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**Letter of the Secretary of the Interior, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of January 31, 1867, information in relation to the condition of the Indians now located in the vicinity of Lake Traverse and Fort Wadsworth, Dakota Territory, at the outbreak in Minnesota in 1862, the part they took in connection with that outbreak, and the cause of their being permitted to remain near the Minnesota frontier.**

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LETTER

OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

COMMUNICATING,

*In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of January 31, 1867, information in relation to the condition of the Indians now located in the vicinity of Lake Traverse and Fort Wadsworth, Dakota Territory, at the outbreak in Minnesota in 1862, the part they took in connection with that outbreak, and the cause of their being permitted to remain near the Minnesota frontier.*

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FEBRUARY 7, 1867.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, D. C., February 6, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication dated the 5th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, containing the information called for by Senate resolution of January 31, 1867, which is in the following words:

*“Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, respectfully requested to report to the Senate the condition of the Indians now located in the vicinity of Lake Traverse and Fort Wadsworth, Dakota Territory, at the outbreak in Minnesota in 1862; the part they took in connection with that outbreak, the cause of their being permitted to remain near the Minnesota frontier when the other surrendered Sioux were sent to the Crow Creek reservation in 1863; whether they have been uniformly friendly in their relations with the whites since the outbreak, or otherwise; whether they have any reservation allotted them; and whether they have been recipients from the Interior Department, since the outbreak, of any annuities, clothing, provisions, or agricultural implements; and whether their removal from their present location to a point more removed from the Minnesota frontier, is contemplated by the Interior Department.”*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

Hon. LAFAYETTE S. FOSTER,

*President of the Senate, Washington.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., February 5, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from your department, of a resolution of inquiry, passed by the Senate on the 31st ultimo, in the following words: *“Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is*

hereby respectfully requested, to report to the Senate, the condition of the Indians now located in the vicinity of Lake Traverse and Fort Wadsworth, Dakota Territory, at the outbreak in Minnesota in 1862; the part they took in connection with that outbreak; the cause of their being permitted to remain near the Minnesota frontier, when the other surrendered Sioux were sent to the Crow Creek reservation, in 1863; whether they have been uniformly friendly in their relations with the whites since the outbreak, or otherwise; whether they have any reservations allotted them; and whether they have been recipients from the Interior Department, since the outbreak, of any annuities, clothing, provisions, or agricultural implements; and whether their removal from their present location to a point more removed from the Minnesota frontier is contemplated by the Interior Department." In response to the above inquiries, in their order, I beg leave to report:

*First. In regard to the condition of the Sioux Indians referred to at the time of the outbreak of 1862.*—A large number of them had been for some years settled upon their reservations along the St. Peters or Minnesota river, in pursuance of agriculture. They had good schools and were advancing rapidly in civilization; their agricultural operations were carried on with great success, so far as they were undertaken, and that in spite of the opposition of portions of the four bands who occupied the reservation, divided into Upper and Lower Sioux. Full statements as to the condition of these Indians, so far as it may be deduced from the results of their farming operations, are to be found in the very full and careful report of agent Galbraith, printed, at pages 262, *et seq.*, of the Annual Report of this office for 1863, extracts from which are appended, marked A.

It is apparent from that report that the condition of the "farmer Indians" was, in material wealth and prosperity, fully equal to that of white settlers upon the frontiers. They were in receipt of liberal annuities, secured to them by treaty upon the sale of a large body of land to the government.

