

Standing Rock Agency, Dak.,
August 22, 1883.

CHARLES C. GILBERT.

Col. Charles C. Gilbert examined.

By the Chairman:

Q. The committee were very much interested in last night's conversation in reference to the possibility of making herders of the Indians, and we thought it wise to put on paper your views as to whether it would be better to make herders or farmers of these Indians; and if you have no objection first give your full name and official position, so that we may have the benefit of knowing the weight that is to be attached to your remarks. - A. My name is Charles C. Gilbert; I am Colonel of the 17th Infantry, commanding at Fort Yates, Dak.

Q. How long have you been in the service on the frontier among the Indians? - A. I began my service at what is now Fort Ringgold, Tex., in the month of October, 1848, and I was there until the month of January, 1850. Again, after an interval of about five years, I resumed duty on the frontier, at Fort McKavett, Tex. This was in the month of December, 1855, and I was continuously on duty in Texas from that time until the breaking out of the rebellion. From the month of May, 1861, until May, 1869, I was not on duty on the frontier. In 1869 and 1870, I was at Fort Bridger; from June, 1870, to June, 1872, at Fort Buford; from that time until August, 1874, at Fort Shaw; and from August, 1874, to October, 1878, I was at Camp Baker, Montana; from October, 1878, to October, 1879, at Fort Snelling; from October, 1879, to January, 1880, I was in the White River country, Colorado; and for the last two / ⁶³ years, and a little more, I have been at this post. That covers my Indian service.

Q. With this experience among the Indians, if you were at perfect liberty to provide the proper consideration to these Indians for the proposed cession of territory, would you give them the 25,000 cows and 1,000 bulls, or would you make some other provision for them instead, as the best thing from them? - A. At this particular place I would establish them on arable land, allowing to each head of a family only