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Treaty with Yankton Tribe of Sioux Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying petition from Indians, praying for the ratification of the treaty made with the Yankton Tribe of the Sioux Indians.

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TREATY WITH YANKTON TRIBE OF SIOUX INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying petition from Indians, praying for the ratification of the treaty made with the Yankton tribe of the Sioux Indians.

JANUARY 22, 1894.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 18, 1894.

SIR: In connection with Department letter of 16th instant, transmitting an agreement with the Yankton Indians for the cession of their surplus lands, I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 17th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying petition from the Indians of that reservation, praying for the ratification of the agreement, and making certain statements as to their need for assistance.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

HOKE SMITH,
Secretary,

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 17, 1894.

SIR: Referring to office report of December 9, 1893, transmitting the agreement concluded with the Yankton Indians for submission to Congress with draft of bill to ratify the same, I have the honor to transmit herewith duplicate copies of a petition from the Indians of that reservation praying for the ratification of the agreement and making certain statements as to their need for assistance. The petition was transmitted to this office by Agent Smith, under date of January 5, 1894, in which he says that the statement of the Indians as to their condition is in the main correct; that their crops have been unproduc-

tive for the last two years, and unless assistance is furnished them they will suffer for the necessaries of life before another crop can be gathered.

I have the honor to recommend that a copy of said petition be transmitted to each House of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. M. BROWNING,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

YANKTON AGENCY,
Greenwood, S. Dak., December 30, 1893.

The honorable Secretary of the Interior and the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: We, the undersigned chiefs and headmen and members of the Yankton tribe of Sioux Indians, who have signed the treaty of December 31, 1892, for the relinquishment of the surplus land of the Yankton Reservation, do hereby make our desires known to you for your consideration and action.

We, the majority of the male adult members of the Yankton Sioux Indians, have signed the treaty of 1892, and this has been done in open daylight, before the eyes of every one who is connected with this reservation, both whites and Indians.

The commissioners who were sent here by the honorable Secretary of the Interior last year to negotiate with us for our surplus lands have done their duty, and everything was done by them above-board, and we, the signers of the treaty, have had a fair understanding of the provisions of the same, and especially of the compensation for the surplus land; and on account of the fair price paid for the land, and the worthy provisions of the treaty, we, the undersigned, and others whose names do not appear on this petition on account of their absence from the council, do make this special petition to you to transmit the treaty of 1892 to both Houses of Congress at as early a day as possible for their ratification for the following reasons:

We, the Yankton Indians, are getting poorer every year; that is, our regular annuity treaty fund has diminished till it is only \$15,000 a year, and a part of this is spent for other purposes than annuities. Therefore, our annuities are comparatively small. Also, the subsistence appropriation is going down all the time. Then, we have been trying to make farmers of ourselves, but for the last few years our seasons seem to be growing dryer every summer. So our crops have been very small, and what little we have raised brings a very small price. Therefore, we have nothing we can depend on for support the year round.

We believe that the commissioners who were sent here last winter offered a fair price for the surplus land.

We also ask that when the treaty of 1892 is ratified it be stipulated that the interest money for 1893, which is \$25,000, be paid to each, per capita, at the same time that the first cash payment, which is \$100,000, is paid to us.

We also request that the allotments made under the "equal allotment" be approved and the patents be issued immediately.

We know that there has been some opposition made to this treaty by some of the Yankton Indians; but this opposition is based on no good grounds whatever, as was proven by Special Agent Cooper in March, 1893, and also by Inspector Cadman in November, 1893; and could be substantiated by referring to the friends of the Indians, such as Herbert Welsh, C. C. Painter, of the Indians' Rights Association, and Gen. Whittlesey, of the Board of Indian Commissioners, and the missionaries who have lived among us for years.

We believe that on account of poverty and destitution our tribe is decreasing in numbers, although we have done all we could to advance in civilization.

The opposition, who are actively working to defeat the treaty of 1892, is composed of persons actuated by personal Indian prejudice, which will probably be shown by Inspector Cadman's report.

Our crop of 1893 is very poor, and will not support our families until next year's harvest; and, therefore, we earnestly request that you will consider the condition and nature of our wants and the dark prospect for getting through the year, and examine the treaty of 1892 speedily, and transmit it to Congress with as much haste as possible, that it may be considered in connection with a bill for attaining the same end which we learn has been introduced by Senator Pettigrew.

Furthermore, we respectfully petition you, if it meets your approval, that a delegation of the signers of the treaty of 1892 be authorized by the Indian Department

to visit Washington during the present session of Congress to confer with the committees to whom the treaty of 1892 is referred, in order that they may have a better understanding of the condition and necessities of the Yankton tribe of Indians, and be able to legislate more intelligently for their best interests.

Running Bull, chief, his x mark.
 Jumping Thunder, chief, his x mark.
 Frank Jandreu, chief, his x mark.
 C. F. Picotte.
 Wm. T. Selwyn.
 Robert I. Clarkson.
 David Ray.
 Mathew Arnold.
 Moses Thunder Hawk.
 John Istumaza.
 Felix Cetar, his x mark.
 Wanbdiheton Eagle Horn, his x mark.
 Tatankawatakpe, his x mark.
 John W. Howard, his x mark.
 Adam Hiro, his x mark.
 Simon Nigeson, his x mark.
 Paul cetan kiya, his x mark.
 Wan Otayofi, his x mark.
 Isaac Omaha, his x mark.
 Zitka Naduta, his x mark.
 Thomas Cankee wan youka, his x mark.
 Wakiny an tasunki, his x mark.
 Hok si na ciqa, his x mark.
 Isaac Wicapajipa, his x mark.
 Mathew Leeds, his x mark.
 Omaha Apapi, his x mark.
 Anddsin Magaska, his x mark.
 Philip Doctor, his x mark.
 Waubdi Lyanki, his x mark.
 Suuka Wakmon, his x mark.
 Hin hau waste, his x mark.
 La surki Inyauke, his x mark.

Wau api mani, his x mark.
 Louie Mellette, his x mark.
 Medicine Horn, his x mark.
 Edward Bates, his x mark.
 Moses Hicaru, his x mark.
 Stephen Moto ko ki pa pi, his x mark.
 Samuel Waujin na ont, his x mark.
 P. O. Conni, his x mark.
 Edgar Shoreman, his x mark.
 Peter Hepona, his x mark.
 William Bean, jr.
 Matoolianko, his x mark.
 William H. Hare.
 John Omaha.
 William Black Horse, his x mark.
 Tallow Hat, his x mark.
 Gray Hawk, his x mark.
 Peter Necklace, his x mark.
 Stephen Jones, his x mark.
 John Feather.
 Hakena, his x mark.
 Iron Hawk, his x mark.
 Cloud Shield, his x mark.
 Huciqa, his x mark.
 C. P. Rouse.
 Amos Sitoka, his x mark.
 Bright Eyes, his x mark.
 Not Afraid of Pawnees, his x mark.
 Little Elk, his x mark.
 George Cekpa, his x mark.
 Long Dog, his x mark.