...The number of Indians really subsisting at this agency I have not yet been able, by actual account, to ascertain; such a reliable census has never been taken...During last fall and winter an extraordinary number of Indians was subsisted here. Many of our Indians were then coming and going; others from Grand River, Totten, Berthold and other agencies, were temporarily here on a visit or hunt, and considering all the circumstances I deemed it impracticable to insist on making an exact enrollment at that time...The following list, the lowest and most reliable one yet obtained, exhibits the number of Indians receiving supplies at this agency, viz:

	Persons
Assinaboines - - - - - - - - - - - -	1,998
Santee and Sisseton Sioux - - - -	1,065
Yanctonnai Sioux - - - - - - - - - -	2,266
Uncpapa Sioux - - - - - - - - - - -	1,420
Uncpatina Sioux - - - - - - - - - -	460
Mixed-bloods - - - - - - - - - - - -	98
Total number -	7,307

The above estimate will not vary much from an actual enrollment. I am unable to state as to the number of males and females.

Belonging to this agency are no less than three distinct classes or grades of Indians as respects their progress toward civilization ...The Uncpapa Sioux constitute the third class. They are extremely difficult to manage, perhaps as much so as any Indians in the country. They are wild, demonstrative, and ungrateful for favors. There is still a formidable force of hostile Indians occupying the Yellowstone and Powder River country. Among them are many relatives, former friends, and associates of these Uncpapa Sioux. On this account I find it almost impossible to keep them under proper subjection, or retain them within the reservation limits. They claim some right or interest in the country through which the Northern Pacific Railroad is projected, and do not propose to relinquish their claim without remuneration; consequently many of them come and go when they please. I have no doubt that some of the best disposed of these Uncpapa Indians go there with no worse intentions than to visit and hunt; but once there, they are restrained and overawed by Sitting Bull, his associate chiefs, and his formidable soldier lodge; so that they cannot return to the agency when they wish. About 250 lodges of these Uncpapa Sioux received annuity-goods last fall, and were fed and cared for at this agency until last January, when they left for their winter's hunt, generally manifesting friendship and good feeling, but fully one-half of the number have not since returned to the agency; however, I have reason to expect most of them here this month ... 1874

In his report dated October 20, 1875, Alderson stated that, during the preceding winter, he had become convinced that he was wasting his time in trying to induce the Uncpapa Sioux, "numbering about 1,000 persons," to remain on the reservation, and that he had ceased issuing supplies and annuities to them.

Cordially,

James S. Hutchins

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