

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING,

*In answer to Senate resolution of December 17, 1884, report regarding the leasing of land on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana Territory.*

JANUARY 6, 1885.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, December 30, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate on the 17th instant, of which the following is a copy:

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to communicate to the Senate all the information in his Department in respect to any proposed or existing leases of land on the Crow Reservation for purposes of grazing, and what action, if any, he has taken in reference to the same.

In reply I transmit copies of all correspondence concerning the leasing of lands on the Crow Reservation since the report of March 25, 1884, made in response to the resolution of the Senate of February 27, 1884, introduced by Senator Vest. Said report of March 25 contains all that was on file in the Department pertaining to leases on said reservation, and is to be found in Ex. Doc. No. 139, Forty-eighth Congress, first session.

The third clause of section one of an act entitled "An act to accept and ratify the agreement submitted by the Crow Indians of Montana for the sale of a portion of their reservation in said Territory, and for other purposes, and to make the necessary appropriations for carrying out the same," contains the following:

That if at any time hereafter we, as a tribe, shall consent to permit cattle to be driven across our reservation or grazed thereon, the Secretary of the Interior shall fix the amount to be paid by parties so desiring to drive or graze cattle; all moneys arising from this source to be paid to us under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.

It appears from the foregoing that the Secretary of the Interior is not authorized to interfere with the Indians if they desire to permit cattle to be driven across their reservation or grazed thereon, except to fix the amount to be paid for such privileges, and to furnish such regulations as he may think proper with reference to the manner of payment to the Indians. This is a recent act of Congress giving to the tribe full authority to permit cattle to be driven across or grazed on the reservation, and it cannot be supposed it was inserted in the drafting of the

agreement unless it was supposed the Indians would avail themselves of the permission given them. I have no doubt such permits might be given under the provisions of section 2117 of the Revised Statutes, but it appears that Congress was not willing to leave the question in doubt, and so put this clause into the act ratifying the agreement with the Indians. I am not aware that any other treaty or agreement with Indians contains such a provision.

On the 16th day of November, J. C. Wilson, of Topeka, Kans., and John T. Blake, of Salida, Colo., deposited with the Interior Department a paper purporting to be a lease, a copy of which will be found herewith. Not being advised as to the value of the privileges granted, I could not determine whether the amount to be paid was sufficient or not; I did not, therefore, approve the lease. I understand the parties, Messrs. Wilson and Blake, do not propose to take possession of the leased lands until the lease is approved. I considered it my duty to determine what the value of such privileges would be if approved, and I have therefore ordered an inspector to go out and examine into the question and report to the Department. I do not consider it the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to determine whether such provision of the agreement with the Crows is or is not a wise one, as it is the duty of the Secretary to execute existing laws. My opinion on this question, however, may be seen from a passage contained in my last annual report, written before the knowledge of the existence of this lease had reached the Department:

While there can be no objection to allowing the Indians of the Indian Territory to lease their lands for grazing purposes, there is a serious objection to allowing the Indians on reservations outside of the Indian Territory to lease lands valuable for agricultural purposes for the purpose of grazing only. If the reservation is larger than is required for the use of the Indians occupying it, there should be a reduction thereof, and all that is not needed for the use of the Indians should be opened to settlement. The time has passed when large and valuable tracts of land fit for agriculture can be held by Indians for either hunting or grazing lands to the exclusion of actual settlers.

My views as to this reservation can be seen from the following extract from my report of 1884:

I again call attention to this reservation. Since my last report the Indians have been located on the Big Horn. This reservation is much larger than required for their support. The reservation is situated in the Territory of Montana, and contains 7,364 square miles, or 4,713,000 acres of land. At least 3,000,000 acres might be disposed of, leaving the Indians sufficient agricultural lands to become self-supporting if they desire to become agriculturists, and a sufficient amount of grazing lands should they prefer to become stock raisers. The 1,713,000 acres that would be left would give nearly, if not quite, 600 acres of land to each individual member of their tribes. The number of Crows has been estimated at 3,500; but it is quite certain that the number is much less, and probably not over 2,500 or 3,000. A portion of the money realized for such sale should be at once invested in a herd for the tribes, and cared for by the Government until such time as the Indians shall be prepared to accept and care for their stock themselves. The proceeds of the surplus lands, properly used, would make the Crows self-supporting in a few years at the furthest.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, December 29, 1884.*

SIR: I am in receipt, by Department reference for report, of a resolution of the Senate adopted on the 17th instant:

That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to communicate to the Senate all the information in his Department in respect to any proposed or existing leases of lands on the Crow Reservation for purposes of grazing, and what action, if any, he has taken in reference to the same.

In reply I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of Senate Ex. Doc. No. 139, Forty-eighth Congress, first session, which contains a copy of my report made to the Department on the 24th March, 1884, in answer to Senate resolution of the 27th February, 1884, on the same subject, together with copies of all papers and correspondence on file and of record in the Department up to the date of said report.

Copies of all papers and correspondence touching the subject-matter of the resolution filed and recorded in this Department since the date of my said report, and up to the present date, are also herewith transmitted, marked Exhibit A. With those already before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (S. Ex. Doc. No. 139, before referred to), they furnish all the information in the possession of this office on the subject.

The resolution of the Senate is herewith returned, and a copy of this report is inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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[Senate Ex. Doc. No. 139, Forty-eighth Congress, first session.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, March 25, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate of the 27th ultimo, of which the following is a copy:

"That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to inform the Senate if any lease or leases of any part of the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana have been made to any person, partnership, or association of persons, and, if so, the extent of said lease or leases, to whom made, for what length of time, and upon what terms, and under what authority of law such action has been had by his Department.

"That he also inform the Senate whether any permit has been given to any person, partnership, or association of persons to graze cattle upon said reservation, and, if so, the name of such person, partnership, or association, and by what authority of law such permit was given."

In reply I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 24th instant, with copies of the papers therein referred to.

Answers in detail to the several inquiries for information contained in said resolutions are fully set out in said report and accompanying papers.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, March 24, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by Department reference, for report, of a resolution of the Senate, dated the 27th ultimo, directing the Secretary of the Interior—

“To inform the Senate if any lease or leases of any part of the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana have been made to any person, partnership, or association of persons, and, if so, the extent of said lease or leases, to whom made, for what length of time, and upon what terms and under what authority of law such action has been had by his Department.

“That he also inform the Senate whether any permit has been given to any person, partnership, or association of persons to graze cattle upon said reservation; and, if so, the name of such person, partnership, or association, and by what authority of law such permit was given.”

Premising that the delay on the part of this office in replying has been occasioned by the necessity and importance of having a full report from the agent at the Crow Agency, so as to embrace the date of the resolution, I have the honor to state:

First. That no lease or leases of any part of the Crow Reservation in Montana have been made by or with the knowledge or concurrence of this Department to any person, partnership, or association of persons for any purposes whatsoever.

Upon examination of the files of this office, and of the Department files proper, I am unable to find any applications for leases of lands of said reservation, save in one instance—that of J. C. Wilson, of Topeka, Kans. A copy of said application and of the correspondence had thereon by the Department will be found in the papers accompanying this report.

Neither does it appear that the Crow Indians themselves have entered into any lease of the lands in question, or that overtures looking to that end have been made to them by any persons. In proof of this I refer to the report of Agent Armstrong dated 12th instant (copy herewith), wherein he says: “No lease has been made by the Crows with any party or parties, nor have any parties consulted with my Indians upon this business at any time.”

Second. In regard to the issuance of permits to graze cattle upon the Crow Reservation: Agent Armstrong in his report states that but two such permits have been issued—one to the Briggs and Ellis Cattle Company, composed of R. B. Briggs, W. D. Ellis, and George A. Ellis, to graze their herd upon the western part of the Crow Reservation from the beginning to the close of the present fiscal year, for which privilege they have paid the sum of \$250, the same being taken up on the agent's quarterly accounts for the third quarter of 1883; the other to George L. Ash, of Billings, Mont., to graze a small herd of 75 cattle temporarily upon the reservation, just opposite his ranch, for which privilege he also has paid the sum of \$37.50, which has been taken up by the agent on his quarterly accounts for the fourth quarter of 1883.

In explanation of this last-mentioned permit, Agent Armstrong states:

“A battalion of the Second Cavalry, under command of Major Merrill, had been stationed on this reservation opposite the town of Billings during the entire summer of 1882, and Mr. Ash claimed to have been authorized by the commanding officer to bring his cattle over to the south side of the Yellowstone in order that he might supply the military with milk and butter. By doing so his cattle became accustomed to the range, and it was difficult for Mr. Ash to keep them off.

“They were removed once by the agency herder, but returned. Late in the fall (1883) Mr. Ash came to me here and begged so hard that I gave him permission to allow his small herd to remain for a limited time on the range, they being already on the south side of the river, as I understand.”

The facts in connection with the Briggs permit, so far as the action of this Department is concerned, are as follows:

May 9, 1883, Agent Armstrong reported to this office that Thomas Kent, a white man lawfully married to a Crow Indian woman, and for some years prior resident on the reservation, had recently found a purchaser for his cattle, and had entered into an agreement for the delivery of the herd (about 1,100 head) to the purchaser immediately after the approaching round up. The agent stated that in view of the provisions of section 2138, Revised Statutes, prohibiting, except by order of the Secretary of War, the removal of stock from the Indian country for the purposes of trade or commerce, he felt unwilling to allow the cattle to be removed until this office had been informed of the transaction, and had passed upon the question of Kent's right to dispose of the cattle and remove them from the reservation.

May 22, 1883, this office reported the facts to the Department, and, referring to the statutes bearing upon and the particular features of the case, submitted whether a substantial compliance with the statutes might not be had by authority being given to the agent to permit Kent, upon due proof of ownership, and under his (the agent's) supervision, to sell and remove his cattle from the reservation.

May 24, 1883, the Department concurred in the views of this office, and directed that the agent's permit for the sale and removal of the cattle should be given, provided the ownership of Kent was satisfactorily shown.

May 29, 1883, Agent Armstrong was so advised by this office.

June 19, 1883, R. B. Briggs, of Billings, Mont. (through Agent Armstrong), applied to this office for permission for a herd of about 750 head of cattle, lately bought by him of Thomas Kent, to remain on their present range, the extreme western portion of the Crow Reservation, assigning the following reasons for his request:

"This bunch of cattle was born and raised where they now range by Mr. Kent (he having married with the Crow Indian people), and he will yet have the management of them on the range for me. They feed almost entirely by themselves, being entirely apart from any stock owned by Indians or the Government, and in the event of my being compelled to remove them, they would in spite of every effort I could make to prevent them, naturally largely drift back to their old feeding grounds again.

"In view of the fact that the Crow Agency will so soon be removed to Fort Custer, and, as I understand, the strong probability of all this western portion of the Crow Reservation being thrown open to the public, I entertain hopes that it may not be inconsistent with the interests of your Department to grant my request."

In transmitting this application, Agent Armstrong, under date of June 25, 1883, after confirming Mr. Briggs's statement as to his purchase of the cattle from Kent, wrote this office as follows:

"Mr. Briggs intended in the first place to have removed his cattle as soon as they were delivered to him, but was unfortunate in having a partner who had possession of their ranch in Wyoming, and with whom he had some difficulty just at the time the cattle were turned over to him, so that he had no place to take his cattle to. If the agency were to remain here in the place it now is, I should be very much opposed to allowing the cattle to graze on the reservation, because it has been demonstrated in too many instances that Indians and white people cannot raise stock in the same country; but as we shall probably get removed to the lower end of the reservation before many months, it is possible that this herd may be allowed to remain without detriment to the service or my Indians."

July 7, 1883, this office instructed the agent that under the circumstances stated it saw no objections to Mr. Briggs's herd being *temporarily* permitted to remain on the reservation, provided the Indians consented, and such compensation as might be prescribed by the agent, with the approval of the Department, was paid by Mr. Briggs for the privilege.

October 24, 1883, Agent Armstrong reported to this office that he had, in accordance with said instructions, issued to R. B. Briggs a permit to graze his herd of cattle (1,000) on the Crow Reservation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, for the sum of \$250, which would appear in his (the agent's) account for the third quarter of 1883.

December 24, 1883, United States Indian Inspector Ward was, in consequence of certain representations made to this office by the governor of Montana Territory, directed by the Department to inspect the Crow Agency. In the discharge of these duties he made a full investigation of the Briggs case, which, indeed, appears to have been the principal cause of complaint. A copy of so much of his report, made to the Department under date of the 7th ultimo, as relates to this case will be found in the accompanying papers.

Upon application to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, the Department, under date of August 16, 1883, granted permission for all cattle destined for shipment on said railroad to be driven through the Crow Reservation upon the accustomed trails and for the remainder of the then present season only at the uniform rate of ten (10) cents per head, the time of crossing to be limited to ten days, with an additional payment of one cent per head for each day consumed in excess of ten days.

In answer to the inquiry contained in the resolution as to the authority of law for granting grazing permits on Indian Reservations, I have to say that I know of no law which expressly authorizes the granting of such permits, neither do I know of any law which prohibits it. While the Department recognizes the right of Indians to allow grazing privileges under the provisions of section 2117 of the Revised Statutes, it does not recognize their right to lease the lands or create any incumbrance thereon or in any manner give to parties rights that will exist after the lands cease to be a part of the Indian reservation. (Department letter to Senator Logan on this subject, in connection with the Crow Reservation, March 6, 1884.)

Copies of all papers and correspondence on file and of record in this Department referred to in this report, as also on the subject-matter of the resolution, are herewith submitted, and the resolution, with a copy of this report, is herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,  
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
Crow Agency, Montana T., May 9, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to report that when I came to this agency I found several white men residing on this reservation who are legally married to Indian women, and who each have herds of cattle. One of these men, Thomas Kent, who has the largest herd (about 1,100), has lately found a purchaser for his cattle, and entered into an agreement to deliver them to the other party immediately after our round-up which begins next week. I consider it my duty to report the affair in order that the honorable Commissioner may be advised of the transaction in case there be any question as to whether Mr. Kent has the right to dispose of these cattle, and remove them from the reservation. Section 2138 Rev. Stat. prescribes penalties and punishments for removing stock from the Indian country for the purposes of trade or commerce, but it may be that this law does not apply to such a case. I felt unwilling to allow the cattle to be removed until the honorable Commissioner had been informed of the transaction. It is my opinion that Mr. Kent has committed no dishonest act in the management of his herd since my arrival. As to whether or not any wrong was perpetrated by him during the terms of office of my predecessors, I have no information.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,  
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, May 22, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of a letter received from Agent Armstrong, Crow Agency, dated the 9th instant, in which he states that Thomas Kent, a white man, lawfully married to an Indian woman on the Crow Reservation, and owning a large herd of about 1,100 cattle, has lately found a purchaser therefor, and has entered into an agreement to deliver them to the purchaser immediately after the annual round-up, commencing the following week. The agent submits the question, whether, in view of section 2138 Revised Statutes, prescribing a penalty for removing cattle from the Indian country, Mr. Kent has the right to dispose of said cattle and remove them from the reservation?

Kent's status upon the Crow Reserve has before been reported to the Department, and some four years ago the then Indian agent (Keller) made some general statements in regard to squaw men which appeared to implicate Kent in some questionable transactions regarding cattle, but it does not appear that anything was ever distinctly proved against him, and it was afterwards understood that he had removed to another part of the reservation, and had given no further cause for complaint.

Section 2127 of the Revised Statute provides—

"The agent of each tribe of Indians, lawfully residing in the Indian country, is authorized to sell for the benefit of such Indians any cattle, horses, or other live stock belonging to the Indians and not required for their use and subsistence, under such regulations as shall be established by the Secretary of the Interior. But no such sale shall be made so as to interfere with the execution of any order lawfully issued by the Secretary of War, connected with the movement or subsistence of troops."

Section 2138 of the Revised Statutes reads—

"Every person who drives or removes, except by authority of an order lawfully issued by the Secretary of War connected with the movement or subsistence of troops, any cattle, horses, or other stock from the Indian country for the purposes of trade or commerce, shall be punishable by imprisonment for not more than three years or by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars, or both."

The current of legal opinion appears to be that no citizen of the United States can obtain exemption from the laws of the United States which regulate intercourse with Indians by entering their territory within our limits and incorporating himself with them by whatever form. (Sec. 2, Opins. Atty. General, 402-7, Id. 183.)

From the wording of section 2127 Revised Statutes it would seem that the cattle in question can only be sold by the agent under direction of the Department, but considering the peculiar features of the case I submit for your consideration whether a substantial compliance with the statutes may not be had by authority being given to the agent to permit Kent, upon due proof of ownership and under his (the agent's) supervision, to sell and remove his cattle from the reservation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. L. STEVENS,  
Acting Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, May 24, 1883.

SIR: I have considered your report of the 22d instant, in the case of one Thomas Kent, a white man married to an Indian woman on the Crow Reservation in Montana, who is the owner of a herd of about 1,100 cattle, the sale and removal of which from the reservation is contemplated by him.

In view of the facts as reported in this case and in order to a compliance with the provisions of sections 2127 and 2138 Revised Statutes, on the subject, I concur in your recommendation that the agent's permit for the sale and removal of the cattle, if ownership is satisfactorily shown, should be given.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,  
Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, May 29, 1883.

SIR: Replying to your letter of the 9th instant, inquiring as to the right of Thomas Kent, a white man lawfully married to an Indian woman living on the Crow Reservation, to sell and remove a herd of 1,000 cattle owned and held by him on the reserve, I have to say that in order to a substantial compliance with the provisions of sections 2127 and 2138 Revised Statutes United States, bearing on the subject, the honorable Secretary concurs in the recommendation of this office that Mr. Kent be permitted, upon due proof of ownership and under your supervision, to sell and remove his cattle from the reserve.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
Commissioner.

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,  
United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Montana.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
Crow Agency, June 25, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith the application of Mr. R. R. Briggs, for permit to graze cattle on this reservation. This is the same party I wrote about to the honorable Commissioner in my communication dated May 9, as having purchased the herd of cattle belonging to Thomas Kent, a white man married to a Crow Indian woman, and living on this reservation. Mr. Briggs intended, in the first place, to have removed his cattle as soon as they were delivered to him, but was unfortunate in having a partner who had possession of their ranch in Wyoming, and with whom he had some difficulty just at the time the cattle were turned over to him, so that he had no place to take his cattle to. If the agency was to remain here in the place it now is, I should be very much opposed to allowing the cattle to graze on the reservation, because it has been demonstrated in too many instances that Indians and white people cannot raise stock in the same country; but as we shall probably get removed to the lower end of the reservation before many months, it is possible that this herd may be allowed to remain without detriment to the service or to my Indians.

Even under such circumstances I prefer not to issue permit to graze unless specially directed to do so by the honorable Commissioner, and write now for instructions in the matter.

Very respectfully, &c.,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

[Inclosure.]

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
Crow Indian Agency, June 19, 1883.