*Second. As to the part taken by the Indians, concerning whom inquiry is made in the outbreak of 1862.*—That the outbreak of hostilities commenced among the Sioux at lower agency, and spreading to those in that agency who were opposed to civilization, and thence to the Indians of the same class in the upper agency, was attended by the usual atrocities of Indian warfare. The murder of so large a number of the settlers by hostile parties scattered in various directions, of course exasperated the people of Minnesota to that degree that no Indian, be he ever so friendly, was safe within the limits of the State; and the military force sent into that region to quell the disturbance, by its prompt and severe action, had the effect to drive all the Sioux beyond the frontier, with very few exceptions. Some of those who were proved or supposed to have actually taken part in the massacre of whites were taken prisoners, and of these thirty-nine were hung at Mankato, and a large number sent to Davenport in confinement. It was for the most part the wives and children, and old men belonging to the families of these prisoners, who were sent to Crow Creek reservation, though some of the surrendered Indians, known to have been friendly, accompanied them. The more guilty, of all the bands, fled far to the northward, and have since been living in the region not far from Pembina, and mostly beyond the British line. A large number who professed, and in many cases had manifested, their friendship, but who fled from the indiscriminate vengeance of the whites, have been living since 1862 about Lake Traverse and in the vicinity of Fort Wadsworth. These are the subjects of this inquiry, and it is not believed that any of them took any except a friendly part in the outbreak referred to.

For a more full statement of these matters, I beg leave to refer to papers relating to these Indians, printed at page 225, *et seq.*, of the annual report of this office for 1866; particularly to a report from this office dated April 20, 1866, a copy of which is herewith, marked B.

*Third. As to the cause of allowing these people to remain, when the others were sent to Crow creek.*—The facts above stated, and referred to in the documents cited, throw some light upon the subject; but it is further evident, from reports of military officers, that these Indians, employed by and under pay of the government, have really been of great service in protecting the frontier from other and hostile bands of Sioux, with whom war prevailed down to the summer of 1865. Another consideration was, that the reservation at Crow creek was speedily found and reported to be unfit for an agricultural settlement.

*Fourth. Whether these Indians have been uniformly friendly in their relations with the whites, or otherwise.*—It is stated by those who know these people well, that there are none among them who are or have been hostile. On the contrary, it is shown by the papers herein referred to that many of them have risked their lives in defending the whites, with very poor reward.

*Fifth. Whether they have reservations.*—They have none. The action of Congress in declaring their treaties abrogated, and its consequences, are fully stated in the papers above referred to in the annual report of 1866.

*Sixth. Whether they have received from the Interior Department, since the outbreak, any annuities, clothing, provisions, or agricultural implements.*—Their annuities were forfeited, and no aid has been given them, except, that on one occasion a lot of hoes to the amount of \$800 was furnished them on the urgent representation of Generals Curtis and Sibley, and other parties.

*Seventh. Whether their removal from their present location to a point more removed from the Minnesota frontier is contemplated by the Interior Department.*—In reply to this inquiry, I have to state that this office is not prepared to suggest any definite plan for the removal and settlement elsewhere of these Indians, until after a full conference with them and their friends. Representative chiefs are now here, invited for the purpose of such conference. They await the arrival, now daily expected, of the Sioux from Niobrara and from the Yankton reservation; and it is my hope to be able to devise some plan for the future of all these Indians which will conduce to their benefit, and to do justice to the tried fidelity of the friendly Sioux, and to submit such plans to Congress through your department at an early day.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS V. BOGY, *Commissioner.*

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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A.

*Extract from report of Agent Galbraith, 1863.*

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I now deem it proper to give an account of the destruction of property upon the reservations, and in this I will be as particular as the limits of this report will allow—not so particular as I would desire—but sufficiently so to convey a clear general idea of the matter.

All the dwelling-houses, (except two Indian houses,) stores, mills, shops, and other buildings, with their contents, and the tools, implements, and utensils upon the upper reservation were either destroyed or rendered useless. After a careful estimate I place the loss sustained upon the upper reservation at the sum of \$425,000.

On the lower reservation the stores, warehouses, shops, and dwellings of the employes, with their contents, were destroyed entirely, and most of the imple

ments and utensils, and some of the Indian houses, (eight, I believe, with their contents, about \$5,000,) were also destroyed or rendered useless. The mills and all the rest of the Indian dwellings were left comparatively unharmed by the Indians.

