

6-8-1858

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting estimates of appropriation for the preservation of peace in the northern superintendency.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>

Part of the [Indian and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 135, 35th Congress, 1st Sess. (1858)

This House Executive Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact darinfox@ou.edu.

ESTIMATES—PRESERVATION OF PEACE IN THE NORTH-
ERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

SUBMITTING

*Estimates of appropriation for the preservation of peace in the northern
superintendency.*

JUNE 8, 1858.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, June 7, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report, with accompanying documents, addressed to this department on the 4th instant by the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in which it is suggested that the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be appropriated to enable the department to take measures to preserve peace in the northern superintendency, now threatened with invasion by large bodies of hostile Yanctonnais Sioux.

It is within the knowledge of the department that great dissatisfaction has existed for some years among the turbulent bands of Sioux or Dacotah Indians, whose range is along the Missouri river, and this, it is stated, is now about to manifest itself in the inauguration of hostilities on a scale of alarming magnitude. The regular troops having been withdrawn, the frontier settlements are left entirely unprotected, and great alarm exists among the settlers who have appealed to the government for protection.

I feel constrained, therefore, to invite the attention of Congress to the necessity of providing the department with means of acting promptly in this emergency, and trust that suitable action will be taken before its adjournment.

The Indian Office estimates that one hundred thousand dollars will be required, and it would be perhaps judicious to appropriate that sum, it being understood that only so much thereof shall be used as may be absolutely necessary to accomplish the object proposed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. THOMPSON.

Secretary.

Hon. JAMES L. ORR,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, June 4, 1858.

SIR: Having received information, from various sources, of movements of some bands of the Sioux Indians, west of the State of Minnesota, endangering the peace in that part of our country, I hasten to place before you the facts as they have successively come to my knowledge. Joseph R. Brown; esq., Sioux agent, now in this city, addressed to me a letter, dated May 23, enclosing a newspaper slip, taken from the Henderson Democrat of May 12, containing a letter addressed to the editor, dated Hazlewood, Minnesota, April 21, 1858, and written by the Rev. S. Riggs.

Mr. Riggs states that reports had reached him that the Ihantonwons (Yantonnois) and the Titonwan Decotahs had taken up their line of march for the Yellow Medicine, and were now somewhere in the valley of James river, 1,000 to 1,200 lodges, which, if true, would be 8,000 or 10,000 persons; and that Inkpadoota was said to be among them. He is not of the opinion that they desire to commence hostilities; but has little doubt that they purpose visiting his part of the country in a large body this season, because those who were there last season had then declared their intentions to come again this year; that they lay the claim to the lands north and west of us already ceded by the Walpatonwans and Sisetonwans; that Superintendent Cullen informed them last year that he had the authority to settle this matter, but would lay the case before the President, and inform them of the result the coming season; that this promise would bring over a great multitude of wild Indians, and that such an event should, by all means, be prevented, and suggests that they should be met at Lake Traverse or the Two Woods, inasmuch as, if they are permitted to come to the Yellow Medicine, it was not difficult to foresee that the last summer's scenes would be re-enacted.

The editor of the *Henderson Democrat*, commenting upon Mr. Riggs' letter, says, that if something was not done at once we would certainly have trouble—for, of all the wild western Indians, they were, perhaps, the wildest and most reckless, and could only be brought to an appreciation of the power of the United States, and the necessity of being at peace with the whites, by such influences as an agent could bring to bear upon them.

Agent Joseph R. Brown has verbally informed me, that inasmuch as the Rev. Mr. Riggs had resided among the Sioux as a missionary for the past eighteen years; was well conversant with the condition of the several bands composing the Sioux nation; had seen the evil resulting from the annual visits of the Yanktonnois to the settlements of the annuity Sioux, and knew the necessity of preventing, if possible, a recurrence of the acts of depredation which have been attendant upon those visits, his testimony was of the utmost importance, and deserved the serious consideration of this office.

