welsh took eight sacks of flour from the Agency  
 warehouse to G. Welsh's warehouse to exchange for  
 the other flour to take to the Black Hills. This was  
 done late at night sometime in March 1876.

(Signed) Jeremiah Brown  
 sworn to & subscribed before me this 18th day of September  
 1877 at Cheyenne Agency D.T.

(Signed) A. W. H. H.  
 U.S. Marshal  
 Judge Advocate Gen.



Yaukton D.T. Oct: 1<sup>st</sup> 1877  
 Hon Carl Schurz  
 Dear Sir

I enclose herewith evidence of  
 Jeremiah Brown with follow up enough, adding  
 what Mr Hoyt sent thro his father, Brattle Cox,  
 Wright, Bingham & Cravens who seemed best.

You cannot prosecute in this Ter-  
 ritory while the present District Attorney is in. I have  
 known this for some time, but had not a specific  
 statement until yesterday. Cannot put my  
 authority on paper, but will tell you. The Atty is  
 dying with Consumption, but the ring has a man in train-  
 ing as successor. I have learned that Galpin was a cor-  
 respondent of Cox who was a private adviser & clerk at  
 Cheyenne agency, & who married a waitress at a hotel.  
 You were right as to Galpin -

I have the honor to receive your suggestion that



The church will never be a more fitting place than  
 now. By placing on the altar of the altar of  
 this thing, that cannot and will be written -  
 and by the will not move even a with a  
 and by the altar. It is a tremendous  
 and by the altar.

With great respect  
 to the church

100 3  
 And the B. Ruggles  
 Dear General  
 I telegraphed you on the  
 asking that the H. R. Ruggles  
 sent to the H. R. Ruggles  
 retained at Cambridge Port.  
 He has been a most valuable  
 valuable source, being in possession  
 of a great number of Indian goods at Cambridge  
 Port. I don't like to put on paper just  
 the exact number of these goods  
 as you. In the mean time, I  
 may say that the discipline of the church  
 is the highest one.



Oct 3 7

Genl Geo B Ruggles  
Asst adjt Genl  
Dept of Dakota  
General

I have to acknowledge  
your letter copy Telegram  
of Sept 10th. as to officer  
& men for New Red  
Cloud agency. They have  
arrived.

Absence has prevented earlier  
acknowledgment.

Respectfully  
H. H. Howard  
Capt. Ind Affs.

*unofficial*

Oct 3 7

Genl Geo B Ruggles  
Dear General

I telegraphed you on the  
asking that Lt W. E. Daugh-  
erty 1st Lieut A Co. First Regt; be  
retained at Fort Boile Post.

He has been & is rendering most  
valuable service, being inspecting  
officer of Indian goods at Crow  
Creek & Fort Boile Agency.

I don't like to put on paper just  
the exact extent & value of his ser-  
vices; but will tell you when I  
see you. In the mean time I  
may say that the dislike of the agt  
& this bitterness, is the highest rec-



command in any office can have  
in this region. He has both.

If he is removed; the value of  
inspection or not amount to  
much for some time to come.

We have been there for years -  
& know no other than to observe.

Capt Leelan Smith the new  
Post Commander may ask for  
him, as Capt Smith's Co  
is the one into which Drayton  
expects to be transferred & from  
him - Being married his move-  
ment to Randall will be costly  
& when promoted; removal  
in winter or spring will in-  
volve his return & greater expense.  
If you are proper, I will make  
official application for his

retention.

In any event, if you do not wish to order  
him to remain, can you permit him to do so,  
until Gen Terry returns?

It will be an official & personal obligation

Very truly Yours

L. Hammond



Yaukton D.T.

oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1897.

Hon C. A. Hayt

Commissioner Indian Affairs

Washington D.C.

Sir:

As reported, Mr. Wm. Anderson is to leave the  
place of Inspector, I beg leave to apply for that  
position, and refer to Hon. A. C. Brewster  
Providence R.I.

Respectfully Your obt servant  
J. H. Anderson

Sup't Ind Affrs  
Dakota.



Waukegan D.T.

Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 1877.

Rev. C. M. Mayhew

Sir

My application for the place of  
Inspector, is made only on the expectation of a vacancy,  
and I hope will not go on file, unless a vacancy is created.

I am personally known to Mr. Schurz, Genl.  
Sherman, & the Presd<sup>t</sup> & Secy Mr. Rogers, but do  
not refer to them because on this matter I have  
consulted Mr. Brewster only.

Respectfully Your obt. servant

J. H. Hammond

Sept Indeffs

Dakota.



