

been to get the unsophisticated red man to sign a paper purporting to be a lease of his land, whereas in reality the Indian is signing a deed and making a free gift of the land to the sharper for the paltry sum of \$10. Afterward the sharper would get the Indian to sign what he called receipts for some little money he gave him, but these receipts turned out to be promissory notes for \$40 each, and the man who negotiated the deal actually had the nerve to forward these notes to the Commissioner of Indian affairs for payment. Then, to top off this gigantic fraud, interest was charged at the rate of 10 per cent a year.

Another common scheme practiced is that of charging the Indians for everything purchased by them. A man would sell an itemized account for a consideration to another in the same business as himself. This itemized account against the Indian is supposed to be forwarded to the Indian office at Washington. Instead of the first man who sold the account to the second man crossing off the debt against the Indian, he would also send to the Indian office the account he had already sold, and in this way Poor Lo would be charged twice for the things he received and for many times things not received. Officials at the Indian office have found many duplicate accounts of this character against the Indians. In addition to submitting double charges, there would be a charge of 10 per cent interest added to the total. As an illustration of how the schemers sometimes overreached themselves, one of them recently submitted an account charging an Indian with having purchased 14 large jars of mustard within one month.

Not long ago a petition was received by the Indian office, signed by 35 Indians. The petition requested that the moneys due these 35 Indians be sent direct to them. Attached to the petition was a letter saying that the writer had been asked to forward the petition, and he requested that the money be sent to him. The letterhead bore the name of a dealer in general merchandise. There was no signature to the paper, but down at the bottom was the address of the postmaster. The superintendent was asked to see the postmaster and find out whether the letter was written by the merchant or by the postmaster. It turned out that the postmaster and the merchant were one and the same.

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### THE SANITARY DAIRYMAN

Very early in the morning,  
Tuttle sought the spotted cow.  
And with glove his hands adorning  
Took the night cap from her brow.