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might be able to benefit them by writing to higher authority. Later in the fall their complaint increased not only about the quantity and quality of the beef and the very small allowance of sugar and coffee but also of the sickness then prevailing and stating that the country had been misrepresented. They said game was scarcer than in the north and there was no sickness there and they preferred the North to this country. I know they had cause to find fault with their rations as the quantity and variety promised to them before starting from Red Cloud and which was to be issued to them at this Agency was never given to them at any single issue that I was present at and I witnessed a good many issues. In fact Mr. Miles told me it was not in his power to give them the full issue as specified in the treaty, and that moreover if the Indians could not go out in the fall and support themselves for 4 or 5 months it would be impossible for them to get sufficient rations to live on from what he would have at his disposal as his Department failed to furnish enough for full issues for more than 8 months of the year.

To increase the dissatisfaction of the Northern Cheyennes the animal winter hunt which had heretofore been attended with more or less success was an utter failure. They did not find buffalo enough to get meat to live on to get back to their Agency. I met Old Crow and others of the Northern Cheyennes at Camp Supply in January who if they had not got assistance, they would have had to live on their ponies as they were entirely destitute of food. Old Crow told me then that he had enough of this country and hoped they would be allowed to go back north, from my observation both since the arrival of the Northern Cheyennes and ever since the Agency was built here the rations would not have been sufficient if the Indians had not supported themselves on the buffalo at least one third of the year. Heretofore during a large proportion of their robes and skins have been traded for Flour, bacon, sugar, and coffee to make up for the deficient supplies. Last April when I was starting for the North, "Hog" one of the head man of the Northern Cheyennes said to me, why are you going to bring the rest of the Cheyennes down here, don't you see our people are starving and dying of sickness, Let them stay North, we want to go back ourselves.