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7-13-1892

### Fort Randall Military Reservation

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#### Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 912, 52nd Cong., 1st Sess. (1892)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 13, 1892.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PETTIGREW, from the Committee on Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 3206.]

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3206) to dispose of that portion of the Fort Randall military reservation which lies in the State of South Dakota, report the same to the Senate without amendment, with the recommendation that the bill do pass and that the accompanying papers be printed as part of this report:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, June 14, 1892.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by your reference for views, of a copy of S. 3206, "to dispose of that portion of the Fort Randall military reservation which lies in the State of South Dakota."

In response to your request I inclose herewith a copy of the report on the bill by the acting Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated the 11th instant. It will be observed that the acting Commissioner reports that the lands involved have not been relinquished by the War Department and that he therefore suggests the reference of the matter to that Department for consideration. I concur in the suggestion.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

Hon. J. N. DOLPH,  
*Chairman Committee on Public Lands, Senate.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
*Washington, D. C., June 11, 1892.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Senate bill No. 3206 (Fifty-second Congress, first session), providing for the disposal of that portion of the Fort Randall military reservation which lies in the State of South Dakota, as follows: "That all that portion of the Fort Randall military reservation which lies within the State of South Dakota may be selected at any time within one year after the approval of the survey of said reservation by the Secretary of the Interior by the State of South Dakota as a part of the lands granted to the State under the provisions of an act to provide for the admission of South Dakota into the Union, approved February twenty-second, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine; and when said lands are selected as herein provided the Secretary of the Interior shall cause patents to be issued to the State of South Dakota," referred by the Department to this office for report in duplicate and return of papers.

In reply I have the honor to report as follows:

The Fort Randall military reservation was established on both banks of the Missouri River, in the Territory of Dakota, by Executive order dated June 14, 1860.

It was reduced September 9, 1867, and restored to its original limits October 25, 1870.

Under act of Congress approved May 18, 1874, certain portions of the reserve situated north and east of the Missouri River in Dakota were relinquished by the Secretary of War for disposal to settlers who had acquired claims thereto, and the lines of the public land surveys were extended over said portions in 1875 in order to carry out the provisions of said act.

By Executive order dated July 22, 1884, all that portion of the reserve situated north and east of the Missouri River not already confirmed to settlers under the provisions of the act of May 18, 1874, was placed under the control of the Department of the Interior for disposal under the provisions of the act of July 5, 1884.

By act of Congress approved October 1, 1890 (26 Stats., 646), all that portion or the reserve lying north and east of the Missouri River, in the State of South Dakota, was opened to settlement under the homestead laws of the United States.

It will be observed that the legislation detailed above applied to that portion of the reserve situated on the north and east bank of the Missouri River, in the State of South Dakota, and the lands embraced therein are nearly all disposed of, and therefore beyond the effect of the legislation proposed by the bill under consideration.

The present Fort Randall military reservation, which is that portion of the original reservation situated on the south and west bank of the Missouri River, "in the Territory of Dakota," now lies along said bank in the States of Nebraska and South Dakota, the dividing line being the forty-third parallel of north latitude, established as the boundary line between said States, west of the Missouri River, by act of Congress approved March 28, 1882 (22 Stats., 35). As said reserve, or any portion thereof (the portion lying in the State of South Dakota), has not as yet been relinquished by the War Department, I have the honor to suggest that this matter be referred to the said Department for consideration.

Senate bill No. 3206 (Fifty-second Congress, first session) is herewith returned as requested.

Very respectfully,

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

W. M. STONE,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, July 9, 1892.*

SIR: In connection with Department letter of 6th instant relative to S. 3206 "to dispose of that portion of the Fort Randall military reservation which lies in South Dakota," I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 8th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in which he withdraws, on account of reduced appropriations for Indian schools, his request that Fort Randall be transferred to this Department for Indian-school purposes.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

GEO. CHANDLER,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,  
*United States Senate.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, July 8, 1892.*

SIR: The bill making appropriations for the Indian Department for the year ending June 30, 1893, which has just passed both Houses of Congress and now awaits the signature of the President appropriates for the general purposes of Indian education \$1,075,000, which is much less than the sum estimated for by this office. This will necessitate economy in school expenditures and will prevent the enlargement of the school system as has been contemplated.

In view of this fact I respectfully withdraw my request to have Fort Randall set apart for Indian school purposes. This request was made on May 2, 1892.

I beg leave to ask that this be considered, also, as supplemental to the report submitted by this office on that subject on July 5, 1892.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN,  
*Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, June 25, 1892.