The new stone warehouse, although burned out as far as it could be, needs only an expenditure of a few hundred dollars to make it as good as ever. I put this loss at \$375,000. If, however, no attention is paid to the standing and uninjured houses and mills, they, too, may be taken as destroyed—lost to all practical purposes—as I feel almost certain that such will be the case. I therefore estimate the entire loss at the lower agency, in buildings, goods, stock, lumber, supplies, fences, and crops, at not less than \$500,000. Thus, on the reservations alone, we find a direct loss of about \$1,000,000, and most of this to be placed to the account of the United States, as trustee for the Indians. Indeed, I much doubt whether a million dollars will cover this loss.

An estimate of the quantity of the growing crops has already been given. I now present an estimate of their value on the reservations:

#### LOWER SIOUX.

25,625 bushels corn, at 80 cents.....	\$20, 50
32,500 bushels potatoes, at 50 cents.....	16, 25
13,500 bushels turnips, at 20 cents.....	3, 70
Beans, peas, pumpkins, squashes, and other vegetables.....	8, 00
<b>Total Lower Sioux.....</b>	<b>48, 450</b>

#### UPPER SIOUX.

27,750 bushels corn, at \$1.....	\$27, 750
37,500 bushels potatoes, at 75 cents.....	28, 125
20,250 bushels turnips, at 30 cents.....	6, 075
Beans, peas, pumpkins, squashes, and other vegetables.....	9, 000
<b>Total Upper Sioux.....</b>	<b>70, 950</b>
<b>Add Lower Sioux.....</b>	<b>48, 450</b>
	<b>119, 400</b>

Here, then, we have the value of the crops in round numbers say \$120,000, and I am satisfied, as I live, that this estimate is below the real cost of these things on the reservations as things at present rate.

At the time of the outbreak the corn (being early Indian corn) was just ripe enough to invite the attacks of myriads of blackbirds and crows, which infest the frontier, and it is safe to say that these birds devour full one-half of the corn of the Lower Sioux, and perhaps as much of that of the Upper Sioux below Lac qui Parle. The Indians on Big Stone lake, and, for the most part, at Lac qui Parle, had gathered and buried their corn before the outbreak effectually reached them. Indeed, this is true of most of the Upper Sioux above Hazelwood mission.

The Lower Sioux and the Upper Sioux below the mission, gathered none of theirs, except what they used for "roasting ears" or green corn. It was abandoned to the birds and immense herds of cattle which Crow's party had taken from the settlers on the frontier. These herds were large—how large I cannot state—but sufficiently large to destroy a large quantity of corn, and, with the Indians, used up, to a considerable extent, potato crops.

It is impossible to form an accurate estimate of the amount of crops on the reservation when General Sibley's command first crossed the Minnesota river, on the 19th day of September, A. D. 1862. I think it perfectly safe to state that at least one-third of the corn and more than three-fourths of the potatoes remained at that time. On that day General Sibley had at least one thousand four hundred and fifty, rank and file, besides his teamsters and camp followers, who numbered, together, not less than one hundred and fifty men, and he must then have had at least two hundred and fifty horses.

After the battle of Wood lake he was re-enforced, on the 25th of September, by not less than one hundred men, with their transportation teams. After that time "mounted men," each one riding one horse and leading another, in companies, began to scatter in, until, by the time he left Camp Release, General Sibley must have had connected with his expedition not less than two thousand two hundred men and six hundred horses; and during his stay on the reservations, from the 19th day of September until the 9th day of November, he must have had, on an average, not less than one thousand eight hundred men and three hundred and fifty horses connected with his expedition. In addition to these, the camp of Indian prisoners which was taken on the 25th of September numbered not less, on an average, than one thousand seven hundred persons, with about one hundred yoke of oxen and one hundred and twenty-five ponies and horses. All these remained on the reservations until the 9th day of November, in all, on an average, say, fifty days.

How much all these men, women, and children, horses, oxen, and ponies consumed in these fifty days I know not; the "rank and file," I know, were by no means liberally supplied with rations; sometimes, yea, oftentimes, they had little else to eat than potatoes and salt and parched corn, and very little salt at that. The horses had little forage besides corn; and the Indians literally lived on corn and potatoes and beef, foraged or got the best way we could get it. All these potatoes and most of this corn were gathered upon the reservations. How much it was I know not, nor will anybody ever know.