DEAR SIR: Agreeable to instructions from Major Armstrong, I write you to obtain your permission to allow to remain upon their present range, the extreme western portion of the Crow Indian Reservation lands, a herd of about 750 head of cattle I

have lately bought of Thomas Kent. This bunch of cattle was born and raised where they now range by Mr. Kent (he having married with the Crow Indian people), and he will yet have the management of them on the range for me. They feed almost entirely by themselves, being entirely apart from any stock owned by Indians or the Government, and in the event of my being compelled to remove them, they would, in spite of every effort I could make to prevent them, naturally largely drift back to their old feeding grounds again.

In view of the fact that the Crow Agency will so soon be removed to Fort Custer, and, as I understand, the strong probability of all this western portion of the Crow Reservation being thrown open to the public, I entertain hopes that it may not be inconvenient with the interests of your Department to grant my request.

Yours, very respectfully,

R. B. BRIGGS,  
*Billings, Mont.*

Hon. HIRAM PRICE.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, July 7, 1883.*

SIR: I have received your letter of the 25th ultimo, inclosing application of R. B. Briggs, of Billings, Mont., for permission to graze a herd of about 750 head of cattle, recently purchased from Thomas Kent, upon the Crow Reservation.

Mr. Briggs states that this herd was born and raised where they now range on the reserve by Mr. Kent, who will yet have the management of them; that they feed almost entirely by themselves, being apart from any stock owned by Indians or the Government; and, in the event of his being compelled to remove them, they would, in spite of any effort he could make to prevent it, naturally drift back to their old feeding grounds again.

Under the circumstances, I see no objection to Mr. Briggs's herd being temporarily permitted to remain on the reserve, provided the Indians consent, and such compensation, say so much per head per annum, as may be prescribed by you, with approval of this Department, be paid by Mr. Briggs for the privilege. (See section 269, Instructions to Indian Agents.)

By the deficiency act approved March 3, 1883, the proceeds of all pasturage on any Indian reservation, except those of the five civilized tribes, are directed to be covered into the Treasury for the benefit of the tribe, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.

In the event of Mr. Briggs continuing to hold his cattle upon the reserve, you will take up the proceeds upon your periodical cash account and hold the amount until such regulations shall have been announced and communicated to you.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,  
*United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Mont.*

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UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Crow Agency, October 24, 1883.*

SIR: I have the honor to report for approval that, in compliance with instructions contained in letter from the Hon. Commissioner ("L" No. 11793, dated July 7, 1883), I have issued to R. B. Briggs a permit to graze his herd of cattle (1,000) on the Crow Reservation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, for the sum of \$250, which will appear in my account for the third quarter, 1883.

Very respectfully,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

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[Inclosure.]

CROW AGENCY, MONTANA, *September 29, 1883.*

I certify on honor that I have this day paid to H. J. Armstrong, United States Indian agent at the Crow Agency, Montana, the sum of \$250, and no more, payment in full



for permit to graze my herd of cattle upon the Crow Reservation from July 31, 1883, to June 30, 1884. Permit issued in accordance with instructions contained in letter from the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated July 7, 1883.

R. B. BRIGGS.

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[Northern Pacific Railroad Company. H. Villard, president.]

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,  
New York, May 19, 1883.

DEAR SIR: I am informed there are large herds of cattle tributary to this company's railroad in Montana which now go to the Union Pacific Railroad, on account of the Crow Indian Reservation lying between the ranges and our road. It is very important that this company should obtain from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs authority for the cattle to be driven across the reservation. Will you kindly call upon Commissioner Price and see what can be done in the premises?

Yours, truly,

H. VILLARD,  
President.

Hon. J. H. MITCHELL,  
"The Ebbitt," Washington, D. C.

[Indorsement.]

EBBITT HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C., May 21, 1883.

The inclosed letter from H. Villard, president of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, is respectfully referred to the Hon. H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who will oblige me by advising me of his action on the application.

JOHN H. MITCHELL.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, May 25, 1883.

SIR: I am in receipt by your reference of a letter from the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, dated 19th instant, in which he states that he is informed there are large herds of cattle tributary to said company's railroad in Montana, which now go to the Union Pacific Railroad, on account of the Crow Indian Reservation lying between the ranges and the first-mentioned road, and urging the importance of authority being obtained from this Department to drive cattle across the reservation.

As is usual in all such applications, the matter has been referred to the local United States Indian agents for particulars, which will enable this office to make an intelligent recommendation to the Department in the premises.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
Commissioner.

Hon. JOHN H. MITCHELL, Ebbitt House, City.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, May 29, 1883.

SIR: By reference of Hon. J. H. Mitchell I have received a letter from the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, dated the 19th instant, in which he states that he is informed that there are large herds of cattle tributary to said railroad, which now go to the Union Pacific Railroad on account of the Crow reserve lying between the ranges and their road, and asking that authority be granted to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company for the driving of cattle across the reserve.

In order to intelligent action by the Department in this matter, you are directed to forthwith ascertain and report to this office—

(1) The most feasible route or routes for driving cattle across the reserve in the direction of the Northern Pacific Railroad, so as to cause the least interference with the Indians.

(2) The probable length of time to be consumed in the transit over such route or routes.

- (3) The amount of tax per head that should be imposed on owners of stock so driven across the reserve.
- (4) Any other suggestions that you may deem of importance.
- Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,  
*United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Montana.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Crow Agency, Montana, June 12, 1883.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following reply to the questions contained in your "L" 9332, dated May 29, 1883, relating to the driving of cattle through this reservation.

(1) The only points on the Northern Pacific Railway for shipping cattle that will be reached by parties in Wyoming are Billings and Custer Station (on this reservation). To reach the former the route will be down Clark's Fork, a distance of about 65 miles, which will take six or seven days to drive across. This drive will do the Indians no harm.

To reach Custer Station the route will be down the Little Horn, a distance of 100 miles.

The drive down the Little Horn can be made this season without interfering with the Indians, but after we have removed the agency to that part of the reservation it will be a great annoyance to have large herds of cattle pass down through our settlements.

It will endanger the cattle belonging to the agency as well as those which it is expected the Indians will have issued to them as soon as they begin to locate on their separate homes. It will keep my herder and perhaps another employé busy during the driving season guarding against these possible losses, and will virtually take possession of that portion of the reservation in the vicinity of Custer Station.

I really do not see why the cattle-men who are located in Wyoming, just south of the southeastern part of this reservation, cannot drive down Tongue River or the Rosebud, and ship from Miles City or some other place east of this reservation, as to ship from Custer Station. I wish to refer the honorable Commissioner to my letter on this subject, written from Fort Custer on the 23d or 24th of May.

(2) The time occupied on the drive down Little Horn will be about 10 days.

(3) It has been the custom of my predecessor to issue permits to drive across this reservation at 33½ cents a head, which rate I reduced to 25 cents, which is low enough for the route down the Little Horn, and probably for any other route, but a rate of 16½ cents per head might be established for the route down Clark's Fork, if the honorable Commissioner deems it best.

Very respectfully,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*August 10, 1883.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a letter referred to this office by Hon. J. H. Mitchell, from the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, dated May 19, last, stating that there are large herds of cattle tributary to the company's railroad in Montana which now go to the Union Pacific Railroad on account of the Crow Indian Reservation lying between the ranges and said railroad, and asking that authority be obtained from the Department for such cattle to be driven across the reservation.

On the 29th of May last the subject was referred to the United States Indian agent at the Crow Agency for report. By letter of the 12th June last (herewith inclosed), Agent Armstrong reports as follows:

"That the only points on the reservation that will be reached by parties in Wyoming shipping cattle are Billings and Custer Stations; to reach the former the route

will be down Clark's Fork a distance of about 65 miles, occupying six or seven days to drive across. This drive will, it is said, do the Indians no harm.

"To reach Custer the route will be down the Little Horn, a distance of about 100 miles."

The drive down Little Horn, occupying about 10 days, can be made this season without interfering with the Indians, but after the agency is removed it will seriously endanger the agency herd, and the Indians' cattle which it is expected they will have issued to them when they locate on their separate homes. It will keep agency employes busy guarding against possible losses, and will virtually take possession of that portion of the reservation in the vicinity of Custer Station.

It further appears from the agent's letter that it has been customary to issue permits to drive cattle across the reservation at 33½ cents per head, which he has since reduced to 25 cents for the route down the Little Horn, and that a rate of 16½ cents per head might be established for the route down Clark's Fork, subject to the approval of this Department.

In view of the fact that the removal of the Crow Agency is not likely to take place for some little time yet, I have the honor to recommend that authority be given the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to have cattle destined for its road driven through the reservation upon the accustomed trails, and for the remainder of the present season only, at an average rate of 15 cents per head, no delay to be made in crossing. The return of the papers herewith inclosed to the files of this office is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington August 10, 1883.*

SIR: I return herewith the inclosures which accompanied your letter of this date in relation to the tax on cattle driven across a portion of the Crow Indian Reservation, en route for shipment by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

Agreeably to your recommendation, authority is hereby granted to the said railroad company to have cattle destined for its road driven through the said reservation upon the accustomed trails and for the remainder of the present season only, at the rate of 15 cents per head, no delay to be made in crossing.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*August 11, 1883.*

SIR: Referring to office report of the 10th instant, and to Department letter in reply thereto, of the same date granting authority to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to have cattle destined for its road driven through the Crow Indian Reservation, in Montana, upon the accustomed trails and for the remainder of the present season only, at the rate of 15 cents per head, no delay to be made in crossing, I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of a telegram, dated the 10th instant, addressed by T. F. Oakes to Hon. J. H. Mitchell, and referred to this office by the latter, in which Mr. Oakes says that "15 cents per head is excessive. The charge through the Indian Territory has never exceeded 10 cents per head, and in many cases has not exceeded 5 cents per head."

