

L. L. 4th 213.

Spotted Tail Agency Nev.
May 1st 1877.

To

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington D. C.

Sir

I have the honor to report the condition of Affairs at this Agency during the past month as follows:
The Beef now delivered by Messrs. Powers & Mabrey is in good condition for the season of the year & mostly of cattle that have wintered in this section of the country, some of them even are half breed American cattle. In the other part of the ration I am mostly getting very short, as shown by my weekly reports, owing to the large accessions both from New Clinton Agency & the north. I trust that steps have been taken to force the freight contractor (W. Cannon) to forward all the Corn requisitioned and delivered to him and that flour will be supplied as speedily as possible. By safeing in issuing, with what is still on my last weekly report as on hand and the Hard Bread procured from the Agent at New Clinton I can manage to make the issue for the present week, but unless quickly supplied I shall have neither flour, Hard Bread nor Corn on hand for issue during the coming week. I have telegraphed to you fully

on the 25th ulto. and again respectfully urge that I be kept in supplies for the reasons given in my dispatch referred to above.

Since my report of the 19th of April reporting an arrival of Indians at this Agency of 917 persons, there have been transferred from Red Cloud Agency the largest part of the Wabag agency and that still remained at that Agency viz 219 persons, besides these the following named Indians with their families have returned from the north, and after being disarmed & their ponies turned over to the Indian soldiers have been taken up for rations viz:--

Charging Shield	25 persons.	Pine Hawk	4 persons
Medicine Blanket boy	4 "	Slow Bull	10 "
Achess	4 "	Bear goes in Woods	8 "
Spotted Elk	8 "	One that strikes	4 "
Total 67 persons			

which makes a grand total of 7133 Indians, Half-Breeds & Whites with Indian families now retained at this Agency.

All the Indians coming from the hostile Camp, state that "Crazy Horse" with the Ogagallas & some Minneconjurs are running south and that he is intending to go in to some Agency, as yet no positive information could be obtained to which Agency he is likely to move, I will report by telegraph as soon as I can get reliable information on this point, in case they should come to this Agency.

In compliance with your instructions contained in your letter of the 23^d of March I have notified the Indians in council assembled that the treaty stipulations entered into with them last fall have been ratified by Congress and approved by the president, with certain exceptions & that the Government intends to fulfill its part of the treaty and that it is expected that the Indians on their part will do the same. Since then there has been a great desire on the part of the Indians to farm and I am daily beset with applications for farming utensils and requests for giving aid in the execution of the work. It is my opinion and this is shared by all persons who have the opportunity to make personal observations, that this desire should be in no way interfered with or discouraged that on the contrary all encouragement & help should be given them in the execution of this laudable desire and that sooner than to restrain them in farming in any way, any more that may have been contemplated should be deferred at least until next year.

The treaty stipulates that all children of a certain age should be sent to school, but owing to the limited means at present at command this cannot be carried out to any extent. The present school accommodations are not sufficient for the children of the whitesmen & half breeds, besides some of the Indians, of which Spotted Tail is one. It is very much that the children should be

instructed in their mother tongue. It is however a question to my mind whether or not success of any consequences can be attained as far as schools are concerned; until the Indians have been permanently located for some years and it will be only a very limited number of children that will for the first number of years derive any material benefit of them. The greatest obstacle to be overcome will be the home influence, their habits & the home training will make them forget in two hours after they left school, all they have learned during the day. It is my opinion that the system of boarding schools in operation at other Agencies should be inaugurated and that at first only a limited number of children should be admitted to them, the scholars should slowly but steadily increase every year until a general system of schools has been obtained in the course of time, any too stringent enforcement of this article at first will in my opinion result in a failure of the whole.

On the 14th of April I issued the remaining portion of the annuity goods to Spotted Tail, who had arrived a few days previously from the north. It consisted mostly of Blankets and White men's Clothes. I tried to induce some of them to wear these clothes, but with the exception of two, one of which has been wearing the white men's dress for years & the other does wear them occasionally, I have heard of but two who will put on and wear them for one entire day, and

Although I have warned everybody against buying & trading anything in the shape of ammunitions from the Indians, I cannot but say that all the clothing will ultimately get into the hands of people, who have no right whatsoever to get them.