I state only my own conclusions when I assert that more than one-half of the actual subsistence of the soldiers, teamsters, Indian prisoners, horses, ponies, and oxen connected with Colonel (now General) Sibley's expedition, while he remained on the reservations, were obtained from the Indian plantings.

Starving men, starving horses, hungry Indians, and hungry oxen "gobbled up" the corn and potatoes at a great rate, when supplies and rations were out of the question, away in "the rear." I leave this interesting subject for those more apt than I in supplying armies in the field. Why not investigate it, so that the books be balanced between the Interior and War Departments?

In justice to General Sibley, I must say that, situated as he was, it was utterly impossible for him to have kept even an approximate account of the things thus used. He did all in his power in this as well as every other respect. With the means at his command he accomplished wonders.

On the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th of November, when the troops, Indians, and everybody else abandoned the reservations, there was left of the crops on the upper reservation, below Big Stone lake, about 4,000 bushels of potatoes and little if any corn, and on the lower reservation about 15,000 bushels of potatoes and 2,000 bushels of corn. We have no definite accounts from Big Stone lake, but doubtless the Indians gathered their crops there.

Much of the lumber was left uninjured at the lower agency, and the iron, steel, stores, and ploughs there were very little damaged. The lumber and stores were used advantageously by General Sibley's command, and the general's direction that all property not needed by his command should be properly cared for.

As I had of a reasonable necessity to abandon the agency and place myself

in the care of the army, I felt and realized that I had little to say or do, and tried to say or do as little as possible, except to obey orders. I felt that I was *functus officio*, and yielded the practical control of affairs to Major General Pope, by whose authority I expect every reasonable account will be given of the property taken possession of by the army. Indeed, all the property taken possession of by General Sibley was needed by his command to such an extent that he had to take it or allow his men to suffer, and I certainly would not, even if I had believed that I had the power, have objected to the appropriation of any property on the reservations to the use and comfort of the gallant men who so promptly rushed to arms at their country's call.

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B.

*Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,

April 20, 1866.

SIR: The subject of the condition of the various bands of Sioux of the Mississippi, their location, subsistence, and the future policy to be observed towards them, presses upon this office from so many different directions, that it has seemed desirable to attempt a general review of the situation of things; to present such suggestions as appear practical in regard to each branch of the subject; and to ask that, if possible, a definite policy may be decided upon, which this office may endeavor to carry into effect, with means provided for the purpose by Congress. I will endeavor to present this review in as brief a form as possible, referring for many particulars to the papers herewith transmitted.

The four bands of Sioux referred to are the Sisseton, Wahpaton, Medawakanton, and Wahpakoota bands, who were, in the year 1862, by virtue of treaties made in 1851 and 1858, located upon an extensive reservation lying along the south side of the Minnesota river, ten miles in width, and extending from a point on the west line of Minnesota near the upper end of Big Stone lake, to the vicinity of Fort Ridgley. These Indians had a large income from the proceeds of the cession of their lands, and a considerable portion of them had advanced so far in civilization that they had abandoned savage life, and were cultivating the soil with great success.

It is unnecessary to refer in any detail to the causes of or the circumstances attending the outbreak of the summer and fall of 1862, with its horrors of massacre and plunder. It is apparent that this outbreak took place at first among the Lower bands, the Medawakantons and Wahpakootas, and that the Upper bands for the most part refused to take part in it, as did some considerable portion of the Lower bands. Many of those who felt no inclination towards hostilities, feared that the vengeance of the whites would fall upon them as a portion of the tribes, and fled to the northward, leaving their homes.

