

Minnesota Territory. The later years are entirely divorced from Indian affairs.

The Adams Papers are, I believe, valuable. Mr. Adams was Indian Agent at the Wahpeton and Sisseton Agency from 1872, until, I believe, 1879. The great bulk of his correspondence as Indian Agent is included in the files we have at the Minnesota Historical Society. To date, I have covered the material to 1873. There are no concrete, specific mentions of Sitting Bull, but there are numerous references to Indian conditions, the half-breeds and traders who lived on the edge of the reservation, and the general condition of the Indians themselves. Are you particularly interested in the condition of the Indians at this Agency during this period? For your benefit, here are some particular references which might be of interest:

In June, 1872, Mr. Adams wrote to General Hancock at St. Paul saying, "In view of the present state of Indian affairs west and south of this particular reservation, allow me to recommend that the military force at Fort Wadsworth be increased at least one company above the number usually stationed at that Post as a necessary precaution to any invasion of Western Hostile bands of Indians.

All quiet with our Indians on the Lake Traverse Reservation. A general desire and determination is expressed by these Sisseton and Wahpeton bands to lead peaceable and active working lives and ask to be protected in their persons and property."

Two days later, on June 3, 1872, he expressed the same sentiment in a letter to his friend, the Reverend S. B. Treat.

On June 18, 1872, Mr. Adams wrote to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs complaining of visits of vagrant Indians who "have been accustomed to come dancing for food, clothing, horses, guns and ammunitions.

This class annoy our working Indians in various ways - as in feasting, and begging, Sabbath desecration and thieving. -----I hope the day may soon come when such lazy, vagrant and vain squads of heathenish Indians may not receive encouragement to paint their faces and go from house to house and military post to military post making demands upon civilized people for permission on the same - and obtaining them."

In July, 1872, Mr. Adams was appointed to act with Wm. H. Forbes, James Smith on a committee to "investigate the title of the Sioux Indians to certain lands" described in the treaty of 1867. His report, dated October 4, 1872, is included in the papers.

On September 1, 1872, begins the story of victimizing of the Indians by the half-breeds, when Moses N. Adams made his initial report to the Commissioner. He speaks of the activity of the Browne family, (Joseph Renville) in supplying the Indians with liquor, and generally fostering discontent.