In his letter of the 23d last August, *Brown* says, that since the treaty of 1851 the Yanktonnois had annually visited the pay ground, claiming from the Siseton and Warpeton Sioux a portion in their annuities under the plea that the western portion of the land, ceded

by the treaty of 1851, from the *Pipe-stone quarry* to Kampska lake, belonged to the Yanktonais. Not only had they claimed to participate in the annuities, but claim, also, that as they had not been consulted by the government in regard to the relinquishment of the Indian title to those lands, they still belonged to them, and were not subject to settlement by the whites. Hence they had last year burned the buildings, and had driven off the settlers at the "Hole in the Mountain;" that the land was now fast settling, and that he feared the result of the proposed visit of these Indians, both on account of the annuity Sioux and the white settlers near the western line of Minnesota and along the valley of the Big Sioux river; that those Indians had no treaties with government; were jealous of the annuity Sioux, who, they believed, were receiving compensation for lands that belonged to the Yanktonais, and feel that they had been slighted by government, and their lands opened for settlement by the whites without their being consulted upon the subject. He expresses the opinion that an agency should be established among these Indians, from which he expects the happiest results. He thinks that they might be managed with but little difficulty *previous* to the commission of any act of open hostility on their side, but that *after* such an event it would be extremely difficult to restrain them.

Agent *Brown* also filed a letter from the head chief of the Medewakantons, now in Washington on business, who, having heard of the proposed visit of the Yanktonais to the Yellow Medicine, ask for leave to return home, because they are anxious for the safety of their wives and children. The Sisitoans expressed the same anxiety to me on this subject during a late conference with them.

The Hon. Henry M. Rice, of Minnesota, filed, on the 1st instant, a letter in this office, addressed to him by Mr. Forbes, dated St. Paul, May 25, who states that a large body of Yanktonais and Cut-heads would be in Yellow Medicine in July—the same who were the cause of trouble last summer—claiming part of the land ceded by the Sisitoans, for the latter only ceded *their rights and title* to certain lands within certain boundaries, and that the balance had not been paid for; that they now came to meet the United States commissioners, as per promise, and should be met promptly with some arrangement before they reached Yellow Medicine; if not, there would be trouble.

Senator Rice endorsed Mr. Forbes' letter in the following words: "Mr. Forbes is well posted in regard to Indian matters, and I seriously recommend his suggestions."

On June 1st a letter was referred by you to this office, from A. G. Fuller, esq., enclosing two letters which were addressed to him. The *first* is from J. L. Fisk, dated Medary, Dakotah Territory, May 15, 1858, who says, that news of a serious nature had reached that point, and that it seemed that we were to have a repetition of the Indian difficulties, which created so much confusion and fearful excitement on the border of Minnesota and in Dakotah last summer; that Mr. Quinn, an intelligent half-breed, had been on a buffalo hunt, accompanied by a young man named James Gorman; that on the third day they met a small party of our lower Indians, who had been through the Yanktonais country to the Missouri, from whom they

learned that the Yanktonais Indians were already on the hunt, to be enabled to procure meat enough for the season, and to get more time for their summer campaign; that they persist in claiming the lands adjoining the *Big Sioux* on the east, to a certain eastern boundary, which had been ceded to government by treaty by other tribes of the Sioux, who had ever since received annuities; that they would make their appearance before Medary, where they expected to find officers vested with power to conclude treaties, about the first of July; that they would demand pay from the citizens for the privilege of occupying their lands, and if the demand was not complied with, they would drive off citizens and settlers and burn down their houses; that they would then march to Yellow Medicine, or Upper Sioux agency, and demand that at least half of the annuities be henceforth paid over to them, and if this was refused, they would clear the disputed country of every soul—annuity Indians and all; that these Yanktonais were the same Indians who had harbored the followers of the fiendish Ink-pa-du-tah, and that he was still among them.

The *second* letter is from F. J. Dewitt addressed to Joseph E Gay, esq., at Medary, and dated Lynd, May, 1858, saying that news had arrived at Fort Ridgely "last week" that the Yanktonais were coming down on the whites; that the Sioux river settlement was the first place they intended to visit, and that Colonel Abercrombie considered the news as reliable.

In view of the critical and dangerous aspect of our Indian affairs in the northern superintendency, as evinced by the above communications arriving here from so various points, coming from so reliable sources, and in the main points so entirely corroborating each other, our settlers and the Indians, with whom we are under treaty stipulations, being threatened with an invasion of hostile bands of reckless savages, numbering at least from twenty-five hundred to three thousand warriors, I deem it my urgent duty to propose that Congress should be requested to place without delay the sum of one hundred thousand dollars at the disposal of this department, in order to enable it forthwith to take such measures as the peace and the best interest of the country shall require—said sum, if granted, to be expended for the acquisition of provisions, agricultural implements, goods, to defray the expenses of transportation, and for the pay of an agent or agents who may be employed to carry the policy of the government into effect.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Acting Commissioner.

Hon. JACOB THOMPSON,
Secretary of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1858.

SIR: Enclosed please find a communication from Rev. S. R. Riggs to the Henderson Democrat, of the 12th instant, relative to a proposed visit of the Yanktonais Sioux to the reservation of the annuity Sioux.

and also suggestions of the editor of the same paper relative to the same subject.

Both these gentlemen have long resided among the Sioux Indians ; both are conversant with the condition of the several bands composing the Sioux nation ; have seen the evils resulting from the annual visits of the Yanktonais to the settlements of the annuity Sioux, and know the necessity of preventing, if possible, a recurrence of those acts of depredation which have been attendant upon those visits.

In former reports I have called the attention of the department to the fact, that since the payments have been made under the treaty of 1851 the Yanktonais have annually visited the pay ground, claiming from the Sissiton and Warpeton Sioux a participation in their annuities under the plea that the western portion of the land ceded by treaty of 1851 from the Pipe-stone quarry to Kampeska lake belonged to the Yanktonais. Not only have they claimed to participate in the annuities, but they also claim, that as they have not been consulted by the government in regard to the relinquishment of the Indian title to those lands, that they still belong to the Indians, and not subject to settlement by the whites.

As an evidence of their views upon this subject, they last year burned the buildings and drove off the settlers at the "Hole in the Mountain," and committed depredations in the valley of the Sioux river.

The land thus claimed by the Yanktonais is now fast filling up with settlers, and I very much fear the result of the visit of those Indians, both on account of the annuity Sioux and the white settlers near the western line of the Minnesota and along the valley of the Big Sioux river.

Those Indians have no treaties with the government ; they are jealous of the annuity Sioux, who, they believe, are receiving compensation for lands that belonged to the Yanktonais, and they feel that they have been slighted by the government, and their lands opened to settlement by the whites without being consulted upon the subject.

I fully concur in the necessity for an agency among those Indians. They generally hunt along the James ; seldom meet an agent of the government to whom they can make known their grievances, and, in fact, feel that the government has no regard for them nor any desire for their welfare.

Those Indians are more intimately connected in location and feeling, and are more accessible from the northern superintendency than any other. If they were attached to that superintendency, and an agent located among them, the result would be highly beneficial. If an agent cannot be provided for them at present, the Sioux agent might be instructed to visit them frequently, to make known the wishes of the government, and to give such counsel as will be proper to preserve friendly feelings towards the whites, and keep them from depredations upon the annuity Indians.

By prompt and judicious measures and the expenditure of a small amount for their agricultural improvement, those Indians can be satisfied, all depredations upon the whites or the annuity Sioux pre-

vented, and many of them be induced to settle down as agriculturists.

I am well acquainted with them; I know their prejudices and peculiarities, and I am well satisfied they may be managed with but little difficulty *previous* to the commission of any act of open hostility to our citizens. I also know that their management will be found very difficult *after* they are led to place themselves in open defiance of the government, and that would most probably be the result of delay in making the necessary negotiations to prevent their visits to the white settlements, and their aggressions upon the annuity Sioux.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH R. BROWN,
Sioux Agent.

Hon. C. E. MEX,
Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I have received the enclosed letter from the head chiefs of the Medewakantons, now here on business, upon the subject of this reported visit of the Yanktonais, to be laid before you.

The position occupied by the annuity Sioux, in connexion with the Inkpadutah troubles, occasioned a distrust of the objects of this visit, and gives fears for the safety of the women and children of the Minnesota valley.

[Extract from the Henderson Democrat.]

Letter from Rev. S. R. Riggs.

MR. EDITOR: For several days past reports have been reaching us of the movements of the Ihanktonwons (Yanktonnais) of the plains, in regard to which I desire, through your paper, to communicate with the United States authorities and all whom it may concern.

It is said that a large body of Ihanktonwan (Yanktonnais) and Titonwan Dakotas have taken up their line of march for this point, and that they are now somewhere in the valley of the James river. They are reported at a thousand or twelve hundred lodges; which, if true, would give some eight or ten thousand persons. It is said that Inkpadoota is with them. One story says they are bringing him over to deliver him up to the United States authorities. Another says they are coming to fight with the white people, and that they have with them a number of cannon which the Missouri Indians have taken from white soldiers. The latter part of the story is undoubtedly an embellishment. There is, I think, no probability that they have any settled purpose or desire to commence hostilities with the United States. The Inkpadoota part of the story may or may not be true; but there is very little doubt that they purpose visiting this part of the country in a large body this season. How soon they will come over is uncertain. Probably not, however, before June, when the *teepsinna* tops are up.

Those who were over here last summer declared their intention to

come again this year. In council with Superintendent Cullen, they laid claim to this land north and west, which has already been ceded by the Wahpatonwans and Sisitonwans. With the exception of the Pipe-stone country, which has been considered as common property among the bands, this claim is without any valid grounds. Nevertheless, it will undoubtedly be better, in the event of a treaty with them for other lands, to buy out whatever claim they may regard themselves as having in this ceded part of the country. This is often done in treating with Indians.

On the occasion referred to, Superintendent Cullen informed them that he had no authority to settle this matter, but he would lay the case before the President, and inform of the result the coming season. This, of course, they will remember, and it will bring over a great multitude of wild Indians. An effort was then made to bring about an understanding to the effect that they would be met by the superintendent somewhere near the line of purchase, or in their own country proper. Chiefly in consequence of the excitement which prevailed here then this arrangement was not effected. THEY evidently have a desire to come over *here*. But it is very manifestly the duty of the agent and superintendent to prevent this if possible.

Last summer the presence of fifteen hundred strangers was a great injury to the Indians and white people in this upper part of the reservation. They did much more mischief than the grasshoppers. In consequence of their being here, the corn was not properly hoed and taken care of, and so, in many instances, produced only one-half or two-thirds of a crop. All improvements were stopped. The government and missionary efforts in behalf of the annuity Indians were, for the season, prostrated. Everything was thrown back. In addition to all this, uneasy, excited, and even hostile feelings were produced in many of the annuity Indians by their presence; and if they are permitted to come here this season in greater numbers, it is not difficult to foresee that the last summer's scenes will be re-enacted.

What I desire is, *that this should, by all means, be prevented. Take time by the forelock. Meet them before or about the first of June, say at Lake Traverse, or at the Two Woods.* Even should no appropriation yet have been made for this object, it will be better to meet the case promptly, and then trusting that, on a proper representation of the case, Congress will make the necessary arrangements hereafter, than to run the risk of such alarms and dangers as we experienced last summer.

I am not an alarmist; but I think we shall be justly blameable if we do not prevent difficulties and dangers, when their tall shadows are cast so far before them, as in the present case. I commend the matter to the attention, the promptness, and energy of the agent and the superintendent.

Yours, truly,

S. R. RIGGS.

HAZLEWOOD, MINNESOTA, April 2, 1858.

We have more than once called attention to the movements of the Ihanktonwannas, (Yanktonnas) and are glad to find our views corroborated by persons so well versed in Indian matters as Mr. Riggs. If something is not done at once to restrain them, we shall certainly have trouble. They have no agent, or worse than none, for Colonel Redfield's agency embraces so many tribes—Yanktons, Titons, Rees, Mandans, Gros Ventres, Assinnaboins, Crows, &c.—as to be only a vexation to himself and the Indians, and of no practical use whatever. We think the exigencies of the case demand that an agent be appointed at once for the Yanctonnais. Of all the wild western Indians, they are perhaps the wildest and most reckless; and they can only be brought to an appreciation of United States power, and the necessity of being at peace with the whites, by such influences as an agent of the United could bring to bear upon them.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 22, 1858.*

SIR: Having heard that the Ihanktonwans, accompanied by Ink-pa-du-ta, are on their way to Yellow Medicine, we beg to say to you that we believe it is true, as we were told last winter that it was their intention to come there this spring. We do not believe that they have any intention of giving Ink-pa-du-ta up to the Americans; on the contrary, we believe they will be prepared to defend him if any attempt is made by the white people to take him. We do not like so many strangers to be near our homes, and feel anxious for the safety of our wives and children. We therefore hope, as we have now been nearly twelve weeks from home, that you will permit us to go away from here without any further delay.

We would answer that Mohpiyawicosta, principal soldier of Jag-main's band, was hunting on the Missouri all last winter, and sent a letter from there to say that the Yankton and other Indians of that quarter were gathering together to visit Yellow Medicine again this spring.

We are, sir, yours, very obediently,

TATE ^{his} + PSIN.
mark.

CETAN ^{his} + WAKNAMAM.
mark.

Witness:

A. J. CAMPBELL, *Interpreter.*

HON. CHARLES E. MIX,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, *May 25, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: I would call your attention to a matter which may be overlooked by your Indian agents now with you: that is, that a large

body of "Yanktons" and Cut-heads (not "Yanktons") will be at Yellow Medicine in July—the same who were the cause of trouble last summer. They claim part of the land ceded by the Sissetons, &c., with justice; but the claim is against the United States by rights, for the latter only ceded *their right and title* to certain lands within certain boundaries, and the balance has not been paid for. "Brown understands that they, the Cut-heads," never came to meet United States commissioners, as per promise, last summer, and should be met promptly, with some arrangement with them before they reach Yellow Medicine; if not, there will be trouble between them, and that kind of thing last year did more to stop emigration than any other cause which operated against it. I write this to you, for you are the only one in Washington who I *find* both willing and able to keep us here, and knowing that this must be attended to in time. I again take the liberty of trespassing on your valuable time.

Mr. Riggs views this thing as I do, and I am well satisfied he is well posted.

Now that Brigham Young has laid down his arms, we have troops enough to ferret out "Inkpadotah," who is among these prairie Indians, and is bound to do harm to the frontier if not brought to justice. Three or four troops of cavalry (I mean companies) would, by going to the different bands in the plains, very soon get him and party delivered up. For, as matters stand now, those northern Indians think we are afraid to arrest him and party, for the reason that we got our annuity Indians last summer to attend to our business. Please give a little thought to this matter, and you will save trouble. I am no "bird of ill omen."

* * * * *

Your friend,

W. H. FORBES.

Hon. H. M. RICE,
United States Senator, Washington.

The above letter is endorsed by Senator Rice as follows: "Mr. Forbes is well posted in regard to Indian matters, and I seriously recommend his suggestion."

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 1, 1858.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed please find communications from parties residing within the proposed Territory of Dakota, and, from the character of the parties sending them, I deem them *entirely reliable*.

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

A. G. FULLER.

Hon. JACOB THOMPSON,
Secretary of Interior Department.

MEDARY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
May 15, 1858.

DEAR SIR: Since writing to you on the 1st instant, news of a serious nature is whispered among us. It seems that we are to have a repetition of those Indian difficulties which created so much confusion and fearful excitement on the border of Minnesota and Dakota last summer.

Mr. Wm. Quinn, whom you may perhaps remember as being the intelligent and well educated half-breed that accompanied Colonel Nobles and party, as interpreter, across the Territory last summer, in company with a young man named James Gorman, have been established at this place during the past winter in a trading post. Three weeks ago they (Quinn and Gorman) decided upon having a buffalo hunt, and, after procuring the attendance of an Indian family from the "Acorn Plantation," with their ponies, started out north-westward, crossing the Sioux near here. They found plenty of the game they were seeking before the first day's journey was ended. On the third day out they met with a small party of our lower Indians, who had been through the Yancton country to the Missouri, with whom they camped the night, and from whom they learned the following alarming news. [I have this direct from Mr. Quinn, at a private interview, and he does not hesitate to accord his candid belief of the report:]

That the Yancton Indians are already on the hunt, and as they themselves say, to enable them to procure meat enough for the season and give *more* time for their summer's campaign.

That they still persist in claiming the lands adjoining the Big Sioux on the east, to a certain eastern boundary, and which they still assert were unjustly ceded to the government, by treaty, by other tribes of the Sioux who have ever since received bounteous annuities on the same.

They say they shall appear before this place, which is looked upon by them as the headquarters in the Territory; and where they seem to expect to find officers vested with power to conclude temporal treaties, to council with them and negotiate for the people, &c., about the first of July, when they will demand pay from us for the privilege of occupying their lands; and if the demand is not complied with they will then drive off citizens and settlers and burn down their houses.

They will then march to the Yellow Medicine or Upper Sioux agency and demand that at least half of the annuities be henceforth paid over to them; and if this be refused, they will clear the disputed country of every soul, annuity Indians and all.