In any case you ~~don't~~ should quit. When I see you, I will explain just how he came to be appointed - You mentioned Santa Agency. Would you like to have an interesting affidavit relating to Mr. Hinman, the Missionary? There? Knowledge has come to me, that Halpin was & is the correspondent & friend of a clerk here, who was formerly a common soldier, married a waitress - went in a hotel, and is a coarse man - Such association is not natural, that about justice. I ~~will~~ remain on your Board. An opinion prevails among ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~people~~ <sup>people</sup> ~~here~~ <sup>here</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> he told at least one agent that I was ~~lying~~ <sup>lying</sup> them. I have no evidence of it, but circumstances favor the idea -

Would you be bored by a copy of my report made Aug 27th. It is stiff - as I was trying to say as little as possible to myself would permit. During Blair's visit, I could not reach Standing Rock, but carefully examined supplies at the other agencies. Everything, this year, is good; except beans & corn, so much better than last year, that the ring must be frightened - One thing is curious - viz. Although, as I am informed, the sup was furnished by the same Contractor, under same Contract for all the Agencies. The color & quality differs at all times. At one, Crow Creek, it is as good as our sample. What I got hold of was good at all. Stealing has not stopped. I have a statement & affidavit of a wagon load taken on the 15th of September - I have furnished the evidence to Mr. Selbury. I long to see you again. I know you better now & can open such a volume as will make you as hard as flint in your duty. I seem to me that whether I am made Inspector or not, I shall



be ordered to Washington to see Mr. May for full conference.  
 The Dist Atty of Dakota came here under the auspices of  
 Burbank, Gov & Ex-officio Dept Ind Affairs. Burbank was  
 one of the most corrupt of men. I am informed. I found  
 the Attorney did his bidding while here. He is dying  
 now of consumption. The Subintendant has a man in  
 Training for the place. Have you a man, whom you  
 know inside & out. who has stamina & honesty & will  
 firm in a crowd whose interests he must continually oppose  
 & who at the same time, for the present, control all the Indian  
 of social, political & commercial prominence. —  
 If you know such a man. please put him in Training  
 also for the succession here as District Atty. Think of it —  
 It seems to me that the Indian Commissioners will not fulfill the  
 mission entirely, unless they keep an eye on the Dist Atty.  
 Dist Atty. of Territories — who should have come up to see.  
 Another thing — Important — You must have been told that  
 when one ring is broken another immediately forms. It is because  
 Agents & superior officers are moved. Not clerks, base farmers  
 & Indian Traders are let alone. Cutting tops off don't will  
 do it! Most of the Traders and all the clerks on this river  
 must go to effect any permanent good here. At Fort Clark  
 two clerks trained Howard Hastings & Saville in succession. One  
 of them (Calpurnus Smith) is here on the river training another now.  
 I am studying this thing carefully. & if you will, would like  
 the aid of your age, experience & judgment in reaching  
 conclusions. Your letter I will regard as confidential  
 as suggested — Very truly Yours  
 J. H. Burdett



Wash D.C. Oct 3. 1877

Hon C. A. Hoyt

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington D.C.

Sir

As reported, Col. M. T. H. is to have a letter of the Inspector, I have the honor to apply for the position and refer to Hon. A. C. Bacon Providence R.I.

Respectfully Yours and attached

J. H. H. H.



Yaukton D.T.  
Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1877

Hon. Genl Schurz  
Dear Sir

I have applied to Mr. Hays for the position of Inspector, if Genl Vanderwer should leave his place, stating however that my application should not go on file unless a vacancy is to exist. I have stated to him that I am personally known to you though I do not refer to you. I am satisfied that I can render you good service as Inspector. My field here is necessarily limited, but has opened a way into the operations of the ring far beyond this superintending. This is a costly place to live & am depriving myself of the society of my family. I must use my private fortune to live very moderately. Hence the place of Inspector has a value to me, besides whatever additional value I may be in it to you.

Respectfully I am, Sir,  
Yours,  
A. Hammond



Yakuton D.T. Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1877.

Hon. Carl Schurz

Sir

I enclose affidavit of Chas Foster as to affairs under Bingham implicating the present clerk & agent Croesus, and of Benj. P. Hoover, showing that the thing still goes on in a small way. I have just returned from the agencies below Standing Rock. Supplies are so much better than last yr. that the ring must be scared.

Will you grant me authority to hire a detective, You probably know better than I the cost. I am on the track of some cricketers that I cannot follow because every move I make is watched. I am sorry that I have not asked for one before this.

Respectfully Yours & Servant  
A. H. Mendenhall

NB

Your New Commissioner must be a good man. Word comes home that the ring curse him loud & deep.



