

SIR: The Indians belonging to this agency are four bands of the Sioux tribe--Upper and Lower Yanctonais, Uncpapas, and Blackfeet. Their reservation is a parallelogram formed by the forty-fifth and forty-sixth parallel of north latitude, and by the ninety-ninth and one hundred and fourth meridian of west longitude, to which is added a tract of country north of the forty-sixth parallel bounded on the east and north by the one hundredth meridian and Beaver River, and on the west and north by the one hundred and second meridian and the Cannon Ball River.

Though the district thus set part for these people has an average extent of two hundred miles from east to west and of one hundred miles from north to south, their present condition is, nevertheless, one of utter helplessness. It is now, and will probably in the future be, impossible for these Indians to become self-sustaining here. The game on which they formerly subsisted is out of their reach, and their attempts at farming are hopeless, because whatever has been planted so far has been in some places entirely, in others over one-half, ravaged by the grasshoppers. The severe frosts of winter, the droughts and hailstorms of summer, and the sandy alkaline nature of the soil in general, are additional and irremediable impediments to agriculture. This state of things is all the more to be regretted because the Indians have, in both years that I had charge of them, shown great willingness to comply with the advice given to them by their Great Father.

They have located within a circle of fifteen miles around the agency, from which they draw their weekly rations, on such spots as seemed to be the most favorable to agriculture. The agency buildings are situated on the west bank of the Missouri River, about seven miles north of the forty-sixth parallel and twenty miles south of the mouth of Cannon Ball River. In the tract of country between this river and Standing Rock are selections for farming purposes of fourteen of the chiefs and headmen, among the Upper and Lower Yanctonais, while the chiefs and headmen of the Uncpapa and Blackfeet bands have made their selections, eleven in number, within fifteen miles south and southwest of the agency. The Lower Yanctonnais have sixteen of their little farming settlements on the east side of the Missouri River. I had this spring 68 acres of prairie land opened, and 247 acres of old land stirred, at a cost of \$1,150, while the Indians themselves prepared about 75 acres; seeds of Ree corn, potatoes, turnips, squash, melons and onions, for \$832, were provided, and a good number of men engaged with their squaws in planting and weeding their fields and garden-spots. Unfortunately their hopes have again been disappointed. The first swarms of grasshoppers made their appearance early in June and destroyed everything on four farms and several garden-plots; other swarms followed in July and continued their work of devastation during the whole month. Many of the Indians with their whole families stood all day in their fields fighting these enemies, and in several places succeeded so far as to save a considerable part of their crops; but only these on the east side of the Missouri have remained unharmed. The discouragement is general, and as the leading men begin to understand their future prospects must eventually be based on their own efforts and success in agriculture, it would not be difficult to obtain their hearty consent to a speedy removal into a region where their exertions would secure them a living.

These people will hardly ever be more ready and willing than they are at the present time to receive the benefit of the wise provisions made for their permanent welfare in the treaty to receive the benefit of the wise provisions made for their permanent welfare in the treaty of 1868, at Fort Laramie; nothing, indeed, can be more liberal and salutary than the stipulations set forth in the following articles, devised then and there for the whole Sioux tribe, by such men as Generals Sherman, Harney, Terry and Augur, and the civilians, J.B. Henderan, Nathaniel G. Taylor, John B. Sanborn, and Samuel F. Tappan, commissioners on the part of the United States: