

Crow Creek Agency, D.T.,
March 5, 1866.

Sir: In pursuance of the instruction, in your letter of February 17, to come to this place and get information in relation to the present condition and numbers of the Upper Sioux Indians now at the Crow Creek agency, and those reported to be at or near the Dirt Lodges, so called, on James river, also those at Fort Sully, I have the honor to report as follows:

I was delayed a short time on account of transportation, but, by the kindness of Colonel Thornton, commanding at Fort Randall, I arrived here on the 25th ultimo. I found at this place, of the Upper Sioux Indians, only eight lodges, numbering sixty-one persons, of the Yanktonais tribe, under a chief known as the Buck. These Indians are still here, but will probably leave soon, as they say they have a cache on the prairies and will go as soon as they can get to it. They have subsisted on the few antelopes and rabbits they could kill, and the rations issued to them by Agent Stone, of this agency.

About the middle of December there had gathered about this agency two hundred and forty-nine lodges of Indians, as follows: thirty-one lodges of Brules, eighteen lodges of Two Kettle, eight lodges of Yanktonais, and one hundred and ninety-two of Yanktons. It is estimated that there were about seven persons per lodge. The snow was too deep, and the weather too cold and stormy for them to go out. They were in a suffering condition, literally starving, living on bark, dead horses and cattle, killing a few antelopes, and begging of the Indians of this agency.

Agent Stone issued provisions to them as their necessities actually required, and urged them to leave as soon as possible, as he