SIR: I return herewith Senate bill 3206, Fifty-second Congress, first session, "to dispose of that portion of the Fort Randall military reservation which lies in the State of South Dakota," which was referred to this Department on the 20th instant, and have the honor to state that upon reference of the bill to the Major-General Commanding the Army, he reports thereon as follows:

"There is no military reason known to me why this portion of the reservation, it being no longer needed for military purposes, may not be disposed of as proposed by the bill herein referred to. But as Fort Randall is contemplated by the Interior Department for Indian school purposes, that Department may need, in whole or in part, the portion of the reservation in South Dakota."

In this connection I inclose a copy of a report of the Major-General Commanding the Army, dated May 13, 1892, on Senate bill No. 2031 of the present Congress, entitled "A bill to provide for the survey and transfer of that part of the Fort Randall military reservation in the State of Nebraska to said State for school purposes," which report was transmitted to Hon. A. S. Paddock, United States Senate, by indorsement dated May 13, 1892, in which indorsement the Department expressed concurrence in the views contained in the report, and stated that it knew of no objection to the passage of the bill.

Very respectfully,

S. B. ELKINS,  
Secretary of War.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,  
United States Senate.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, D. C., May 13, 1892.

SIR: Referring to Senate bill 2031, entitled "A bill to provide for the survey and transfer of that part of the Fort Randall military reservation in the State of Nebraska to said State for school purposes," and the indorsement relative thereto of the Hon. A. S. Paddock, United States Senate, I have the honor to report as follows:

In accordance with a plan long contemplated, it has recently been decided to relinquish the Fort Randall military reservation as being no longer necessary for military purposes, and the order of the Secretary of War has already been given for the transfer of the custody of that property to the Interior Department, for such use or disposition as may be desirable and authorized by law. It is understood that the buildings of the post of Fort Randall are to be used for Indian school purposes, but it is believed that no part of these buildings are on that portion of the reservation which lies in the State of Nebraska.

There is no military reason known to me why this portion of the reservation, it being no longer needed for military purposes, may not be disposed of as proposed in the bill herein referred to.

Very respectfully,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
Major-General Commanding.

Hon. L. A. GRANT,  
Acting Secretary of War.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, July 6, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by your reference of S. 3206, "to dispose of that portion of the Fort Randall military reservation which lies in the State of South Dakota."

In response thereto I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 5th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom the matter was referred.

The Commissioner states that it is the desire of his office to convert the post of Fort Randall into an Indian industrial school, but if other disposition is to be made of it he has no objection to the passage of the bill; that the order of the transfer was made on May 15, 1892, but on May 18 last he was advised that the order for abandonment of the post had been temporarily withheld pending action upon the question of setting aside that portion of the reservation within the State of Nebraska for a public park or other civil uses.

The letter of the honorable Secretary of War is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

GEO. CHANDLER,  
Acting Secretary.

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS,  
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, July 5, 1892.*

SIR: By your reference of the 1st instant, for early report, I am in receipt of Senate bill 3206, entitled "A bill to dispose of the Fort Randall military reservation, which lies in the State of South Dakota." This bill bears the indorsement of Hon. J. N. Dolph, chairman Senate Committee on Public Lands, making inquiry if any portion of the reservation is needed for an Indian school.

In reply I have the honor to state that in view of the proposed abandonment of Fort Randall by the War Department, and desiring to avail itself of the law providing for the disposition of such abandoned military posts to the Interior Department for Indian school purposes, this office, on May 2, 1892, recommended to the Department that the honorable Secretary of War be asked to issue the necessary order therefor.

It was urged in said letter as a reason why the fort should be turned over to this Department for the uses of an Indian school that—

"A school such as the Rosebud Sioux ought to have, with buildings to accommodate 200 pupils, and with a suitable industrial plant, would involve an outlay of not less than \$50,000, and probably, at a point so remote from railroads as are the Rosebud Sioux, it would take more than \$75,000.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 "The post has large and ample buildings, good farming land, an unusually plentiful water supply, and could easily be made available for an Indian school. It is not far from the Rosebud Sioux, and the agent has stated that while they would prefer a school on the reservation, they would be much gratified to have one at Fort Randall."

The order for the transfer was made by the War Department on May 16, 1892, but under the date of May 18, 1892, this office was advised that said order for the abandonment of the post had been temporarily withheld, pending action upon the question of setting aside that portion of the reservation within the State of Nebraska for public park or other civil uses.

As has already been stated, it is the desire of this office to convert the post of Fort Randall into an Indian industrial school, but if other disposition is to be made of it, so far as this office is concerned it has no objection to the passage of the measure proposed.

The bill is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. V. BELT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.