

Letter Bk. II. also be taken to oblige the Venders by their Contracts to make the Delivery at Wills Creek & no where else unless any Persons may be disposed to engage for the Delivery of what they supply (whether it be cured or Live Stock fit to kill) to the Deputy Commissary at any place the Troops may march to after their Departure from Wills Creek & you will perhaps
 P. 34 think it proper to encourage them to enter into such Engagements & Stall-feed their Cattle during the winter by advancing them a proportionate Price for whatever they will agree to furnish in that manner. I have inclosed you a Calculation of the Expence of supplying 3000 Men with Provisions for 8 months, which Quantity I apprehend it will be necessary to lay into the Magazine at Wills Creek immediately by reason I conceive it will be very difficult if not impossible to procure Beeves or Hogs fit for the Slaughter after this Month & next till July or the August following.

My Estimate is made in Maryland Currency which is at this time with Sterling at about 65 p C^t Discount. The Expence of the hired waggons I could not know, neither have I taken any notice of the number that will be wanted for carrying Ammunition & Baggage. You will be pleased to give Directions (if you have not already ordered a sufficient number to be made or purchased) that Barrells enough to receive the meat be immediately laid in, the most eligible way I think would have been to send proper workmen & Coopers to have Cut & prepared Staves & made them up near the Camp but as I am dubious it will be now too late to proceed in that manner (for unless the Timber be washed or cleaned from Sap before it is made up there will be a great probability of its damaging or quite spoiling the meat with which they shall be filled) I hope you will give strict Orders to have them procured or prepared in the best manner that the time will permit, & in the mean time I think the Commissary might proceed to salt up
 P. 35 some Provision in large Troughs or Vatts that might be made for that purpose I was told on my journey that at the late Secretary Carter's Estate there are a large number of Hogs to be disposed of, if you should think fit to order them to be purchased you will take Care to have it agreed that they be not driven to the Camp till a quantity of Salt be carried up & Receptacles for the meat first made & here I must observe to you that there had not been any Salt in Camp for a considerable time before my Arrival there when I got some brought up on Horses Backs. The Cattle that had been driven to the Fort, for want thereof could not be killed but were permitted to range the woods & to hinder their Stragling quite off it was found necessary to hire Herdsmen constantly to range & ride thro the woods to prevent their passing the