The Creek law provides that "drovers and movers shall be allowed to pass through the Muskogee Nation free of tax, provided that not more than twenty-five days are consumed in making the journey; but where more than twenty-five days are consumed in passing through the nation the owner or person in charge of the stock shall pay a tax of 5 cents per head for each day so consumed over the twenty-five days, providing such delay is not caused by high water or other providential hindrance." (Laws Muskogee Nation, 1880, page 62.)

The Cherokee law provides that persons, except citizens of the Cherokee Nation, may drive stock through the nation by paying, "for beef, work, and stock cattle, except sucking calves, 5 cents each," &c. (Laws of Cherokee Nation, 1881, page 246.)

By Department letter of November 4, 1881, a tax of 10 cents per head was author-

ized for each head of stock crossing the Uintah Reservation, the time of crossing to be limited to ten days, and an additional tax of 1 cent per head for each day exceeding ten.

The tax fixed for crossing the Uintah Reservation seems to be fair and reasonable, and, after due consideration, I am of the opinion that it should be adopted in respect to cattle crossing the Crow Reservation, and so recommend.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, August 16, 1883.*

SIR: Agreeably to the recommendation of your letter of 11th instant, Department authority of 10th instant, granting the Northern Pacific Railroad Company permission to drive cattle destined for its road through the Crow Indian Reservation, in Montana, upon the accustomed trails and for the remainder of the present season only at the rate of 15 cents per head, no delay to be made in crossing, is hereby modified; the payment to be 10 cents per head and the time of crossing to be limited to ten days, with an additional payment of 1 cent per head for each day exceeding ten.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*August 18, 1883,*

SIR: Referring to the telegram from T. F. Oakes, esq., of the 10th instant, referred to this office by you, in reference to driving cattle through the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana Territory, I inclose herewith a copy of Department communication of the 16th instant, fixing the rate at which cattle may be driven across said reservation at 10 cents per head; the time of crossing to be limited to ten days, with an additional payment of 1 cent per head for each day in excess of ten.

This is a modification to the extent above indicated of Department letter of the 10th instant, granting authority to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to have cattle, destined for its road, driven through the Crow Indian Reservation, upon the accustomed trails, and for the remainder of the present season only at the rate of 15 cents per head, no delay to be made in crossing.

I also inclose a copy of office report of the 11th instant, to which Department letter of the 16th instant is a reply.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. JOHN H. MITCHELL,  
*Ebbitt House, Washington, D. C.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*August 23, 1883.*

SIR: Referring to office letter to you of May 29 last, relative to the application of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to have cattle, destined for its road, driven across the Crow Reservation, and to your reply thereto of June 12 last, you are now advised that, under date of the 16th instant, authority has been granted by the Department for cattle so destined to be driven through the reservation upon the accustomed trails and for the remainder of the present season only, at the uniform rate of 10 cents per head, the time of crossing to be limited to ten days, with an additional payment of 1 cent per head for each day consumed in excess of ten days. You will be governed accordingly.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,  
*United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Montana Territory.*

TOPEKA, KANS., August 1, 1883.

SIR: Myself and business associates desire to herd some cattle on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana, and for that purpose would like to lease some land from that tribe, but the agent is in some doubt regarding the views of the Department touching such matters.

Will you be kind enough to request the Department to advise the agent, and also myself, whether a lease of such as the Indians cannot use, upon terms entirely satisfactory to the Indians, the agent, and the Department, would be objectionable to the Department.

Truly yours,

Hon. THOS. RYAN,  
Washington, D. C.

J. C. WILSON.

[Indorsement.]

Respectfully referred to the honorable Secretary of the Interior with the request that he grant the writer's request.

THOS. RYAN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, August 11, 1883.

SIR: In reply to your communication of August 1, 1883, in regard to leasing Crow Indian lands, I see no objection to allowing the Indians to grant permission to parties desiring to do so on fair and reasonable terms, subject to such supervision as the Department may consider proper to prevent the Indians from being imposed upon.

Such privileges can only be recognized when granted by the proper authority of the tribe, and the benefits must be participated in by all the tribe, not by a favored few only. It is not desirable that a large number of white herders should be allowed to go into the Indian Territory, as their presence will be of doubtful advantage to the Indians. A few responsible men can easily oversee Indian herders, who it is believed can be employed advantageously to the cattle owners as well as to the Indians. The Indians so employed will so become skillful herders, familiar with cattle raising, and may avail themselves of the knowledge thus acquired and become stock-raisers themselves.

The Department will see to it that under such agreements, however, no permanent improvements are erected, and that no disreputable persons are allowed to remain on the reservation.

All persons entering under the authority of such agreement, either as owners or employes, will be required to conform strictly to the statutes and rules of the Department with respect to the introduction of liquors, fire-arms, ammunition, &c., in the Indian country. With reference to the mode and manner of payment, such payments should, as far as practicable, be made in cattle to be owned by the tribe, and should be preserved as the nucleus of a herd that in a few years shall take the place of the herds now occupying the reservation and in which the Indians have no interest.

While the Department will not recognize the agreement or lease you mention, nor any other of like character, to the extent of approving the same, nor to the extent of assuming to settle controversies that may arise between the different parties holding such agreements, yet the Department will endeavor to see that parties having no agreement with the Indians are not allowed to interfere with those who have. Whenever there shall be any just cause for dissatisfaction on the part of the Indians, or when it shall appear that improper persons, under cover of such lease or agreement, are allowed on the reservation by parties holding such agreement, or for any reason the Department shall consider it desirable for the public interest to do so, it will exercise its right of supervision to the extent of removing all occupants from the reservation without reference to such lease or agreement, on such notice as shall be right and proper under the circumstances under which the parties have entered such reservation, and have complied with the terms of the agreement and instructions of the Department.

All parties accepting such agreement shall accept the same subject to all the conditions herein, and subject to any future action of Congress and the Department as herein stated in relation to occupants of such Territory.

Instructions will be issued to the agents in accordance with this letter.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,  
Acting Secretary.

Mr. J. C. WILSON,  
Topeka, Kansas.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, August 11, 1883.

SIR: Having received a letter from Mr. J. C. Wilson, of Topeka, Kans., inquiring about leasing Crow Indian lands, I have written him a letter substantially as follows, which will govern you in your action in the matter:

I see no objection to allowing the Indians to grant permission to parties desiring to do so on fair and reasonable terms, subject to such supervision as the Department may consider proper to prevent the Indians from being imposed upon; no lands to be leased which in your judgment are needed for the use of the Indians.

Such privileges can only be recognized when granted by the proper authority of the tribe; and the benefits must be participated in by all of the tribe, not by a favored few only. It is not desirable that a large number of white herders should be allowed to go into the Indian Territory, as their presence will be of doubtful advantage to the Indians. A few responsible men can easily oversee Indian herders, who, it is believed, can be employed advantageously to the cattle owners as well as to the Indians. The Indians so employed will soon become skilled herders familiar with cattle raising, and may avail themselves of the knowledge thus acquired and become stockraisers themselves.

The Department will see to it that under such agreements, however, no permanent improvements are erected, and that no disreputable persons are allowed to remain on the reservation.

All persons entering under the authority of such agreement, either as owners or employes, will be required to conform strictly to the statutes and rules of the Department, with respect to the introduction of liquors, fire-arms, ammunition, &c., in the Indian country. With reference to the mode and manner of payment, such payments should, as far as practicable, be made in cattle, to be owned by the tribe, and should be preserved as the nucleus of a herd that in a few years shall take the place of the herds now occupying the reservation, and in which the Indians have no interest.

While the Department will not recognize the agreement or lease you mention nor any other of like character, to the extent of approving the same, nor to the extent of assuming to settle controversies that may arise between the different parties holding such agreements, yet the Department will endeavor to see that parties having no agreements with the Indians are not allowed to interfere with those who have. Whenever there shall be any just cause for dissatisfaction on the part of the Indians, or when it shall appear that improper persons under cover of such lease or agreement are allowed on the reservation by parties holding such agreements, or, for any reason, the Department shall consider it desirable for the public interest to do so, it will exercise its right of supervision to the extent of removing all occupants from the reservation without reference to such lease or agreement, on such notice as shall be right and proper under the circumstances under which the parties have entered such reservation, and have complied with the terms of the agreement and instructions of the Department.

All parties accepting such agreements should accept the same subject to all the conditions herein and subject to any future action of Congress and the Department as herein stated, in relation to occupants of such territory.

Very respectfully,

HENRY J. ARMSTRONG,  
Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Montana.

M. L. JOSLYN,  
Acting Secretary.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY,  
Helena, Mont., December 23, 1883.

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C.:

The interests of your Department and citizens of Montana demand the immediate presence here of a special agent thoroughly reliable. By conferring with me on arrival he will be placed in possession of important information. Confidential.

JOHN SCHUYLER CROSBY,  
Governor.

[Indorsement.]

Respectfully referred to Hon. Secretary of the Interior.

H. PRICE,  
Commissioner.

DECEMBER 24, 1883.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
December 24, 1883.TO HENRY WARD,  
*Indian Inspector, Yakima, Wash.:*

Proceed at once to the inspection of agencies in Montana. Go first to Helena and see the governor. Acknowledge receipt.