In all the councils & talks I had with the Indians who recently came from the north, they evince a desire to remain peaceably and it is the opinion of all persons who come into contact with them, that at least for the present their profession is honestly meant. With the exception of ponies and guns they were desirous of everything, they are crowded two & three families together in one small tebe, which are all the worse for the wear & full of holes. I have at present no means to relieve or help them in any way to better their conditions in this respect and would respectfully suggest that appreciable, enough canvas to make about 50 or 60 lodges, should be purchased & sent to relieve the most needy wants, as the crowded condition of those lodges at present will make it very unhealthy for them during the warm weather. Their lack of ammunition and the poor success of hunting buffalo when north caused a good deal of starvation among them, which was shared for some time by Spotted Tail's party and several days before the patients sent to them arrived they had been out of eatables entirely.

Some additional Indians have been enlisted as soldiers by the military authorities and among them, the Chiefs Spotted Tail, Two Shirts and Swift Bear with some other Headmen, also 20 of the Indians recently returned from the north were induced to enter the service. This latter is considered by the officers of Gen. Crooks staff & myself a great success and an additional proof that their demonstrations & promises are made on their behalf in good faith, at any way it commits them in the eyes of the more hostile Indians and compels them to remain at the Agency. No confidence on the part of the more hostile Indians can be reposed in them any more. Some of these Indians have great influence in the council of the hostiles & would, in case of any more hostile movements on the part of the other Indians be compelled in their present situation to side with the government.

The discipline of this Indian soldiery is at present very crude, but most of them comply promptly with all orders given to them and it is believed that if this should be kept up, quite an efficient police force can be organized which will be a great help to the Agent in the execution of the wishes of the government.

Relative to the proposed removal of the Agency as soon as practicable after June 1st, it is the opinion of all who are in

a position to form an opinion, that the consequences will be, if the move should be carried out, that the greater part of the results of last summers & winters campaigns will be lost, that it would not only stop the coming in of "Crazy Horse" with his band, but that all those Indians that have come in from the north recently will return there & with them a greater proportion of the young & more restless of the Kule's & other bands. The large accession of the wild & restless spirits make any movement in that direction very dangerous to peace, it would only invite all to follow their natural inclination to spend the summer in a line more to their taste by habit & education and would effectually stop all further hopes for peace during the coming summer. - The Indians here (Kule's) are very much averse to going to the Missouri river & especially to the site recently abandoned by the Ponca Indians, at which summer among them says their Agency will be located. In all councils the stereotyped request is, to ask the Great Father to let them remain in this section of the country & not to remove them to the Missouri, they claim that they had been located on that river & that it was found necessary to have the Agency removed to some other point. They are willing to leave this Agency & move to some point more North, but will not readily consent to go to the Missouri river, especially as they were told by the Commissioner

last fall that the Missouri river could not be their permanent home, but they must be ready to go to some other place in a few years more. In view of the unsettled condition of affairs among the Indians & to strengthen them in the belief of the Government settling only their well fare in all its doings, which belief is just commencing to be entertained in the minds of the Indians, I would respectfully but earnestly recommend that the operations pending towards the removal of the Indians for the present year, be abandoned & that before any more steps be taken for their removal, a selection of land be made, in which it can be agreed to them, that they should not be disturbed in the future, and that in the mean time all efforts be made to keep the Agencies so supplied with rations that no interruptions be caused in the issuing of them, and so awaken anew the saying that treaties are only made to be broken.

In turning over the horses etc. belonging to the Indians coming from the North to the Indian soldiers, it was found that among them were horses & Mules belonging to the following named White Men viz:—

John B. Lambie 2 horses, W. G. Shaw 1 Mule.
Peter Percy 2 Mules.

which, were after satisfactory proof had been furnished me of

Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt. Servant
J. W. Lee
1st Lewis 9th Inf 'ry
Camp. Ind. Agr.