The results of the military expeditions sent against these Indians were their complete expulsion from the State of Minnesota; the capture of a large number of them by the troops, (some of them having voluntarily surrendered, claiming to have taken no part in the massacres, and some, again, bringing with them whites rescued from their hostile brethren;) the death, by hanging, of a portion of the leaders; the confinement at Davenport, Iowa, up to a recent date, of about two hundred men, convicted by military commission of greater or less complicity in the outbreak, but many even of these always protesting their innocence; the forced migration to Crow Creek reservation, in Dakota, of more than 1,000, being mostly old men, women, and children, the families of those who had been

hung or were in confinement; and the subjection of the Upper Sioux (the Sisseton and Wahpatons) to all the suffering incident to a wandering, savage life.

A large number of the latter bands came in and voluntarily surrendered to General Sibley when his forces reached the region in the neighborhood of Fort Wadsworth, and most of these have steadily claimed that they had not voluntarily taken part in the outbreak, and signalized their return by bringing in a large number of white persons who had been taken captive at the time of the outbreak, and whom they had recovered and protected. A few, belonging, as is understood, to both the Upper and Lower bands, who had been positively faithful throughout, and had rendered greater or less service to the whites, have returned to and remained upon different portions of the old reservation, there being nearly one hundred not far from Faribault and Mendota, Minnesota.

The action taken by Congress in regard to these Indians has been as follows:

By act of February 16, 1863, (p. 652, vol. 12, Stat. at Large,) all treaties with them were declared abrogated, all lands, annuities, and claims forfeited, \$10,000 of the annuities appropriated to payment of losses by the massacre, a commission provided for to ascertain and report upon claims for losses, and authority given to the Interior Department to set apart eighty acres of land to such Indians as had exerted themselves to save captive whites.

By the act of March 3, 1863, (p. 819, vol. 12, Stat. at Large,) it was provided that a tract of good agricultural land should be set apart, outside of the limits of any State, sufficient for eighty acres to each member of the four bands who were willing to adopt the pursuits of agriculture; that their former reservation should be surveyed and sold, and the proceeds invested by the Interior Department for the benefit of the Indians; and that Indians who had exerted themselves to save the lives of whites should each have eighty acres of land on which the improvements were situated.

By the act of May 28, 1864, (p. 92, pamphlet ed. Stat. at Large,) there was appropriated the sum of \$1,170,374 to pay claims reported by the commission above referred to, making in all \$1,380,374 appropriated for payment of losses by the outbreak.

By the act of March 3, 1865, (p. 427, pamphlet ed. Stat. at Large,) the sum of \$7,500 was appropriated for the special benefit of a few of the friendly Sioux who had aided the whites.

It will be seen that there are four classes of these Sioux now claiming the attention of the department, to wit:

1st. Those who were removed to Crow Creek reservation, in Dakota.

2d. Those who were, till recently, prisoners at Davenport.

3d. Those friendly Sioux who have been for some time seeking a precarious subsistence in the vicinity of their old homes in Minnesota.

4th. The Sissetons and Wahpatons who surrendered to General Sibley, and are living near Fort Wadsworth, in eastern Dakota.

1st. *The Crow Creek Indians.*—Congress has made an annual appropriation of \$100,000 for the subsistence and clothing of these Indians, and efforts have been made to raise crops for their subsistence, but thus far without success; and the expense of transportation of the supplies sent to them is enormous. The result of a full consideration of the report of the treaty of commission of last fall, of recommendations by Hon. Mr. Hubbard, of the congressional committee, and by Special Agent H. W. Reed, has been that these Indians should be removed to some place further down the Missouri river, where they can be reasonably expected to raise crops, and where the males of their families, long confined at Davenport, could join them, and aid in procuring their subsistence.

2d. *The Davenport Captives.*—These Indians have been discharged, and turned over by the military authorities to an agent of this department, and are now on their way, to the number of about one hundred and fifty, to the new reservation, of four townships, situated at the mouth of the Niobrara river, near the Poncas and Yankton Sioux.



It is expected that these Indians will arrive at Niobrara between the 10th and 15th of May, and such arrangements have been made as will probably enable them at once to set about preparations for making a crop this year. It was also intended to get the Crow Creek Indians down to the same reservation in ample time to plant; but, from the fact that the steamer furnished by the War Department is, it is understood, to go up to Fort Rice with a cargo of supplies before bringing, on her downward trip, the Indians from Crow Creek, it is feared that the month of July may be advanced before those Indians reach the reservation. Such directions have, however, been given as will, it is believed, put sufficient ground under cultivation to enable them, by proper care to raise a good supply of corn and potatoes for their consumption.

