

engage in agriculture. But by the provisions of their treaty not the slightest aid is contemplated in that direction for either this band or the Balckfeet. In consequence of the probabilities that there may be from 100 to 200 lodges from both of these bands who will within a year desire to undertake farming. I respectfully draw your attention to their treaties, to the end that if possible something may be done for them. My own opinion is that entirely new agricultural treaty stipulations should be entered into with certainly six of these lower bands, giving them a fund more worthy the name of assistance. It is true that what they receive is a gratuity; but I think it the part of wisdom to treat them with liberality. A location and engagement in agriculture is about the only way of committing them, before the eyes of all their nation, to the cause of the government. When they have once taken this step and continued the pursuit for a year with tolerable success, they will hardly retrograde. At all points where Indians locate for farming purposes enough ground should be broken to insure that none who make application to plant need be turned away disappointed. For cases of this kind a surplus of land should be ploughed each year, and everything around the location made as attractive as possible in order to induce others to settle. None of these Indians seem capable of comprehending the fact that one or two thousand dollars will not produce fabulous results. They are now in a planting mood, and their ardor should not be damped by any lack of proper and necessary assistance. They must have small amounts of provisions on hand to be issued to them while they plant and cultivate their crops. This season has demonstrated the truthfulness of my statements in other reports that without such assistance they cannot remain to cultivate their crops, but have only time to plant when want of food drives them to the plains. Unless their crops are cultivated, but little will be harvested, and this result will soon discourage them. They have been working the past spring in the expectation of such assistance. The success of the Lower Brule band last season is mainly due to the generosity of the northwest treaty commission who saw the necessity of such aid being furnished them, and gave them 10 barrels pork, 10 barrels flour, three