Oct 5th 1877

M. F. F. F. F.

Roria. See

Over Dr.

You favor of Sept 1st has been received during my absence - have delayed in answering.

Your letter Sunday say is all track down except the part relating to clerkship in my office & Mr. Johnson. I wanted a clerk wrote Mr. Johnson & Gen. Carlin twice on the subject & have never had a word from either of them in answer. This is some time ago & I have had to make other arrangements as to a clerk. As things are I advise against his trying to leave Indian Agent. He uncertain. I liked the young man & would be glad to serve him & Gen. Carlin if an opportunity offers. Mrs. Hughes has not written or said a word for or against Mr. Johnson. Since I am puzzled to know what you say it is equally well to keep the matter on the same subject -

Truly  
Yours  
M. F. F. F. F.



Dr. Sharpe tells me, (he has just passed through here) that  
 Dr. Brown was at Hulls to find out what was at there -  
 There also have warned that they are working up a job on me. Try to find out  
 what it is -  
 Livingston Gregory & Brown are all in it.

Oct. 5th 1877.

Sir Rutherford  
 My dear Sir

I have your letter of the 23rd. and of course after  
 what Dr. said, I am not surprised. I think the explanation is  
 that the men in the Mess Room talked before me & to me, not  
 at my instigation at all, I hardly asked any questions,  
 but <sup>they were</sup> glad to talk. It was very damaging in its  
 character, of the same tenor as what we have by affidavit  
 got - Some one of the men, I think a chap who travels with  
 (some his quiet attitude) - knowing & org. guilty they are; and turned  
 to me & they imagined the rest. I don't Sharpe was  
 the only person whom I said one word - & I cannot  
 believe he blabbed - I was in his room & he saw me talk-  
 ing to some of the men. One fellow named Strickler  
 talked very much - Too much - Possibly he put his  
 words in my mouth - The damned scales are &  
 suppose indignantly that I should ever listen to  
 anything against them. When you say they know whom  
 I said - Do you mean that they know the man I saw  
 at Hulls, or at Cheyenne River? They may keep  
 a stiff upper lip, but I tell you they are scared  
 & their own are beginning to desert them - One of  
 the men longest with them came home voluntarily  
 after I left you & was surprised. You can get both the



one on talent about. — I am only doing my duty as in honor  
 bound now. one often must disagreeable duties a gentleman  
 can attend to. As you & I know. If they think they would like to  
 make it personal why — let them make an intellectual in taking their  
 measure for place in Detroit. That is where the Territory boards & stands.  
 I want you to listen to every thing you hear about any but  
 putting off or lightening up. — On account of low water.  
 The affidavit you have just sent me is to the point as is  
 I want you now to devote your time to learning who owns  
 the Rechte where the stuff all went. We have not got that  
 yet. we are both mistaken now. Try again.

Did you receive my letter from Pierre? You must read  
 over my letters every time. So that I may know just  
 what ones are lost, and carefully examine the seals &  
 further the sticking ad yes. I have lost a great many letters.  
 and am going to Canada tomorrow just hand some  
telegrams. I have applied to have you sent to these  
 agencies, if the Officer now at Spotted Tail don't come  
 to the River with the Indians. & if necessary will go to  
 Washington to Chicago for the purpose.

You produce readers words of caution on my part  
 unnecessary. But assured however, & you may tell Craigm  
 that: that I answered not a word to the talk in the Mess  
House — only listened to their talk — I will be careful  
 hereafter even when more than one is present.

Referring to telegrams I am assured by a merchant here  
 that he sends to Mr Talley down by messenger, when he wants  
 send a really important Telegram. Now that for a new  
mail & telegraph system —? I will watch for an opportunity  
 to help you. Watch Robt & let me know what he says. He was extremely  
 uneasy last night, and somewhat under liquor this AM  
 when he left. Very sincerely Yours Wm H. Hunt







authority Michael Burke, who being duly sworn deposes and says that he is a Blacksmith by profession and that he is present employed by the Post Quartermaster Cheyenne Agency S.D. to work as a Blacksmith at that Post. I came to this Cheyenne River Agency in August 1872 and hired out to Mr. Bingham U. S. Indian Agent as a laborer on the Agency and worked for him at that time three months. I was then out of his employ until the following May 1873, when I commenced working under Bingham again at the Agency, and worked until the following April 1874, where I commenced work for the Post Quartermaster at the military station near by and have worked continuously for the Post Quartermaster ever since to date. During the summer of 1873 while I was working on this Agency for Mr. Bingham the Agent I helped to issue the beef cattle to the Indians, which was done without weighing the cattle before they were slaughtered or without weighing the beef afterwards. This practice was followed for about three months commencing on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1873. I do not know how the weight of the cattle was ascertained as none of them were weighed in my presence or in the presence of any of the employees to my knowledge. At nearly all the issues of beef to the Indians that I have witnessed at this Agency, one or more of the cattle were slaughtered and retained from the Indians, by direction of Fred Wright or Mr. Lee the Ross Farmer and Assistant Farmer, for the use of the Agency, and this beef so retained was distributed among the families of the



