

I. O. R.
p. 63

8

the following reasons: There is not enough tillable land to cultivate. The reasons are generally too dry, and irrigating impracticable.

The active military operations during the past year have brought them under more wholesome restraint, and driven them toward civilization, but are not expected otherwise to improve their morals.

The settling of the Black Hills and country beyond has opened a highway through the agency, and a large number of people are coming and going, making it impossible to prevent traffic in ardent spirits, arms, and ammunition, ~~horse-stealing, &c.~~

The agency is not on the reservation as now defined, but in the State of Nebraska, under whose present legislation and the decisions of the United States courts we are unable to bring criminals to justice, and we are for all practical purposes without civil law.

The expectation on the part of the Government of moving the agency has deterred those having in charge more particularly their educational and Christian management from commencing operations. Bishop Hare informs me, however, that he will provide a school without further delay; which will be very satisfactory to the Indians, and, I believe, will be well attended.

If the Government, when it moves this agency, should be fortunate enough to find them good land, wood, water, and grass, they will, with proper assistance, most undoubtedly, as I said before, try to help themselves. Even though the effort on their part may not be energetic at the start, it will be a movement in the right direction, and a great satisfaction to the Government and the friends of the service, as well as relief to tax-payers, to know that the thousands of idle people they are now compelled to support, are even slowly working their way from pauperism to independence. If the people would reflect on the fact that the Sioux were a few years ago a powerful, independent, self-sustaining nation, and have been brought to poverty by the loss of their country and the destruction of their game, they would