

The failure to carry out promises made to them may cause them to lose confidence in the persons making them, but not in the Government itself. They have been harassed for years by the Sioux, who have urged them to join in a warfare on the whites, and have become their enemies because they would not. In June last, they succeeded in making peace with the Wahpeton and Cisseton tribe at Devil's Lake, and with a considerable portion of the different bands at Grand River and Cheyenne agencies.

On the 29th of August, three Mandans, returning to camp with six horses loaded with meat, were attacked by a large party of Sioux, and the six horses were taken from them. The three Indians not only succeeded in escaping, but in inflicting some serious injury upon the attacking Sioux. It was believed at the time that the latter belonged to bands with whom treaties of peace had been so recently signed, and a strong feeling was aroused against them, but they decided to ask the advice of the agent, and have the matter investigated, instead of attempting immediate retaliation. The following extracts, from speeches made by the chiefs in council immediately afterward, will illustrate the spirit by which they were actuated, as well as their condition and wants:

Crow's Breast, chief of Gros Ventres: We come to tell you that there is a large party of young men anxious to start on the trail to overtake the Sioux who to-day stole six of our horses; but as none of our people were killed, I would rather wait and hear from below what tribe it was, and if we start in pursuit we may meet some of the Indians with whom we have lately made peace, and in that case trouble would follow. If it was any of those with whom the treaty has been made, we ask that, in accordance with the terms of the treaty, they be compelled to make restitution.

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White Shield, chief of Arickarees: We are three nations who agree as one people. It is true that you (speaking to Mandans) have lost horses. The young Arickaree men have long wanted to go to war and kill those who place us on foot, but I always advise them to keep quiet, listen to the agent's advice, and see what the Government will do for us in the way of restitution. I feel obliged to report to our agent what I have many times said before. We look upon our "Great Father" as next to the "Great Spirit;"