Your attention is invited to the estimates in Superintendent Taylor's letter of the 2d instant, a copy of which is herewith marked A, as to the amount of funds necessary for carrying into effect the measures adopted relative to the two classes of Indians thus far referred to. That estimate amounts to \$122,766, and covers the expense of getting the Indians down from Crow creek by the method then intended to be taken; the purchase of certain lands and improvements of settlers on the Niobrara reservation; the erection of a store-house and six buildings for the shelter of aged and infirm persons; the removal and subsistence on the way of the Davenport prisoners, (then expected to be done by land,) and the subsistence of the whole number (about 1,200 persons) upon the new reservation for twelve months. Superintendent Taylor estimates that an additional sum, sufficient to make the whole amount \$150,000, should be added to cover the cost of implements, horses, wagons, &c. He thinks that upon this first outlay the Indians will, after the first year, be able to subsist themselves to a great extent. As, however, the removal of the Indians is made by steamer, furnished by the War Department, the elements of the estimate are much changed. I will recur to the matter of estimates hereafter.

Referring again to the several classes of Sioux above noticed, I proceed to the

3d class. *The friendly Sioux remaining in Minnesota.*—In regard to those Indians it is noticeable that Congress has by several enactments, made attempts to provide for them by donations of lands and money; but it has been found impracticable to accomplish anything under those acts, on account of the hostility manifested by the white people of that region towards everything in the form of an Indian. Many of these men have, for the past three years, been homeless wanderers, and actually suffering from want; a very poor return for services rendered to the whites at the risk of their lives. Action was taken by the department, about one year ago, to select for them eighty acres of land each upon the old reservation, but the feeling among the whites is such as to make it impossible for them to live there in safety.

Under date of April 6th instant, Right Reverend Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, who has taken a deep interest in these friendly Indians, forwarded a letter, (copy herewith, marked B,) from Reverend Mr. Hinman, a faithful missionary belonging among them, recommending that measures be taken to gather these Indians, and remove them immediately to the new reservation of their people on the Niobrara, in order that they may have lands assigned them, and earn, as they are willing to do, their living by their own labor. Mr. Hinman estimates the whole number to be so removed at 250. I heartily approve of the recommendation, and, with your approval, will take measures to carry it into effect. The Government, as it has acknowledged by several enactments, owes these people a debt of gratitude, and has not discharged that debt, but has deprived them of their share of the property and income of their people, by the act of 1862, abrogating all treaties, &c. It is difficult to make any reliable estimate of the amount necessary to remove them and settle them at Niobrara, but the sum named hereafter will, I think, be sufficient, and the appropriation of \$7,500.

heretofore made for their benefit, or some portion thereof, could possibly be used for the purpose now indicated, and the selections of land made for them last year could be sold, and the proceeds applied for their use. If they can be removed to Niobrara in time to raise a crop this year, their subsistence need only be provided for till next fall, and therefore prompt action is deemed advisable.

A letter of General Sibley (copy herewith, marked C) refers to certain persons belonging to this class, who, he thinks, on account of their having acted a prominent part on the side of the whites, would not be able to live at Niobrara. Although there is some foundation for the apprehensions of General Sibley, yet, from the information in possession of this office as to the docile disposition exhibited by both the Davenport and Crow Creek Indians, this office is of the opinion that the friendly Sioux will have no difficulty in living with their people.

Connected with this class, there comes a claim by Mr. A. Faribault, of Minnesota, indorsed by Hon. Mr. Ramsey, United States senator from that State, for \$3,871 77, for money, &c, expended by him in subsisting a portion of these Indians for about three years. The claim and papers substantiating it are herewith submitted, by copies marked D. I recommend that measures be taken to examine the claim of Mr. Faribault, and to pay what shall be found justly his due.