H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary.*HELENA, MONT., *February 7, 1884.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to report my proceedings under Department orders of December 24, 1883, as follows:

I received the mail copy of the order at Warm Springs Agency, Oregon, January 6, 1884. I proceeded as soon and as expeditiously as practicable to this city and consulted with Governor Crosby. I found that he had complaints to make concerning the condition of affairs at the Crow Agency, in this Territory. The complaints were somewhat vague and indefinite. They amounted to a charge that the agent, Maj. H. J. Armstrong, was allowing one R. B. Briggs, of Kansas, or of New York, or of both places, to keep a herd of cattle on the reservation, said herd having been purchased of one Thomas Kent, a white man, married to a Crow woman who has lived many years upon the reservation. There was also an intimation that Mr. Briggs was constantly adding to his herd by purchases of parties living on the reservation, and also by purchases from the outside. Insinuations were also made that S. B. Roberts, foreman in charge of Mr. Briggs's herd, was inclined to sharp practices as against other cattle owners. The governor made an imputation upon Major Armstrong's personal integrity. He said it had been reported to him that while the sale of the herd of cattle by Kent to Briggs was pending, the agent interfered and threatened to stop the sale unless Kent would secure \$5,000 of the purchase price to his wife; that Kent consented, and that afterwards Major Armstrong caused the \$5,000 to be deposited in bank to his (Armstrong's) personal credit. The intimation was clearly made that Agent Armstrong intended to in some way personally profit by this arrangement. I proceeded in due time to the agency, and sent for Kent and Roberts; they were some time getting in; were delayed perhaps by the severe weather and the hard traveling. After they appeared I took their affidavits, which I herewith inclose. Kent's marked Exhibit A, Roberts's Exhibit B. It will be noticed that the two affidavits agree in all essential particulars, and as one of the affiants represents the accusers and the other the accused, I think it may be fairly assumed that the two documents present the facts about as they are. It appears from these affidavits that Thomas Kent last May sold to R. B. Briggs, of New York, as representative of the Briggs-Ellis Company, Limited, 1,034 head of cattle; that said cattle have since remained upon their old range upon the reservation; that Mr. Briggs has sold from said herd about 200 beef cattle and dry heifers that have been driven off; that he has purchased 250 head of cattle from outside parties and driven them upon the reservation, adding them to his herd, and that he has increased his herd by some 20 or 30 head of cattle purchased of parties living upon the reservation. Kent and Roberts differ somewhat in their estimates of the number of beef cattle and dry heifers sold and driven off, the former making it 180, and the latter 240. As Roberts has the best means of knowing the exact number, I think his estimate is likely the most nearly correct, but the discrepancy is not material.

The authority under which Agent Armstrong has acted in allowing Mr. Briggs to range his herd of cattle upon the reservation is contained in a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated July 7, 1883, a copy of which is inclosed marked Exhibit C. It will be noticed that Mr. Briggs estimated his herd at 750. He evidently reported the number that remained after the sale of beef cattle and dry heifers. Agent Armstrong told me that the understanding between him and Mr. Briggs was that Briggs should be allowed to range on the reservation the number of cattle originally purchased by him of Kent, about 1,000, and that he was therefore allowed to bring in the 250 to make up for the number of beef cattle and dry heifers sold off. The compensation to be paid by Briggs to the Crow tribe was estimated upon the basis of 1,000 cattle herded; the rate being a quarter of a dollar a piece. The amount due on this basis has been paid. See Briggs' certificate of payment, Exhibit D, and Armstrong's receipt, Exhibit E. Whether in this matter Agent Armstrong has exceeded his authority is of course a question for the Department to decide. And whether he is in any degree culpable for not preventing Mr. Briggs from slightly enlarging his herd by purchases from residents of the reservation is also a question for the Department to determine. Last spring's calves, of course, have remained with

the herd; none of them were counted in the sale of Kent to Briggs; those that had then appeared went with the herd. The total number of these calves, that are now of course almost yearlings, is estimated at from 400 to 500. Briggs has therefore upon the reservation a herd of from 1,500 to 1,600 head of cattle. The calf increase, however, is legitimate. Mr. Kent's affidavit, it will be noted, completely exonerates Agent Armstrong from any imputation of unworthy motive or purpose in the five-thousand-dollar matter; the agent simply sought the good and the security of Kent's Indian wife. He never desired that the money should be deposited to his personal credit. The money as a matter of fact was never deposited at all. Mr. Briggs drew a check of \$5,000 to Kent's wife, to be paid when indorsed by her and the United States Indian Agent, not Major Armstrong, but the agent whoever he might be; the check remained about a month with Kent, and was then sent to the agent. A little over two months later, or about the 20th of September, the check was indorsed by Mrs. Kent and the agent, and delivered to Mr. Kent. He drew the money upon it and invested the same with the rest of his means. Agent Armstrong says he consented to abandon his original design of having the money invested in United States bonds for the benefit of Mrs. Kent, and to allow Mr. Kent to take the money only upon satisfactory assurances that he (Kent) intended to do right by his family. The agent while indorsing Mr. Kent's statement of the transaction as substantially correct, says he is mistaken in one statement.

Mr. Kent says that about a month after the check was drawn the agent sent to him for it and that he sent it to the agency. Major Armstrong says that he did not send after the check; that he never wanted the check in his possession. He did send word to Kent to bring his wife to the agency with the check that it might be indorsed and the proceeds invested in Government bonds. But as the message was a verbal one there might have very easily been a mistake made in its delivery. Mr. Kent resented the agent's interference in this matter as too much of an intermeddling with his (Kent's) family affairs. But Major Armstrong says that several white men who have married Crow women and made considerable money through the advantages which the marriages gave them, have, after realizing upon their property, deserted their wives. He had reason to believe that Kent proposed doing the same thing, and did not propose that he should leave his Indian family destitute.

At Stillwater I saw several men to whom the governor had referred me as able to furnish material information concerning the iniquitous operations of Mr. Briggs and his man Roberts. But they were not able to inform me of anything beyond what is detailed in Kent's and Roberts's affidavits; they knew of no instance in which Roberts had sought to brand calves on the reservation belonging to residents thereon. They were not aware that Mr. Briggs had ever attempted to take any undue advantage of any one. One individual, Alex. Huntley, the husband of a Crow wife, did have a long complaint to make against Roberts on his own account, but it was entirely a personal matter and in nowise involving Major Armstrong.

I am satisfied that the complaints in this matter all originated in the jealousy and excessive nervousness of the old residents and stockmen of Montana. They were afraid that Mr. Briggs would obtain some authority of some sort through his privilege of ranging cattle upon the reservation. It is the common expectation in this Territory that the western portion of the Crow Reservation will soon be ceded by the Indians and thrown open to settlement or occupancy by the whites, and I suppose it was feared that Mr. Briggs might continue ranging his cattle upon the reservation until the time for throwing open should come, and would then by virtue of being in possession have some immense advantage over the old-timers. And it was exclaimed: "No foreigners to be allowed to come in here and get possession of the best cattle-ranges to the exclusion of those who have made the Territory what it is." This conundrum sums up completely Governor Crosby's representations and reasonings on the subject. The governor assumed that R. B. Briggs was one of a number of Kansas gentlemen of that name who constituted a heavy cattle-firm. But at Stillwater and at the agency I was informed that he was of New York, and had no connection with the Kansas Briggs. The latter was at the reservation last summer for the purpose of negotiating a lease or making some arrangement for grazing and herding cattle upon the reservation, but did nothing.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY WARD,  
United States Indian Inspector.

Hon. H. M. TELLER,  
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.



## EXHIBIT A.

TERRITORY OF MONTANA,  
*Crow Indian Agency:*

THOMAS KENT, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I live on Bridger Creek, near Gray Cliff Railroad station, on the Crow Indian Reservation. I am a farmer and stock-raiser, and have been engaged as such on the Crow Reservation for about ten years. During the month of May, 1883, I sold to the Briggs & Ellis Company, limited, 1,034 head of cattle. All my negotiations were with R. B. Briggs, representative of said company, and all the business was transacted directly with him. I delivered the said herd of cattle to the said Briggs during the spring round-up on the reservation, from the 1st of June to about the 10th of July. As I delivered the cattle to Mr. Briggs he delivered the beef cattle of the herd, and some dry heifers, to William Wright, a butcher, of Livingston, Mont., in pursuance, I suppose, of a contract of sale previously made. The number of beef cattle and heifers then delivered to Mr. Wright, I think, from general observation, was about 180. I have not the means of knowing the exact numbers. Since my delivery of the aforementioned cattle to Mr. Briggs he has continued to keep them upon the Crow Reservation, upon the same range upon which I had always herded them. Some time last summer, in August, I think, Mr. Briggs brought in about 250 more cattle and added them to the herd purchased of me. He had purchased said cattle, I understood, of Billings, and they had been brought into the Territory from Minnesota. Since his purchase from me Mr. Briggs has bought some cattle from other parties living on the reservation, and added them to his herd ranging on the reservation. The number so purchased is, I think, about 30. Mr. Briggs has always been fair and honorable in his dealings with me, and, as far as I know or have heard, has always dealt honorably with other parties, never attempting to take any undue advantage.