Let me here state that these Yanctons are the same Indians that assembled at Yellow Medicine last summer, and who were the only offenders in that great disturbance, on the same plea they are to make this summer.

We have, however, to doubly fear the execution of their threats in this second attack. The followers of the barbarous and fiendish Inpadutah were harbored by these Indians last summer, and are still.

That blood will mark the trail of their march, should they be permitted to make it, there can be no doubt.

But without conjecturing what may, or might, be the extent or nature of the evils attending another series of these troubles, I trust it sufficeth for one to say, not as an individual only, but on behalf of an alarmed people, that effective measures should be speedily adopted, by which every calamity of which there are omens may be averted.

If we have patriotic men in the national councils, they will not turn deaf ears to calls from their countrymen for protection from impending public dangers.

I must say, however, that the strong arm of government has been too feebly felt for the past few years on the borders of civilization, most especially has the protection of our western frontiers been too sadly neglected.

I trust that formal petitions and remonstrances, sealed with blood of innocent victims of an unnecessary war, will not be waited for as the only means of enlisting the sympathies of the government in behalf of her unprotected border colonies.

I would not say that military force alone is all that is needed to warrant the peace and quiet of the country, nor to secure the personal safety of the people; whenever and wherever it is in the wisdom of men to devise means of amicableness for the adjustment of contentions or open disputes between nations or tribes, such action should most certainly take the preference of an encounter with the horrors of a conflict of arms.

Experienced and honest men in the various official capacities of our Indian affairs are worth all the armed forces that might be brought to bear on such a race of human beings, who are partially enlightened, or who understand, at least, the rudiments of fair dealing, and who are capable of being made to appreciate the true policy of the general government towards them.

But if the difficulties at present existing in the private control and agencies of the Indians is to remain *in statu quo*, then an increase of military force, and a wider distribution of the same, is indispensable to the welfare of settlers in western Minnesota and in Dakota.

I have written in haste, as the mail is waiting on me. May you be able to effect a change in the present state of our affairs and prevent the approach of this storm.

In the meantime we shall hardly know what steps to take for ourselves, as we are a people without laws or a head, a ship without sails or helm.

On the part of many citizens, your humble servant,

J. L. FISK

Hon. A. G. FULLER, *Washington, D. C.*

LYND, *May 19, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Merrel Badger and your humble servant arrived here to-day. George Reed and the Barnes' mule team are with us; we overtook and camped with them last night; they left the agency on Monday morning; we arrived there at noon. Charles Didler and Fish have arrived from Medary with two mule teams; they report the boys are all well, but very much frightened by an Indian demonstration that was made *a few days* ago. It seems that four Indians visited them and were anxious to stay all night and sleep in the house, but the boys would not let them.

The Indians showed fight; the boys succeeded in driving them away. The same four, with ten others, returned the next night and threatened to clear the boys out if they did not leave the Sioux in six suns, meaning six days. We will be there by that time and lend them a hand, if there is any fighting to be done.

News had arrived at Fort Ridgely last week that the Yanktons were coming down on the whites, and that the Sioux river settlements is the first place they intend to visit. Col. Abercrombie says this news is reliable. *Well, we will see what we will see.* I hope we will get along this summer without another Indian excitement. I will write you from Medary. Don't forget to send out turnip and garden seed.

Yours, truly,

F. J. DEWITT.

JOS. E. GAY, Esq.

WASHINGTON, *June 3, 1858.*

SIR: In a private letter of the 26th ultimo, Mr. Forbes wishes "to impress on Mr. Rice and the authorities the necessity of having a commission provided immediately to meet the 'Cut-heads' before they reach the Yellow Medicine, which will be next July, or otherwise difficulty may be apprehended. So say the Indians."

Having already reported upon this subject, I would not again refer to it, was I not confident that unless something is done at this session of Congress, and the Yanktonais be met and their claims satisfied this summer, the settlements in Dakota and the western part of Minnesota will be the scene of bloodshed, and the annuity Indians be compelled to sacrifice a large portion of their annuities, or go to open hostilities with the Yanktonais, perhaps both. I do hope that the administration will submit this subject to Congress, as I believe there is no subject connected with the west involving deeper interests than this.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH R. BROWN,
Sioux Agent.

Hon. C. E. MIX,

Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Endorsement hereon by the Indian Office.

Respectfully referred to the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, in connection with my report of the 4th instant.

CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS, *June 5, 1858.*