Agent and all other white Families living on the Ag.  
 During the winter of 1873 and 1874, Neo Bingham the Indian,  
 kept and fed from the corn furnished by the Government from  
 18 to 20 head of Hogs, Bingham also kept while he was Indian  
 Agent from one to six head of private horses in the Agency  
 stables and had them fed upon Government corn and hay.  
 The other Employees also kept horses in the stable and  
 fed them on government corn and hay, also during the  
 winter of 1873 and 1874, five or six men employed on the  
 Agency by the Government, and several government teams  
 were employed under the direction of Fred Wright for  
 about 20 days taking the machinery out of a winter  
 steambot the "Sioux City". All this while the men were  
 being paid by the Government, the laborers employed  
 on the Agency got their meals at the Agency mess hall  
 kept by one John Williams, who got most of his  
 provisions from the warehouse and from the Indian  
 supplies, he took these provisions without weighing  
 them, in my presence. I have frequently seen  
 Indian goods in the Traders Store kept by Droke and Red,  
 I know they were Indian goods because they were marked  
 U. S. I. D. - I have seen Flour, Sugar, Coffee, Bacon  
 and Grain taken from the Indian warehouse and  
 from the Indian supplies loaded on wagons driven  
 by the brother of the Agent John Bingham, and taken  
 away from the Agency and across the Missouri  
 River this during the winter of 1875 and 1876.  
 The summer previous to this, I saw corn on several  
 different occasions shipped from the Agency to



the east side of the Missouri River and loaded onto  
 wagons belonging to Nottingham & Co. as their private  
 property and drove off. By one of their employees  
 this corn was marked on the sacks the same as the  
 Indian Corn was marked. In April 1876 I together  
 with Charles Foster and Charles Buckingham took about  
 twelve sacks of corn from their Indian warehouse  
 in the presence of Nottingham the Indian Agent  
 who told us to hurry up and get the corn away before  
 the Indians saw us as they would grumble about it,  
 I remember a man John, an Indian, was present  
 saw the whole transaction other Indians were  
 standing about. The corn was loaded on a flat  
 boat and taken away by Buckingham.

(signed) Mike Buckle

Before a Judge & Associate

Sept 22 - 1877.



London 22 Oct 1877

My dear William

You tell me that today. I have to thank you for what is  
a man of your age; must be a sacrifice come for a friend  
I am glad all around this pleasantly with the fact. He is very  
open to persuasion, & particularly to potent influence. No man  
knows how much he needs support & countenance, better than  
he does. Your visit was peculiarly appropriate & happy: so too  
by the circumstances prevailing. He has Mr. Squire's confidence.  
I have faith that what you said was just the thing to say. You  
must have called about the true application for the  
position of Inspector, arrived. You mention it in your letter.  
I have applied for it. at the instance of Mr. B. Boston the  
present in favour of Mr. Hayth the new Commissioner. A  
copy of the letter is enclosed. I have written Mr.  
Hayth that I apply in expectation of Mr. Vandewer leaving  
the place, Mr. Boston writes that he must go: & I think Mr.  
Hayth knows enough to drive Vandewer from the Service.

There are three Inspectors - whose duty is to inspect & report  
on the condition of all the agencies in the U.S. as they may  
be directed. At the same time the orders of the Commissioner. Their  
salaries are the same, \$3000 per year, & travelling expenses. The  
position, one as to rank, is no better than Com.

I enclose copy of a letter from Mr. Rogers the Prov. Secy.  
which please destroy as soon as read. I cannot account to you  
the reason I was not made Com: but I think I will tell you. I don't think  
I was ever in any way. My experience in this position has espe-  
cially fitted me for the place of Inspector. What I have learned is a key  
to the position of as many men & things; the others already learned  
of constant job does need & what to do for  
the number of the Board of Indian Commissioners (same Commission)  
and some of which & whom he can influence, would regard any  
officer as Com: or Inspector as must be the old ring with us



