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SPOTTED TAIL AGENCY, NEBRASKA

August 10, 1877

Sir: In obedience to instructions from your office of 10th ultimo, I have the honor to submit the following annual report of the condition of Indian affairs here for the past year, owing to the fact that during that time the agency has had frequent changes in agents, viz:

First Lieut. M. C. Foot, Ninth Infantry, relieve E. A. Howard; First. Lieut. A. C. Paul, Third Cavalry, relieved Lieutenant Foot; First Lieut. Horace Neide, Fourth Infantry, relieved Lieutenant Paul; and the latter was relieved by myself. While I do not think the Indians have suffered by these frequent changes, still, a permanent agent can, as a rule, work to/p. 65/greater advantage; and I anxiously look forward to the time when I shall be succeeded by one who will make the management of these Indians his permanent business.

As is well known, Indian affairs in this section have been very much unsettled during at least half of the past year, owing entirely to the late Indian war. Last winter's campaign closed with the punishment of the Cheyennes, and in February last General Crook succeeded in inducing Spotted Tail to go out north with about two hundred and fifty of his subchiefs and headmen on a mission of peace to the hostiles.

Spotted Tail found large camps of the hostiles on the Little Missouri and Little Powder Rivers, and through his earnest efforts and continuous councils he succeeded in inducing them to "bury the hatchet" and come into the agencies. He returned here on April 6, after an absence of over fifty days, and announced that his mission undertaken and carried out in midwinter, through hardships and sufferings from cold and hunger, had been successful; that one hundred and five lodges, crowded with the late hostiles, would soon be here. (He had previously succeeded in