

Indians have been forgeries, signed by irresponsible parties, who attach the signature of Indian agent to them, thus passing as current. To correct this abuse, I would respectfully suggest that each agent be provided with an official seal to stamp all passes issued from his office.

On the 12th of August my agency was visited by 207 Arickaree, Gros Ventres, and Mandan Indians from Fort Berthold. They came here with a pass, and their coming was hailed by the Indians as a holiday. Their language is entirely different from the Sioux, and they could not understand each other; only one man could make himself understood. Now what had those 207 Indians to do here? They remained five days. Dancing, feasting, and exchanging presents was the order of the day. Corn-fields and hay, at the most critical time, were entirely neglected, and when the visitors left, many of the Indians here were without shirts, hats and other necessary garments, having given them away; and in a short time this office will be besieged with applications for passes to visit Fort Berthold, that our Indians may share the benefit of being visitors.