While I was negotiating the sale of my herd of cattle to Mr. Briggs, H. J. Armstrong, United States Indian agent for the Crows, who was out in the vicinity of my residence looking after the round-up, came to my house and told me he would stop the pending sale unless I would consent to make some provision out of the proceeds of said sale for my wife, a member of the Crow tribe. He suggested that \$5,000 should be secured to her. His proposition was, that Mr. Briggs should draw a check to her for that amount on the Billings Bank, Stebbins, Munn & Co., bankers, with the proviso that it should be paid only when indorsed by her and by the United States Indian agent for the Crow tribe. I consented to the proposition. The check was drawn as proposed, and left at my house. About a month afterwards, Agent Armstrong sent to me for the check, and I sent it to him at the agency. About two weeks later, while I was at the agency on some business, Agent Armstrong requested me to bring my wife down to the agency, that she might indorse the check. He said that the indorsement by her and by him should be made in the presence of two witnesses. He then proposed that the proceeds should be invested in United States bonds, for the benefit of my wife. Nothing, however, was done about this; but about the 20th of September, at the time of the issues of the fall annuities, my wife and I were at the agency, and as I wanted money for the purchase of sheep, we went to see Agent Armstrong about the matter of the check. My wife told the agent that she was perfectly willing that the proceeds of said check should come into my hands. He consented that it should be so. My wife and the agent indorsed the check, and it was delivered to me. I soon afterwards presented it for payment, and received and invested the proceeds. I never had any idea or suspicion that in this business Agent Armstrong was actuated by any interested, selfish, or corrupt motives.

THOMAS KENT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of January, 1883.

HENRY WARD,  
*United States Indian Inspector.*

## EXHIBIT B.

CROW AGENCY,  
*Territory of Montana, ss:*

S. B. ROBERTS, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a resident of Mellville, Gallatin County, Montana; I am in the employ of the firm known as Briggs & Ellis Company, limited. I am foreman in charge of their herd of cattle ranging on the Crow Reservation. R. B. Briggs, treasurer and business manager of said company, and as their representative, last May, that is, in May, 1883, bought of Thomas Kent, who lives on the Crow Reservation, near the confluence of

Bridger Creek and the Yellowstone River, a herd of cattle, chiefly stock cattle, but some beef cattle. Said herd numbered about 1,000 head, 1,030, I think. Said herd of cattle were delivered by Thomas Kent to R. B. Briggs during the spring round-up, which commenced about the 20th of May, 1883, and lasted some two or three weeks. Said cattle have since, with the exception of such as have been sold, remained upon the Crow Reservation, upon the same range upon which the said Kent had always kept them. During the month of May, 1883, the said Briggs sold from the herd a quantity of beef cattle, I think about 240, and delivered them to the purchasers the last of May or first of June, and they were taken from the reservation. I understand the herd remained on the reservation under permission granted by H. J. Armstrong, Indian agent, and issued in accordance with instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The last of July or first of August, 1883, the said R. B. Briggs bought at Billings, from the Willard Cattle Company, 250 head of cattle and drove them to the range on the Crow Reservation, occupied by the herd purchased by him of the said Thomas Kent, and added them to said herd, and they have since remained with said herd. The said Briggs has also purchased of various parties on the Crow Reservation some 20 or 30 head of cattle and added them to herd ranging on said Crow Reservation. I have never known or heard of any complaints made against the said R. B. Briggs or any of his employés for branding cattle or calves belonging to other persons.

S. B. ROBERTS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of January, 1884.

HENRY WARD,  
United States Indian Inspector.

EXHIBIT C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, July 7, 1883.

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,

*United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Montana :*

SIR: I have received your letter of the 25th ultimo, inclosing application of R. B. Briggs, of Billings, Mont., for permission to graze a herd of about 750 head of cattle, recently purchased from Thomas Kent, upon the Crow Reservation.

Mr. Briggs states that this herd was born and raised where they now range, on the reserve by Mr. Kent, who will yet have the management of them; that they feed almost entirely by themselves, being apart from any stock owned by Indians of the Government, and in the event of his being compelled to remove them they would, in spite of any effort he could make to prevent it, naturally drift back to their old feeding grounds again.

Under the circumstances I see no objection to Mr. Briggs' herd being temporarily permitted to remain on the reserve, provided the Indians consent, and such compensation, say so much per head per annum, as may be prescribed by you with approval of this Department, be paid by Mr. Briggs for the privilege (see Section 269, Instructions to Indian Agents).

By the deficiency act approved March 3, 1883, the proceeds of all pasturage on any Indian reservation, except those of the five civilized tribes, is directed to be covered into the Treasury for the benefit of the tribe under such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.

In the event of Mr. Briggs continuing to hold his cattle upon the reserve you will take up the proceeds upon your periodical cash account, and hold the amount until such regulations shall have been announced and communicated to you.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
Commissioner.

EXHIBIT D.

CROW AGENCY, M. T.,  
September 29, 1883.

I certify on honor that I have this day paid to H. J. Armstrong, United States Indian agent at Crow Agency, Montana, the sum of two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars and no more, being payment in full for permit to graze my herd of cattle upon the Crow Reservation from July 31, 1883, to June 30, 1884. Permit issued in accordance with instructions contained in letter from honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated July 7, 1883.

R. B. BRIGGS.

## EXHIBIT E.

CROW AGENCY, M. T.,  
September 29, 1883.

Received of R. B. Briggs the sum of two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars, being payment in full for grazing herd of cattle upon the Crow Reservation from July 1, 1883, to June 30, 1884, as authorized by letter of honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated July 7, same year as above.

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
Agent.

STILLWATER, MONT., February 15, 1884.

DEAR SIR: You will pardon me for trespassing again upon your time and patience, I am sure, in thus calling your attention to a public grievance the people of this country are subjected to by certain Government officials connected with the Indian Department.

You are familiar with the Crow Reservation in this Territory, the agent of which is one Armstrong. The western portion of this reservation, it is confidently hoped and expected, will soon be re-ceded to the United States and be thrown open to settlement. In this part of the reservation is some of the best farming and grazing land in the North west, as well as valuable mineral lands. This land is presumed to be set apart for the exclusive benefit of the Crow Indians; but through the complicity of certain parties in the Department (of whom I cannot name) these lands are being occupied, under pretended leases, by white men in such a way that when they are thrown open to settlement, instead of inuring to the benefit of the actual settler, will be entirely monopolized by a few large cattle companies to the exclusion of all others; they will build their corrals upon and occupy all the water rights and valley lands that can be made useful by the settler, and will thus monopolize large amounts of Government lands for their herds for which the Government gets nothing, besides excluding poor men who desire to build themselves homes. There is now a company (Briggs & Ellis) who have a contract with the "Commissioner of Indian Affairs" to graze 700 head of cattle for \$250 per year. Under this contract they have, as I am informed and believe, over 1,500 head of cattle on the reservation, besides a large amount of capital to purchase all the stock they can find that is for sale, which is in violation of their lease, and contrary to the spirit of the treaty with the Indians. This is only the beginning of what may be expected, if this valuable property is thrown open to settlement.

It is believed here that the present agent is in complicity with the scheme, which will deprive the settlers of the privileges of using this land and placing it in the hands of monopoly, equally if not more detrimental to the public welfare than the population of it by the Indians.

It seems to me that the authority of Congress should be invoked, and a remedy found. I cannot offer one particular suggestion, rather trusting to your familiarity with the situation and your well-known sympathy with the settler to devise a means of protecting them in their rights, and remedying any wrongs that may be perpetrated by those in authority. This matter was recently brought to the notice of Governor Crosby, who caused a commissioner or inspector to be sent out from Washington to examine and report; this man (Ward is his name) came here, and instead of applying to disinterested citizens for information, went to the agency, and called to his counsel the agent, post traders and other Government employes. The result, as I am informed and believe, was to make a report in the interests of the parties I have mentioned, and to screen them from blame. It is believed by all who know anything about this agent that there will be no hopes of making a treaty looking to the re-cession of any part of that enormous reservation so long as he is in his present position. And his removal would facilitate that end, and meet the approval of all persons in this Territory who understand the situation.

If you desire it, I can furnish you with reliable evidence in the shape of affidavits to substantiate all that is written in this letter, as the Secretary of the Interior may get a wrong impression of the state of affairs from other sources of information.

I have the honor to remain, as ever, your obedient servant,

HORACE COUNTRYMAN.

Hon. JOHN A. LOGAN,  
United States Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C.

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[First indorsement.]

Respectfully referred to Hon. H. M. Teller. Please return answer to—  
JOHN A. LOGAN.

[Second indorsement.]

Referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

H. M. TELLER.

Senator Logan has been informed that the Department has no information that leases have been made by the Indians, and none that have been made by the Department.

H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

March 6, 1884.

SIR: I have the letter of Mr. Horace Countryman, submitted by you. The Interior Department is not in possession of any evidence that parties are attempting to lease the Crow Reservation or any part thereof. Mr. Countryman appears to think such leases will be, if made, an incumbrance on the lands if thrown open to settlement by an agreement with the Indians. While the Department recognizes the right of Indians to allow grazing privileges under the provisions of section 2117 of the Revised Statutes, it does not recognize their rights to lease the lands or create any incumbrance thereon, or in any manner give to parties rights that will exist after the lands cease to be a part of the Indian reservation. Mr. Countryman is in error when he says that parties have a contract with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs concerning the grazing of cattle on the reservation. Mr. Countryman appears to be ignorant of the facts as well as the law. I have no doubt that parties may have cattle on the reservation, but as long as the Indians are satisfied, it is not considered advisable to interfere and drive them off. No complaint has been made by the Indians.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary.*

Hon. JOHN A. LOGAN,  
*United States Senate.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

March 5, 1884.

SIR: I inclose herewith a copy of Senate resolution of the 27th ultimo, calling for information as to any leases made, or grazing permits issued, in respect of the Crow Reservation, as to which you are directed to make full report to this office without delay.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,  
*United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Mont.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

March 10, 1884.