4th class. *Sissetons, &c., near Fort Wadsworth.*—Some action has already been taken in regard to this class, by providing for their being represented by their headmen at Fort Rice, on the Missouri, at the expected conference with the treaty commissioners. It is probable that a treaty will be made with them at that time. From representations made verbally to your department and to this office by General Sibley, to whom these people surrendered, it is supposed that these Indians will ask a reservation near Fort Wadsworth, in the country not heretofore ceded by them; while there is reason to suppose that the military authorities, and many of the people of Minnesota, would prefer their being located much further north, and in the vicinity of Devil's lake. As giving much valuable information in regard to the feelings and wishes of these Indians, and aiding in the formation of a just judgment as to the proper disposition of these bands, I herewith transmit copies of two papers, marked E and F, being a petition from their chiefs, dated December, 1864, and a letter from Rev. Mr. Riggs, formerly missionary among them. If, as the information at hand appears to justify, we are to trust in the friendly disposition of these people, their location near Fort Wadsworth would be a wise measure, and a protection to the frontier settlements, and I recommend that proper instructions be sent to the treaty commissioners in regard to the point to be fixed upon for their residence.

But there are six to eight hundred people of these bands, at and near Fort Wadsworth, in great want, while they are able to earn their living, and willing to do so if they can be furnished with implements and seeds, and measures should be taken to provide them with these necessaries in time for the spring work. They will till the ground, for this season, at all events, to such extent as is possible, near Fort Wadsworth, and I trust that some means will be provided for enabling them to do this to advantage.

#### FORMER PROPERTY AND INCOME OF THESE BANDS.

At the time of the outbreak, in 1862, the four bands of Sioux herein referred to were entitled to an annuity of \$15,000 from the sum of \$300,000 invested for their benefit, and to a sum total payment for lands ceded by them, amounting to \$4,861,800. This sum was so graduated in annual payments that the amount due to the Indians, annually, was \$135,060; or, including the \$15,000 above mentioned, their annuities amounted to \$150,060. This sum was forfeited

by the act of February 26, 1863, by all, indiscriminately, friendly and hostile and only the families of those who were executed or imprisoned have been provided for by government, and this, as we have seen, at an annual expense of \$100,000, at Crow creek; while the sum of \$1,380,374 has been paid for losses by the outbreak by a part of this people.

I beg leave to suggest, in view of the whole subject, whether the time has not come for such a disposition of funds long ago set apart by treaty with these Indians as will result to their advantage, and the best interest of the whites. The sum of \$50,000 which has been for each of the last three years annually withheld from these tribes, if now placed in the hands of your department would enable it to locate the first three classes comfortably upon the new reservation, and to aid the Sissetons at Fort Wadsworth to a reasonable extent; while it is believed that, after the expenditure of such portion of the \$150,000 as should be found necessary in putting these bands in a condition to raise their own crops in peace, a sum much less than the annual interest upon the remaining capital of the Sioux funds will be sufficient for their use for years to come, and that they will soon become self-supporting. Or, to make this suggestion more clear, the whole amount to which these bands were entitled was—

In 1862.....	\$5, 161, 800
Deduct appropriated claims for losses.....	1, 380, 374
	<hr/>
	3, 781, 426
	<hr/> <hr/>

The interest upon which, at 5 per cent., would be \$189,071.

*Estimates from Superintendent Taylor's letter of April 2.*

For removal of Indians from Crow creek to Niobrara.....	\$20, 000
For purchase of land and improvements.....	5, 040
For subsistence for sixty days at Niobrara.....	5, 000
For storehouse and buildings.....	
For removal of Davenport prisoners.....	72, 000
For subsistence for twelve months on reservation.....	
(As the removal of the Indians is made by government steamer, no estimate is made for this expense. Rations are also provided by government for the Davenport Indians, and the ordinary issues for the Crow Creek Indians, already provided, will suffice for them. If these Indians succeed in raising a crop this year, the sum of \$72,000, called for by Superintendent Taylor, is too large.)	
Removal of friendly Sioux from Minnesota to Niobrara.....	10, 000
Subsistence for six months on reservation.....	7, 000
Assistance in implements, seeds, &c.....	3, 000
Aid to Sissetons, &c., at Fort Wadsworth.....	10, 000
Add for necessary buildings, expense of employés, &c., at Niobrara, (a portion of the buildings necessary will be included in the purchase of improvements).....	40, 000
Total.....	<hr/> 172, 040 <hr/> <hr/>

Subject to increase if the cost of removing the Indians to Niobrara is to be refunded by this department, and to decrease if the Indians should succeed in raising a crop this year.

