

by promises that farming operations on a much larger scale should be commenced for them early the following spring. Spring has passed, and the amount of work done for them is not as much as I hoped would have been the result, or as much as the Indians expected. I have done all the very limited means at my disposal would allow. The agricultural implements purchased for them at St. Louis did not reach here until the 9th of June. All ploughing for spring planting should have been completed before that time. The teams were kept at work until about the 1st of the present month, when the Indians' food being exhausted they were compelled to abandon the work and start off on a buffalo hunt. Their corn is growing finely, and if kept clear of weeds promises a good yield. From the time they commenced work until forced to abandon their field from the want of food, they seemed to perform their labor with much more energy and satisfaction than I anticipated. In connection with the future farming interests of these Indians I respectfully draw your attention to their treaties now existing with the government. They are wholly inadequate to meet the actual requirements of the Indians. Take for example the treaty with the Lower Brule band. They are allowed by this treaty \$25 a year for each lodge or family engaged in agriculture. When 100 lodges locate and so engage they receive the sum of \$2,500. This number of lodges ought to have at least 300 acres of ground broken for planting, being three acres for each lodge, often numbering four and five adult persons. This work alone would probably more than absorb the \$2,500, leaving nothing for the necessary expenses of fencing, building, field labor, and various other incidental expenses. All the other treaties with these bands are similar except two. These two are the ones existing with the Blackfeet and Minneconjou bands, neither of which bands receive from treaty stipulations a dollar for agricultural purposes. Yet many of both these bands have located and desire to commence farming. They seem to have no idea that their treaties differ in this regard from those with other bands, and expect of course proportionate assistance. It now seems quite probable that the hostile portion of the Minneconjou band will within the year give up the war, when many will desire to locate and