

10R-1876

p.90-91, Fort Peck, Mont., Sept. 26, 1876, Thomas J. Mitchell

The Indians under my charge consist of Yanctonnais, Assinaboines, Gros Ventres, Uncpapas, Brules, and Tetons, branches of the great Sioux family, famed in their past history as enemies of the whites. Their totality has not been as yet definitely ascertained, but they are reported as numbering between 8,000 and 10,000 although your predecessor places their numbers much higher.

Upon my arrival here, on the 22d day of April last, I found but few Government supplies on hand, and they were soon exhausted. The spring-rains had commenced, and as a consequence the Indians were unable to go out on their annual hunt to procure the necessary subsistence for themselves and families. This misfortune reduced them to almost a state of starvation, and in order to prevent absolute suffering I was compelled to purchase in open market the necessary supplies to relieve their immediate wants.

The latter part of May they broke camp, and the most