

Sandy Hill, Washington Co, NY  
Feb 3/61

Hon Jon Covade,

My Dear Sir,

As your committee is searching after frauds by government contractors etc., I feel it my duty as a citizen to render what aid I can in so important a matter.

At this place, and but a few rods [?] from my residence the firms of Lee & Allen have a Woolen Factory or speaking more correctly a shoddy factory. It has been working for the last six months on Government or Army blankets. They turn out about one hundred per day all carefully marked U.S. These blankets contain fifteen percent wool; the balance entirely made from shoddy. After they are manufactured they are consigned to R. M. Van Seekler [?] & Co. commission merchants at Albany who have a Government contract for supplying Army blankets made last summer with Major Vinton the Government contracting officer of New York. The Government contract calls for all wool. These contain just 15 per. cent the balance entirely of shoddy. There is another similar establishment to the one at this place at Balston Spa [illegible] by W. W. Bregg [?], etc. They also supply Van Seekler with the same kind of blankets to help fill his contract. Of course Major Vinton can no personally inspect these blankets – But some government office must & how they pass the test (If one is made) I leave you to judge. I believe that I can [illegible] one of them back into shoddy in [illegible] with my own [illegible].

If these facts shall be of any value I shall feel paid for my trouble and am ready to [illegible] what I say.

Being an entire stranger to you as to whom I am, I respectfully refer you to the Hon. W. H. Seward, Sect'y of State who knows me personally.

Very kindly yours,

Isaac N. Comstock