

robes and furs, without giving them an equivalent; discouraged them in agriculture by telling them that should the white man find that their country would produce they would come in and take their lands from them. They break up and destroy every opposition to/ ¹⁹⁷ their trade that ventures into their country, and then make up their losses by extorting from the Indians. They charge their employes, whom they induce into the country, one dollar a pound for sugar or coffee, one dollar per yard for domestics or calico, &c., and have compelled them to subsist on buffalo meat, without bread, until this season, when they are compelled to give them a little to keep them, as they have an opportunity now of getting away on boats passing from the gold mines.

At Fort Union, on the 4th of July, a flag with eight stars was run up, and remained up until night. Mr. Hodgkiss, who had just come in charge of this post, a Pennsylvanian by birth, assured me that on the next 4th he should have every State in the Union represented. A discharged Union soldier assured me that they were all secessionists at this post, and had threatened his life for the part he had taken in the Springfield battle. He consequently left. I do not wish to be understood as charging every member or employé of this company with disloyalty or dishonesty; a few only can I except, however.

There is one contemptible Frenchman connected with this fur company, who presumes to order not only the Indians in the country, but the agent also, and insists upon using him and the annuity goods in his charge to promote the interests of his company.

I would recommend, above every other consideration, that a new treaty be had with the Indians of this agency, by which their lands south of the river may be purchased, and they removed upon the north bank, and they assigned contiguous tracts of land fronting upon the Missouri river and running back to the British line. This arrangement could be made with all except, probably, the Sioux, and I think it might with them; then remove the Yankton Sioux alongside their friends; thus forming a nation.