SIR: Referring to office letter of the 5th instant, inclosing copy of Senate resolution of the 27th ultimo, in relation to leases, &c., on Crow Reserve, you are directed to accompany the report called for by this office with copies of all leases, agreements, or grazing permits in respect of said reservation lands, if any such have been made.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,  
*United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Mont.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
Crow Agency, Mont., March 12, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to reply to your communication "L," No. 4166, dated March 5 instant, and to Senate resolution of February 27, calling for information as to any and all leases or grazing permits issued from this office to any parties to graze cattle upon the Crow Reservation.

No lease has been made by the Crows with any party or parties, nor have any parties consulted with any Indians upon this business at any time.

A permit has been issued to the Briggs and Ellis Cattle Company, composed of the following-named gentlemen, R. B. Briggs, W. D. Ellis, and George A. Ellis, to graze their herd upon the western part of this reservation from the beginning to the close of the present fiscal year. The permit was issued under the following circumstances and upon the letter of authority from the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, hereto attached:

The cattle were born and raised upon the range, having been purchased by Briggs and Ellis from Thomas Kent, a white man, who is married to a Crow Indian woman, and who has lived on this reservation for more than twelve years. At the time of the purchase Briggs and Ellis intended to remove the cattle to a ranch they thought they had just south from this agency in Wyoming, but they were unfortunate in having a partner with whom they had some difficulty and who retained possession of the ranch, so that they had no place to take their cattle. They then came to me and asked permission to keep the cattle upon this reservation, which I refused to grant, not having authority to do so.

They then applied to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and received in reply the letter attached to this communication, under which they were allowed to remain, for which privilege they have paid the sum of \$250, the same being taken up in my accounts for third quarter, 1883.

Under section 269, Instructions to Indian Agents, dated October, 1880, and also supposing from the contents of the attached letter from the honorable Commissioner that there would be no objections, I issued a permit to George L. Ash, of Billings, Mont., to graze a small herd of 75 cattle upon this reservation temporarily, just opposite his ranch, for which I have received the sum of \$37.50, taken up in my accounts for fourth quarter, 1883.

A battalion of the Second Cavalry, under command of Major Merrill, had been stationed on this reservation opposite the town of Billings during the entire summer of 1882, and Mr. Ash claimed to have been authorized by the commanding officer to bring his cattle over to the south side of the Yellowstone, in order that he might supply the military with milk and butter. By doing so, his cattle became accustomed to the range, and it was difficult for Mr. Ash to keep them off.

They were removed once by the agency herder, but returned. Late in the fall (1883) Mr. Ash came to me here and begged so hard that I gave him permission to allow his small herd to remain for a limited time on the range, they being already on the south side of the river, as I understand.

No other permits to graze have been issued.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

[Inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D. C., July 7, 1884.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 25th ultimo, inclosing application of R. B. Briggs, of Billings, Mont., for permission to graze a herd of about 750 head of cattle, recently purchased from Thomas Kent, upon the Crow Reservation.

Mr. Briggs states that this herd was born and raised where they now range on the reserve by Mr. Kent, who will yet have the management of them; that they feed almost entirely by themselves, being apart from any stock owned by Indians or the Government, and in the event of his being compelled to remove them, they would, in spite of any effort he could make to prevent it, naturally drift back to their old feeding grounds again.

Under the circumstances, I see no objection to Mr. Briggs's herd being temporarily permitted to remain on the reserve, provided the Indians consent and such compen-

sation, say, so much per head per annum, as may be prescribed by you with approval of this Department, be paid by Mr. Briggs for the privilege. (See section 269, Instructions to Indian Agents.)

By the deficiency act approved March 3, 1883, the proceeds of all pasturage on any Indian reservation, except those of the five civilized tribes, is directed to be covered into the Treasury for the benefit of the tribe, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.

In the event of Mr. Briggs continuing to hold his cattle upon the reserve, you will take up the proceeds upon your periodical cash account and hold the amount until such regulations shall have been announced and communicated to you.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Mont.*

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## EXHIBIT A.

### CROW RESERVE, MONTANA.

*Copies of correspondence referred to in accompanying report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated December 29, 1884.*

CROW AGENCY, February 20, 1884.

DEAR SIR: Referring to the license to trade with the Indians at the Crow Agency in Montana, you kindly granted to me February 2, 1884, also to the fact that I am grazing some cattle by your permit dated July —, 1883, on the Crow Reservation, beg to say I am informed by Maj. H. J. Armstrong, Crow Indian agent, that he has on file an order dated August 27, 1881, No. 80, to the effect that no Indian trader shall be permitted to graze or raise cattle on the reservation. If it is not inconsistent with the interests of your Department, would you kindly consent to modify the above order so that I might as trader yet continue to keep my cattle on the reserve?

I would again mention the fact that my cattle are almost entirely cattle that were raised by Thomas Kent (who had married a Crow squaw), and that they were born where they now feed, and if I should move them to an adjoining range they could not be prevented from returning to their old home and feeding ground. They feed entirely apart from any cattle or horses owned by the United States Government or Indians. Hoping to receive your favorable reply at an early day, I remain,

Yours, respectfully,

R. B. BRIGGS,  
*Sweet Grass, Montana Ter.*

Hon. HIRAM PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, April 1, 1884.*

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 20th February last, asking that Circular Order No. 80, issued from this office (accounts division) August 27, 1881, be modified so that you may as trader continue to hold the cattle purchased from Thomas Kent, on the Crow Reservation, I have to say that it is not deemed advisable by this office to make any exception in individual cases.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

R. B. BRIGGS, Esq.,  
*Indian Trader, Sweet Grass, Mont.*

LIVINGSTON, March 8, 1884.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to represent to your Department that during the month of July last (1883) I made application to Agent Armstrong of the Crow Reservation to cut hay. I received the permit, and under it I cut 52 hay, paying to Agent Armstrong \$1 per ton for the privilege. The hay was cut and stacked, and securely fenced, but I found it necessary to place a man on the ground to protect it from depredation from a large number of cattle permitted to graze on the reservation under the authority of the agent.

In ordering my man to remove from the country and at the same time permit 2,000 cattle to graze at this very point, it seems to me to look a little too much like favoring the strong. I will have the hay baled and removed as soon as possible, and in the meantime I think I ought to be permitted to do what is necessary to protect my hay from being destroyed. I have a large stable here and cut this hay for spring use; and that is what I would like to use for.

Respectfully yours,

B. R. DEVOE,  
*Livingston, Mont.*Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

LIVINGSTON, MONT., March 8, 1884.

DEAR SIR: Mr. B. R. Devoe, of this city, has addressed a letter to the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs in relation to some hay he cut on the Crow Reservation under permit of Agent Armstrong. The action of the agent in ordering Devoe's man off from the reservation and permitting the Briggs-Ellis Cattle Company to remain with their 2,000 cattle at the very point where Devoe's hay is stacked, has the appearance of an unjust discrimination, which I think is, under the circumstances, hardly justifiable. I am interested in this hay, and if you will do me the favor to call on the Commissioner and secure sufficient time to bale and remove the hay, you will confer a great favor. The trouble has been that Devoe has been unable to procure a baler, or else the hay would have been removed, but is expecting to get it baled soon.

Very respectfully,

W. P. LYMAN.

Hon. MARTIN MAGINNIS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

[Indorsement.]

Respectfully referred to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs for information.

Respectfully,

MARTIN MAGINNIS.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Crow Agency, Montana, March 18, 1884.*H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: In reply to your "L" 4166, dated March 10th, I have the honor to inclose copies of the only two permits issued from this office to any parties to graze stock upon this reservation.

Very respectfully,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

No leases have been made.

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*Agent.*

[Inclosures.]

CROW AGENCY, Montana, September 29, 1883.

Received of R. B. Briggs the sum of \$250 toll, being payment in full for grazing herd of cattle purchased on the range from Thomas Kent, upon the Crow Reservation, from July, 1883, to June 30, 1884, as authorized by the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated July 7, 1883.

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*Agent.*

[From Briggs to the Agent.]

CROW AGENCY, *Montana, September 29, 1883.*

I certify on honor that I have this day paid to H. J. Armstrong, United States Indian Agent at Crow Agency, Montana, the sum of \$250, and no more, being payment in full for permit to graze my herd of cattle upon the Crow Reservation from July 1, 1883, to June 30, 1884. Permit issued in accordance with instructions contained in letter from honorable Commissioner Indian Affairs, dated July 7, 1883.

R. B. BRIGGS.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY,  
*Montana, January 24, 1884.*

J. S. ASH,  
*Billings, Mon.:*

I ought to have written to you sooner to acknowledge the receipt of the \$37.50 for grazing your herd of 75 cattle upon the Crow Reservation for one year.

Respectfully,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*Agent.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, March 24, 1884.*

SIR: Verbal inquiry having this day been made to me in behalf of H. G. Reeves and J. G. Moore, of Illinois, regarding the leasing of lands in the Crow Indian Reservation, and the statement made that the Department letter to you on the subject of August 11, 1883, based on inquiry from J. C. Wilson of Topeka, Kans., is construed by you to be limited and confined to application for such purpose from that gentleman only, you are informed that the instructions contained in said letter are not intended to be and are not to be construed as limited to any special individual or individuals. The instructions are general and applicable to any and all responsible and reliable persons.

So far as Messrs. Reeves and Moore are concerned, they are known by me to be responsible and reliable gentlemen.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,  
*Acting Secretary.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,  
*Agent, Crow Indian Agency, Mont.*

[Inclosure.]