don't want this man to be a Senator. I have a very confidential  
 -tion. But the new Commissioner and all his friends regard him  
 with well founded distrust - so that he can only hold in secret  
 session. I am not acquainted with either of the Illinois Sena-  
 -tors. & unless Allison of Iowa. are not acquainted with any Senator.  
 therefore have no one to resist an underhand move.  
 I ought to tell you that the position I occupy was created for the  
 Express purpose of putting a bad man in. He quarreled with  
 one of the Ring, who exposed just enough to beat his confirmation.  
 I was appointed over both ring & outside applicants, & found that  
 my office was regarded as a Threat, by Mr Schurz - against the  
 miners - The Army officers, at once took sides quietly with me,  
 & the result is, that I have learned more villainy than a dime novel  
 can ever hint at - I am in private & almost daily correspon-  
 -dence with Mr Schurz & have dealt only in facts & affidavits -  
 taken before - and as advocates & I & the Chief Justice of the Supreme  
 Court of the Terr. It is almost like a romance, that a man like me  
 should have been selected to fill a place made to secure a lot  
 of rogues. & that guilty men should have imagined it done on purpose.  
 I must seem strange to you, but it is an unvarnished fact.  
 That they regard any one who does not train with them, as their  
 enemy & a refusal to deal as an affront - I am serious -

The Gov. of the Territory, Pennington, was my employer on a R.R. in Ala.  
 came under my orders while I was in Indiana. He is a small, corrupt  
 man, & having decided some friends commercially in Ala. was un-  
 -comfortable. George Spencer had him appt<sup>d</sup> here as a reward for  
 legislative services in Ala. Spencer has so bitterly denounced this  
 Administration & Mr Schurz personally & officially as an enemy  
 despises him, that I don't think Pennington, can be reappointed.  
 He has a lot of citizens recommendations, & has obtained a  
 -statement which people cannot refuse while he is so wrong, but  
 his true character is likely to come out. A new investigation is  
 going on now. He is the only one of the old attorney. The D.C. Marshall  
 will be in the grand ring which has controlled  
 the whole North West & when the end of the whole will  
 go with it. I have full belief and combinations will come to grief.  
 Hence should the Republic not be given one, I will do my  
 best to become Governor - The term of the incumbent exp<sup>d</sup>!



3.

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1878. my short time —!

He is collecting Dakota products to place  
in the Exhibition Phila<sup>de</sup> & I am informed  
takes the occasion to carry on endowments.  
I have now made a fight on anyone for his  
place & won't commences now. There will do that  
this Ter & will probably be the next state.  
Mr Rogers suggested some the probability  
of the North East of this Ter being cut off & of  
my being let off that. In some respects  
it is as good as this. I will keep it in  
view. The salary of this is so small  
that I have to live on private means  
to live. Hence I shall lose no time in  
doing better if I can. I must in fact —

Sophy & the children remain in Chicago.

— I have inflicted quite a long letter on  
you, but you now have the situation in full.  
The Chief Justice Peckham is friendly  
to me, & is the only official whom I can  
trust here. He would like me to be Governor  
& will help if he can. He was trapped into  
an endorsement of the present Gov<sup>t</sup> last  
Spring but will get out of that mistake.  
He says he has known your father many  
years. I think — know — that the Texas  
Pacific R.R. will be subsidized at the  
coming session — Is there enough Phil

a delphin in that, to give you a business  
connection with it? One of the powers  
in it. Leul Dodge — has found my  
reports & examinations on Missouri &  
Southern Road — so correct — That he has  
become quite friendly. & I would be  
glad if there is any thing there to  
start on, in which I could help you.  
Bristol, you know was interested in that

Very Sincerely Your friend  
J H Hammond



Yaukton D.T. Oct 10th 1877.

Mr Carl Schurz

Dear Sir.

The affidavits herewith enclosed are conclusive as to the matter therein stated. That relating to Hinman testifies to nothing worse than he has the reputation of doing; & his reputation is so general & the charges so clearly defiled, that I have had no doubt of their truth, for some time. — as I understood it, we have nothing to do with the ministry & I only send it, on account of its bearing on the Deville Hastings trial. About that, I have other important particulars, which I am under pledge to communicate to you, only by — verbally — and to you only. Hinman is the favorite of Hale & Whipple, knows their secrets & I am assured by respectable persons, his character has been proved & shown to them repeatedly — Charges are so rife here that I have been led on many wild hunts — & only send you what seems beyond doubt, reliable — To obtain this I have examined the ones where I have sent anything from one — The place where the compromises, may be one sent — referred to in the affidavits of Burke, Brady, Fielder, Foster, Brown & others — is on the Medicine Creek on the East side of the Missouri — It was then owned by Bingham — at the head — When I came to this country it was stripped of the most glaring evidences of crime. Bingham on the trip I told you of, cleaned up most of what was left. Still there was enough to start a case on. When I proposed that to you; you record your decision, & afterwards notified me through the regular channel, to prosecute, by the District Attorney — of course you will feel impatient & incredulous, when I tell you that is no use. But I can now show you a specific case, which I obtained from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court — tell you that — the District Attorney — cannot be relied on to do anything involving the free agents next above this on the River — viz. Cassius, Buchanan, Gregory & Livingston & Adams — this is the Chief Justice is the only man in the Territory, outside of the Army whom I dare trust — You have no comprehension of the political, social & religious & commercial combination — Please remember what I said of clearing out antagonists — but add to it, that the Secretary,



