

192-197 cont'd.

here and there a log cabin put up in good style, with fireplaces and chimneys. They received their goods, \$1,496 54 in value, and seemed to be well satisfied. They are a kind-hearted and good people, and the person and property of the white man is secure with them. They also have many complaints to make of the Sioux, and asked protection, as they spend their time in tilling the soil, producing corn, pumpkins, and beans in quite an abundance, and have neither time nor inclination to pursue the war-trail. They complain that they cannot venture out to procure meat without being pursued by this foe; that heretofore they have made a visit about the time their crops were ripe, and have carried off the most of it. They request that troops be sent to protect them, and to drive the Sioux back to their own country. They try to live up to their treaty requirements, desire to cultivate friendly relations with the government, / <sup>195</sup> would make any treaty arrangements that might be asked of the. They request that assistance be given them in building houses and fences, ploughing of grounds, schools, &c. They number about 1,000 souls.

I would here recommend that the department appropriate \$1,000, to be expended in breaking prairie for the Arickarees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans the next season, and \$600 as compensation for a practical western farmer, to conduct the farm and instruct the Indians in agriculture. This expense for five years, and I will warrant that these people will conduct it thereafter in the most successful manner. It is only necessary to break large patches of prairie for these people, (who live some three miles apart,) and divide it in quantities suitable to each family; give them proper seeds, the potato above everything else; encourage and instruct them; add to these fields each year, and in five years they would be a shining light to the roving bands of their fellow-men. This is due to these people, since they are, of all the Indians on the Missouri river to the Rocky mountains, the only ones that have tried to cultivate the soil unaided by the government.