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p.48-9, August 21, 1879, Standing Rock, Dakota, J.A. Stephan

The system of giving passes to Indians to travel from one agency to another often proves an abuse. As human beings, they are at times entitled to passes in order to see distant or sick relatives or collect debts from Indians at other agencies; but passes asked for on business or humane principles are the exception and not the rule. Passes should be given with care. Indians are fond of gossip, and all wish to appear as having large hearts and being generous. When they entertain Indians from other agencies, the visited Indians usually give away part of their horses, other property, and many of the annuities furnished by the government; and after the departure of the visitors, the visited Indians in their turn wish to become visitors to get back an equivalent for what they have given away, and so the system multiplies until it is in a constant source of annoyance, and causes the neglect of work and other legitimate occupation, and keeps up the old desire to roam. I have found that in some instances passes carried by