191  
~~Government~~ District Attorneys are in full accord, & the Governor will  
see nothing will impede any move against them. The Governor is  
an appointee of Spencer's & a reward for legislative services in  
Ala. When Mr. Vays was elected, he commenced collecting evi-  
dence in the Territory & will very soon avail himself of a journey on  
public business to present his endorsement to you for reappointment.  
George Spencer has just been here to obtain his license to mining  
titles in the Black Hills & promises support for reappointment  
as additional reward for services to the Alabama senator.

What I have sent is about enough to enable you form a plan of  
action on. Wherever Terrorism is removed, so that men ~~are~~ speak  
can find plenty of evidence. On the agencies where there is no  
military force — I am watched so closely & followed up to such  
an extent, that I am unable to get at any thing but statements.  
Remember that the only men who can speak, are bound hand & foot,  
& absolutely dependent on the men we want evidence against  
for employment & support. — Still I have been able to learn & I  
know & think I can prove — if the witnesses are not bought or scared  
off — That Livingston ~~agent~~ at Crow Creek owns the Bingham Ranch  
on Medicine Creek, where all the stores are carried to. Gregory  
manages all his accounts —

Can show (subject to the same chances) that Graham owns  
& runs a Ranch & support to it from Indian supplies. That the  
concern allows favored employees to live on said supplies —  
But don't lose sight of this: They have all the money wanted, no matter  
how much; to bribe or send witnesses away. While I have had to  
spend more than my salary, to learn what little I have learned.  
Should you see fit to appoint me Inspector, what I have learned will be  
very valuable. — So many of my letters have been lost in the  
mails & so many to me from my people, have been received.  
That I fear the enemy has had much valuable information. The mail  
robber has been captured lately — a stage driver between agencies.  
My friends now inform me that they having failed to cut up me, or to get up  
any thing against my Monaster: intend to try & have this office abolished.  
With great respect & an old servant J. W.



Oct 11th 1877.

Mr Carl Schurz  
Secy of the Interior.

Sir

I have the honor to request that you will cause an order to be made; authorizing me to receive for the second quarter of 1877, for expenses incurred in the service, such sum per day, as you allow clerks & others when travelling on official service; said amount per day to be instead of actual expense for travel, not including transportation.

Very Respectfully

Wm. H. Hammond

Ind. Affairs

Sakoto.



207  
Yukon D.T. Oct 11th 1899.

Mr W.K. Rogers

My dear Sir

Your kind letter of Sept 28th rec'd on my return from a tour of duty, I am quite as grateful as though the effort had been successful. The office was accepted because I felt confident there would be change in Commissioner.

At the instance of A.C. Beaton. Providence R.I. one of the Bar of Indian Commissioners & a particular friend of Mr. Heyt. I have applied for the position of Inspector. There are three Inspectors, & I am afraid that one must quit. In my application, I stated that I was personally known to you, but not having permission, did not refer. The investigations have constantly been carried on here, have been wide reaching, and are a good education for the place of Inspector.

I have intended to hold myself for the place of Governor of this Territory, in which I could be ex officio. Supdt did offer without additional salary. The term of the incumbent expires Jan 1 1898. He is a weak vulgar man, apt to though George Spencer of Alabama must show his colors before long though; beginning when Mr. Heyt was elected. He has obtained a lot of endorsements. However the invitation coming from Mr. Beaton, I thought best to apply for "Inspector" my salary here being inadequate & too high.

I think I can be of service as Inspector.

The Smithsonian requires 5 gallons of water for analysis, which I will send. The spring is acquiring local reputation. My little folks are not with me to receive your kind message. I will send it to them. They will never forget your attention nor will I. I live for my children & it comes hard to be



separated from my family - But, this position only exists by appropriation - until June 30th 1878 - which would not justify moving a family. & the salary would not pay our Board at our Country Hotel -

But this is a fine Country - There are good openings - & unless divided will soon be a state -

Hoping this will find you well & not overworked

I am

Very sincerely Your friend

J. H. Hammond



Separated from my family, in fact, the position only as-  
sured by my family, until December 1878. which  
would not have been a family. After the day would at  
pay on the part of my family. I had to go to the  
land to my family. There are some who do not

Oct 12th 1877

John H. Hammond junior  
No 59 Rush St  
Chicago  
Illinois

My own Darling boy John

Your nice letter dated October  
8th was received yesterday evening.