It will be borne in mind that the government has appropriated annually, for three years, \$100,000 for the support of the Sioux at Crow creek alone. There will be available for the use of these Indians the proceeds of the sale of their

large reservation in Minnesota, from which but a small sum has yet been realized by the General Land Office, by which office the sales are made; and that sum has been absorbed by the expenses of surveying the land.

To recapitulate briefly the recommendations of this report, this office recommends that the friendly Sioux now in Minnesota be at once removed to Niobrara, by land, with a view of raising a crop this year if possible; that instructions be sent to the treaty commission to provide for a reservation near Fort Wadsworth for the Indians in that region; that aid be promptly furnished to those who are willing to labor, and who are now near Fort Wadsworth; and that such general policy may be adopted in regard to funds for the benefit of the four bands of Sioux referred to, as will enable the department to provide for their welfare; this recommendation having a special reference to the restoration, for the benefit of the Indians, of the funds withheld by the act of Congress, deducting the amount heretofore paid for losses by the outbreaks of 1862.

In order to make this suggestion practical, I beg leave to submit herewith a draught of a bill which may serve as a basis of action by committees of Congress, (if you shall see fit to submit the subject to that body,) providing for restoring, for the use and benefit of these Indians, the balance of funds held by government for them in 1863, after deducting the amount paid for losses by them. Should such a bill be enacted the sum so appropriated would, it is believed, enable the department to carry into effect all the suggestions in this report, unless there should be such delay as to prevent the raising of a crop this year. Even in that case, I think that the condition of the Indians could be greatly improved by the careful expenditure of the sum indicated; this to be in place of the appropriation for the Sioux of the Mississippi, heretofore estimated for.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. N. COOLEY,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. JAMES HARLAN,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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*A bill for an act to restore to certain bands of Sioux Indians the balance of certain annuities taken from them.*

Whereas by an act of Congress, approved February 11, 1863, all treaties made with certain bands of Sioux Indians were, on account of hostilities committed by said Indians, declared to be abrogated and annulled, and all lands and rights of occupancy within the State of Minnesota, and all annuities and claims theretofore accorded to said Indians, or any of them, forfeited to the United States; and whereas a large amount of money has been paid by the United States for losses by the hostilities of said Indians, which payments were properly charged against the funds theretofore belonging to said Indians; and whereas it appears that a large number of persons belonging to the said bands of Sioux Indians never participated in the hostilities referred to, and are now friendly to the United States and in need of assistance, while others have been for several years supported by the United States, and a large number in addition have recently been pardoned by the President and restored to liberty: Therefore,

*Be it enacted, &c.,* That, for the purpose of enabling the Interior Department to provide for the welfare of such of the four bands of Sioux referred to as are now friendly to the United States, or as may become friendly hereafter, there shall be restored and invested for the benefit of the said Indians such amount as shall be ascertained to remain after deducting from the capital of the funds of the said Indians, as it existed on the 16th of February, 1863, the amount which

has been paid by the United States on account of losses of citizens by the hostilities of said Indians committed in 1862.

SEC. 2. There is hereby appropriated, for the use and benefit of said Indians, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, in removing and concentrating a portion of the said Indians to and upon a reservation selected for them at the mouth of the Niobrara river, and providing for them there, and in providing for others at some point in Dakota Territory, such amount as shall be equal to five per cent. upon the balance of funds found remaining, as in the preceding section provided for.

(Or the sum of \$189,071, being five per cent., &c.)