

Steps are being taken for the removal of the Poncas from their present location in the southeastern corner of Dakota to the Indian Territory. Their exposure to raids from the Sioux, whose hostility arises from the fact that the Poncas are on lands claimed originally by the Sioux and included in their permanent reservation, has hitherto been a serious obstacle in the way of the progress in civilized life which they seem disposed to make. It is believed that when the necessity of giving a large share of attention to self-defense is removed they will readily come into a condition of self-support by agriculture.

The proposed removal will not only benefit the Poncas, but the reserve thus vacated will offer a suitable home for some of the wild bands of Sioux, where, with a set of agency-buildings, 100 Indian houses, and 500 acres of improved land to start with, the experiment of their civilization may be tried to advantage.

For this removal, conditioned on the consent of the Poncas, Congress at its last session appropriated \$25,000. If the efforts now being made to gain such consent are successful, the move will be commenced early in the spring. The above-named sum will not, however, defray the expenses of their removal, and purchase from other tribes the land on which they shall be located, and provide for the outlay necessary to establish them in such a way as fairly to reimburse them for improvements surrendered; and I most earnestly hope that such additional provision will be made as will enable the office to give them a fair start in their new location.