I am very proud of my boy and  
very glad to hear from you in a  
letter of your own writing.

Give my love to Maama, and  
Mary, and Buntz and Ogden &  
Dinky. & you know you have the same  
yourself from your loving Papa  
J H Hammond Jr.



Oct 12th 1877

Hon Wm B. Allison  
Washington. D.C.

Dr Sir

I enclose herewith a letter from Paul  
Dodge - He is an old friend -

When I came here, I was advised that certain parties  
wanted Bing. I am & would try to get something  
against me. Failing in that, I am told, & on good  
authority, that an underhand move may be made  
to prevent my confirmation - on suggesting it to Genl  
Dodge. He thought it worth writing to you about & will  
see you in Washington - I am not personally ac-  
quainted with either of the Ill. Senators -

If Col Potter is the man for a trade, I think I know  
where the best interest of the Govt will be served  
by making a change - Let me know -

Of course some time will be required to work it up  
Truly Yours

W. Hammond  
supd & hnd for



Yaukton S.T. Oct 12 1877

Hon Carl Schurz

Dear Sir

I enclose herewith an application for an order to be issued through the regular channels - During the last three months I have assiduously studied the situation, have travelled a great deal & paid the expenses of a considerable number of persons in bringing them to me, or sending them to military friends - and in other ways have incurred expenses which I cannot certify to as required, except under a per diem allowance, such as is given to any clerk or other person when sent on special duty. I am informed that the allowance of such clerks & others is \$5.00 per day not including transportation.

Moreover I am away from Yaukton so much that I have to pay transient instead of permanent prices for living. I have been reluctant to make this request, but the pay & legitimate allowance of an Indian Agent is more than mine. Though I am expected to supervise several of them, and as all my work has been for the benefit of the service, I have concluded that it is a reasonable request, & is not an unusual thing. I am informed

With great respect

Yours truly

A. Hammond



unofficial

Oct 25<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Lieut

Allow me to thank you very kindly  
for your courtesy & attention to  
my clerk while with you.

I will be glad if you will add any  
details in your possession as to how  
things have been conducted, & to  
whom the Cedar timber was shipped.

I think you had better report the  
occurrence to Col Wood, as your superior  
officer, sending him a copy of  
whatever you send me & saying  
to him, that I have requested you to do so.

You can add in a private note  
anything that you prefer, I leave  
out of your official communication.

Indeed I will be very glad to receive any information  
from or suggestions of you may have to offer - either as  
to persons or things  
Very truly Yours  
J H Wood



Yaukton D.T.

Oct 27th 1877.

Non C. A. Käuff

Com - Indaffairs

Sir

When your telegram was received as to Standing Rock & H. R. Thola I was anxious to write as to the use of the wire, but felt delicate about commencing personal correspondence on official business. Your telegram on the investigation of Agent Gasman this Brother in Law, Clarkson; leaves me no choice.

In 1874 & 1875 Gasman's Brother & nephew were Telegraph operators at Yaukton Agency & White Swan (opp. Fort Randall) during that time bids, business plans, & contracts, no matter how guarded, were known to Wilder of St Paul, Charles of Minneapolis, Clarkson Yaukton Agency & others.

It is unnecessary for the nephew, Brother & some other relatives to leave the agency. The present operator at White Swan & Yaukton Agency; are both clerks of Clarkson, his tools under his control. Controlled by the man I am to investigate.

The moment I received your Telegram, I went to the Operator here & had asked a question of the one at Yaukton Agency. To find out if he was in the office. He was of course had caught your dispatch & was to turn it to Clarkson. Gasman is absent, having gone to Dousha on the S.S. I then caused Yaukton Agency to be cut off with the ground



