

Location of Agency

Standing Rock Agency is located upon the west bank of the Missouri River, in latitude 46 degrees and 10 minutes north. The Indian settlements extend along the Missouri, from the Cannon Ball River on the north to the Grand River on the south, a distance of sixty miles, whilst the agency buildings are situated nearly midway between these two streams, the Cannon Ball River being the northern boundary of the reservation, and the Missouri River the eastern line. The Indians of this agency therefore occupy the northeastern corner of the reservation, which, for agricultural and grazing purposes combined I believe to be by far the best portion of the "Great Sioux Reservation," so-called.

Tribes, Population, and Disposition.

The Indians of this agency are composed of the Upper and Lower Yanktonnais, Uncapapas, and Blackfeet bands of the Great Sioux or Dakota nation, classed respectively as follows:

Tribes.	men	women	boys	girls	total
Upper Yanktonnais	157	213	131	92	593
Lower Yanktonnais	236	311	196	161	904
Uncapapas	387	512	283	281	1,463
Blackfeet	192	227	136	134	689
Mixed blood	27	26	22	31	106
Total	999	1,289	768	699	3,755

About 1,000 of the above-enumerated Indians are of the late hostile bands who surrendered to the United States authorities during the early part of 1881, among whom are Crow King, Gall, Black Moon, Crawler, Rain-in-the-face, and Circle Bear, six of Sitting Bull's trusted lieutenants, who have all settled down to peaceful avocations, and are engaged in cultivating fields. They are anxious to possess stock and work-cattle, and with a few ox teams to aid them in farm work next spring, I am confident they would augment very materially the area of land cultivated at this agency. These late hostiles possess the elements of a progressive people, and have many commendable qualities. They are truthful, upright, and honorable; appreciate kindness; are amenable to firm and just treatment, and susceptible to civilizing influences to a very marked degree. Having become weary of strife with the United States Government, and recognizing their inability to cope with the dominant white race, they surrendered in good faith, and now express themselves as highly pleased with the change from their past nomadic life to that of their present peace and happiness, and in order to foster this feeling and inspire confidence I endeavor to treat them as men, so that each individual may learn to act for himself independent of chief or band affiliations. Being now in my twelfth year of continuous service in the Indian Department, I have had an opportunity of seeing considerable of Indian life, and observing the peculiarities of Indian character, but in my whole intercourse with this race, I have never met with any Indians who possessed superior qualities to the late followers of "Sitting Bull". They are the ideal "untutored children of nature," honest in their convictions, sincere in their expressions, anxious to learn and do what is expected of them, and afraid lest they might do what would be displeasing; and whilst the old agency Indians as a rule, are well disposed, yet they are more derelict, in many respects, than these "late hostiles", whose good intentions I have the utmost confidence in, and who are now so anxious to improve their condition and desirous of taking a firm hold of the white man's civilization, through the present means afforded them, that unless some unforeseen calamity befalls them, permanent peace with them is assured and their steady advancement undoubted.

Owing to the almost total failure of crops at this agency last year, caused by drought grasshoppers, and storms, there was but little seed among the Indians for this season's planting. There was also a great scarcity of potatoes, and such varieties of corn as were adapted to this climate, making it impossible to obtain sufficient seed, and being unable to find enough of suitable kinds, I was obliged to return to the United States Treasury \$162.80 of money that was transmitted to me for the purpose of purchasing seed. I however procured 464 bushels of potatoes, and 44 bushels of corn, apart from the garden seeds ordered by the department, from D.M. Ferry & Co., which, with what the Indians obtained from other sources, enabled every family