

W.H.

*MRB 662
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Refer to High Eagle in 809

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I.O.R. - 1872
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Report of Hon. B. R. Cowen, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Hon. N. J. Turney, and Mr. J. W. Wham, commissioners to visit the Teton Sioux at and near Fort Peck, Montana.

Washington, D. C., October
15, 1872.

Sir: The commission, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior on the 15th day of June, 1872, to visit the Teton Sioux on the Upper Missouri River, have the honor to submit the following report. We acknowledge the receipt of your instructions, furnished us at the suggestion of the Secretary of the Interior, to guide us in an investigation, under which this report is made.

While en route to the neighborhood of the Indians, the chairman telegraphed Dr. Daniels, United States Indian agent at the Red Cloud agency, to proceed to Fort Peck, Montana, taking with him some of the most influential chiefs at his agency. A similar telegram was sent to Colonel O'Connor at the Grand River agency. Dr. Daniels took with him Interpreter Joseph Bissonette, Red Dog, and High Wolf, of the delegation which he had, a short time before, taken to Washington, and Wolf's Ears, a young brave of considerable influence and promise. The affairs of the Grand River agency were in such condition that Colonel O'Connor did not feel willing to leave his post, but he promptly sent seven of his principal chiefs, with an interpreter, under charge of Mr. Hardie, one of the employes at the agency.

After many troublesome delays, consequent upon traveling in such a contry, we reached Fort Peck on the 26th of July, via Corinne, Utah, and Helena and Fort Benton, Montana Territory. Fort Peck is a small trading-post, located on the left bank of the Missouri River, five hundred miles below Fort Benton, within the Territory of Montana, and within the boudaries of the reservation described by the treaty of July 13 and 15, and September 1, 1868, for the Gros-Ventres, Piegans, Blackfeet, and River Crow Indians.

The Indians we were appointed to visit were called by our letters of