2. I have announced your dispatch - also pledged the operator  
 to cut off Yauktan Agency hereafter, whenever a dispatch of any  
 kind comes from you. (I trust him only as compelled I  
 but your dispatch must come through Sioux City.  
 I know that merchants here frequently send dispatches  
 to Missouri Valley Iowa & even Okla., by messenger at  
 an expense of \$14 to \$20, & Telegraph from there; rather than  
 risk the wires through Sioux City. Some of the ring do the same,  
 fearing each other. The operator here admits this. Other details  
 are better deferred until I see you: but this is enough to show that  
 the Telegraph should not be used in relation to investigations.  
 I distrust even the mails on that subject west of here.  
 I have been investigating Gasman for over three months not only on  
 the matters you mention in your Telegram; but on others even  
 more serious. I have visited his Agency three times for that purpose.  
 On an Agency. The only men who can tell anything whatever  
 are absolutely dependent on the Agent & subject to his will.  
 I found myself so shadowed that I prefer to work outside: and  
 have reached certain conclusions, which should be communicated  
 to you verbally & not by letter - That is for the present,  
 I have made what you wish to know & many other things a study  
 and am satisfied that before I enter on investigations, you should  
 order me to Washington for a conference. It is impossible in a letter  
 to convey to you any safe idea of the scope an investigation will take  
 when once commenced in earnest. The Commercial,



Social & political life of this Territory is controlled by  
 The Agents, contractors & Indian Traders. They are thoroughly  
 organized, have unlimited money & are well advised.  
 Whatever is done, must be part of a compact, well di-  
 gested plan; not letting one hand know what the other does,  
 until evidence is secured beyond the power of bribery &  
 intimidation, or worse; to change it.

It would be well to authorize me, to bring one man with me, at  
 no expense beyond that of travel

Respy Your obt Servt

J. H. Hammond

Spdt & Mr. Poffo

J. H. Hammond  
 Spdt & Mr. Poffo

There are - were with several persons present -  
 some of whom are - some of whom are -  
 some of whom are - some of whom are -



Yaukton S.T.

Oct 27th 1877.

Hon Carl Schurz  
Secy of the Interior

Dr Sir

I enclose letter to Mr Hoyt, the necessity for which is apparent.

While no more of importance should be made in this thing until I have seen him, I have not felt at liberty to open up, without your concurrence I have therefore only written to him direct, that I should see him & that it is not safe to use the Telegraph in reference to an investigation.

I have just learned that the ring has sent Raymond one Marshall, to Washington to work for J R Gamble, the successor, whom the ring has been training to succeed our late District attorney. & about whom I wrote you some time ago. I hope your duties will permit you to interfere with the appointment of any one from this Territory to the place of Dist Atty. Kidder Delegate is already there in the same interest & they have offered to pay my expenses to any extent, if I would go -

Thus you see, that while I am here to defeat & overcome a powerful combination; I am tied here



unofficial

Oct 27th 1877

Hon C. A. Hoyt  
Sir

It is unsafe to use the telegraph to this point, when relating to investigations, or matters involving the interest of an agent or trader.

Pardon me, if I suggest, that before I enter on any investigation, a conference should be had with you.

This letter & the telegram preceding it, will be mailed to Chicago sent from there.

Respy Yours truly  
Hon Commissioner Indian Affairs.

Washington D.C.

Request you will not use Telegraph as to investigations until you receive my letter. Suggest that I see you before commencing

Govt charges  
Collection

Agmon  
Supdt



washington. Aside from the Government, I have no other  
as a condition I have no other. No thing or position in the  
could suit me as well as the inspector in Washington.  
I have believed in this for some time; I am so well as I  
think do it in the Agency, that I don't think they can do it  
The Govt much in my position. You suggest in a  
and I am well obliged to you for it.

Oct 29th 1877

W. H. Burge,  
My dear Sir

Your letter of the 10th was here on my

return from a term of duty.

I am really very glad you are happily married & send you from the  
'Son of your letter that you have started out well & like your new  
wife. I congratulate & offer my best wishes to you & your wife  
I note what you say of the Inspectorship & that the instance of  
of Mr. Bonston have applied to be Inspector should a vacancy  
take place. I referred to Mr. Bonston, & sent the application  
to Mr. Mayt through Mr. Schurz. My impression is, Mr. Mayt  
don't think Inspectors much use. & the way they have been  
operated. He is right. I would rather have the Govt. not place  
me than anything I know of, if I could have you here for Sec  
retary of the Govt, to keep the ring from muddling accounts.

He is shaking here in printing & such, is terrified, and I think  
will be proved, so that a vacancy in Secretary is the proper thing  
to look for before a great while: and as The Governor has been  
caught in the Territorial warrant business, & depends for sup  
port on the Church & George Spencer of Alabama, he can  
hardly hope to succeed himself.

Mr. Mayt has ordered me to investigate Gaulton & two other  
agencies. I have written him, requesting him to avoid  
the use of telegraph when a Trader or Agent is involved.  
I have been investigating what he wants to know about &  
if it is not safe to go any further until I have per  
sonally conferred with him. I have written Mr. Schurz the  
11th, & expect to be ordered very suddenly to Albany.