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Crow Agency, Mont., April 3, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to state in reply to your communication dated March 24, regarding the leasing of a portion of this reservation to Messrs. H. G. Reeves and J. G. Moore, of Illinois, that I did not construe the letter they handed me, which was a copy of a letter from the honorable Secretary to Mr. J. C. Wilson, of Topeka, Kans., as being intended only for Mr. Wilson, and not a general authority to aid any and all parties who might apply, for the purpose of favoring Mr. Wilson to the exclusion of themselves. The letter they handed me was different from that of Mr. Wilson's in not being addressed to me or to the agent at this agency, and I did not understand that I had full authority to act; but I told Reeves and Moore that if they would get such a letter, so that my authority in the matter would be plain, I would do everything I could for them.

Whatever I do to aid any parties in obtaining leases is certain to make me some enemies among the people of Montana, who think that as they have been here so many years, through all the Indian troubles, they should be favored. Already, as a result of Mr. Wilson's coming here on this business, the Helena Herald, the leading paper in Montana, has published an editorial upon the subject of "farming out the reservations," and intimating that there could be nothing honest in doing so.

I had also received a communication from the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs just a day or two before the arrival of Messrs. Reeves & Moore, inclosing a copy of Senate resolution of February 27, inquiring if any leases had been made here, and directing me to report by what authority they had been so made, if any. This was one reason I wanted my authority to act made plain, and I told those gentlemen from Illinois that if they would procure a letter with their names in the body



of it, as Mr. Wilson's was in his, and addressed to the agent here, I would consider it sufficient authority to aid them to the full extent of my ability.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.*

[Indorsement.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*April 12, 1884.*

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with copy of Department letter of March 24, 1884.

AMOS HADLEY,  
*Acting Chief Clerk.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, March 24, 1884.*

SIR: In compliance with your verbal request I have the honor to inclose herewith a letter addressed to Agent H. J. Armstrong, of the Crow Indian Agency, Montana Territory, on the subject of leasing Indian lands.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN.

Hon. S. M. CULLOM,  
*United States Senate.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Crow Agency, April 5, 1884.*

SIR: In regard to the grazing of cattle upon the Crow Reservation by Mr. R. B. Briggs under his license to trade with the Indians, which I am instructed to investigate by your "C," dated March 8, 1884, I have the honor to state that the Indians will make no opposition to his doing so, but the public outside will feel a little jealous, and make some noise through the papers. Already the Helena Herald (the leading paper of Montana) has published an editorial upon the subject of "farming out the reservations," referring to Mr. Briggs's permit to graze his cattle upon the reservation, and intimating that there could be nothing honest in the granting of such privileges.

While I have no fears that Mr. Briggs or the present trader at this agency would cause us any trouble at all if Circular No. 80 was suspended, it is possible that we might sometime get a trader who would make the agent much trouble if permitted to graze his cattle upon the reservation in the vicinity of the Government herd. My own idea is that it will be better for Mr. Briggs to be content with the privilege to graze which he now has, until such time as the reservation may be further diminished.

Very respectfully,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*Agent.*

Hon. H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, April 11, 1884.*

Do not encourage the Indians to lease lands, or even to allow parties to put their stock on the reservation. Do nothing in this matter.

H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*Crow Agency, via Stillwater, Montana.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, April 11, 1884.

DEAR SIR: I have yours concerning the leasing of lands by the Indians, and have telegraphed you to do nothing. I do not want anything done in the matter. If the Indians, on their own motion, choose to allow stockmen to pasture their cattle on the reservation, paying therefor a fair sum, they have the right to do so under the statute of the United States. But under no circumstances should the agent initiate such a movement, and all the agent should do is to look after the interests of the Indians and see that they are not cheated. I think your course has been a wise one and in strict accordance with the views I have frequently expressed on the subject. While I have refused to interfere in matters of this kind while the Indians are satisfied with the amount paid them, I shall consider it the duty of the agent to see that they are fairly dealt with, and when I am satisfied that the amount paid is not a fair compensation, shall consider it my duty to interfere and compel the payment of a fair price or the removal of the stock. Any interference on the part of the agent to induce the leasing of the lands contrary to the wishes of the Indians will not be tolerated by the Department. Therefore, if, as you suggest, the Indians do not want to lease their lands, you will notify the parties that you cannot aid them in any matter, and after it is apparent that the Indians do not wish to lease, they must discontinue their efforts to secure such leases.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,  
Secretary.

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Montana.

[Indorsement.]

A true copy for the information of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

R. V. BELT,  
Chief Indian Division, Secretary's Office.

APRIL 16, 1884.

BILLINGS, MONT., April 13, 1884.

SIR: Hoping you will excuse me for bothering you, I would like to have some information in regard to whether the Indian agent of the Crow Reservation has the right to lease or give a privilege of meadow lands on the reservation; as it is being done by him here, and by so doing it is giving parties a chance to get a foothold there in regard to getting land there when the reservation is opened. Now, there is a number here waiting and watching for the reservation to be opened and we cannot see why a few are allowed to go over there and select lands for the purpose of cutting grass, they say, while others are not. It looks as though there was a nigger in the fence somewhere. Hoping you will excuse my intrusion on your time, I will close. If we was a State I think we could give you a show for the chair this fall.

Yours respectfully,

A. P. HART,  
Billings, Mont.

(Co. E., Seventh Iowa, First Brigade, Fourth Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.)

General JOHN A. LOGAN.

[Indorsement.]

Respectfully referred.

JOHN A. LOGAN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

AMOS HADLEY,  
Acting Chief Clerk.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, UNITED STATES,  
Washington, D. C., June 24, 1884.

SIR: I have a letter from a gentleman in Montana Territory who owns some 500 head of cattle and wishes to get the privilege of pasturing on the Crow Indian Reservation. He thinks some permission or lease is obtainable through the Interior Department. If so, I should be glad to assist him in obtaining it. Will you please inform me whether you have any power in the matter.

Very respectfully,

E. W. SEYMOUR, M. C.

Hon. H. M. TELLER,  
Secretary of the Interior.

[Indorsement.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
June 26, 1884.

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

G. M. LOCKWOOD,  
Chief Clerk.DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, August 11, 1884.

SIR: I am in receipt, by Department reference, of your letter of the 24th ultimo, addressed to the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, stating that you have a letter from a gentleman in Montana who owns some 500 head of cattle and wishes to get the privilege of pasturing on the Crow Reservation in that Territory. Your correspondent thinks that some permission or lease is obtainable through the Indian Department, and you desire to be informed whether the Department has any power in the matter.

In reply I have to say that whilst the Department recognizes the right of the Indians in their tribal capacity to allow temporary grazing privileges on the unoccupied lands of their reservation under the provisions of section 2117, Revised Statutes, it does not recognize their right to lease the lands or create any incumbrance thereon, or in any manner give to parties rights that will exist after the lands cease to be a part of the Indian reservation. Such privileges can only be recognized, however, when granted by the proper authority of the tribe, and the benefits must be participated in by all the tribe, not by a favored few only. No permanent improvements can be put up by persons holding cattle, and they are held to a rigid observance of the intercourse laws and regulations of the Department touching the introduction of liquor, fire-arms, ammunition, &c.

The Department will, whenever it appears desirable for the public interest to do so, exercise its right of supervision to the extent of removing all such persons from the reservation on such notice as may be right and proper under the circumstances, and all persons holding grazing privileges on an Indian reservation must hold the same subject to the above-mentioned conditions, and to any future action of Congress had in respect of such reservation.

I would suggest that your correspondent apply to H. J. Armstrong, agent for the Crow Indians, Crow Agency, Fort Custer, Mont., for further information.

Very respectfully,

E. I. STEVENS,  
Acting Commissioner.Hon. E. W. SEYMOUR, *House of Representatives.*UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
New Crow Agency, Montana, Fort Custer P. O., July 14, 1884.

SIR: I have received a personal application from John Wilkerson, of Billings, Mont., for a permit to graze his herd of cattle upon this reservation. Mr. Wilkerson is recommended to be a very good man. He says he has such a small herd—only 200—that the big cattle men crowd him so much that he must go out of the business unless he can get the privilege of grazing his herd upon the reservation. My own idea about it is, that as the place Mr. Wilkerson wishes to graze his cattle is not in the vicinity of our cattle either here or at the old agency, but midway between, and as the Indians do not object, he might be accommodated. If the place Mr. Wilkerson wishes to graze his cattle was on that part of the reservation that is likely to be retained for the permanent reservation, I should certainly be very much opposed to granting him the privilege, but it is not; it is beyond it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
United States Indian Agent.Hon. H. PRICE,  
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, August 15, 1884.*

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, concerning an application for John Wilkerson, of Billings, Mont., for a permit to graze a herd of about 200 cattle upon the Crow reservation, at a point midway between the old and new agencies.

Subject to the Indians' consent and to the conditions mentioned in the Department letters to you of August 11, 1883, and April 11, 1884, I see no objection to granting the application, but it should be distinctly understood that whilst the Department recognizes the right of the Indians to allow temporary grazing privileges on their lands, it does not recognize the right to *lease* the lands for any term, or to create incumbrances thereon, or in any manner give to parties rights that may exist after such lands cease to be a part of the Indian reservation.

Under existing laws the proceeds of all pasturage on Indian lands (except the five civilized tribes) is required to be covered into the United States Treasury for the benefit of the tribe under such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.

Very respectfully,

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,  
*United States Indian Agent, Crow Agency, Montana.*

E. L. STEVENS,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

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UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*New Crow Agency, Montana, Fort Custer Post Office, August 11, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a communication from James A. Campbell, requesting to be informed as to whether the Hon. Commissioner will make any objection to his building a small cabin upon ground lying very near the eastern boundary line of the Crow Reservation; it not being known, certainly, whether the exact spot he wishes to locate the cabin is on or off the reserve. If the Hon. Commissioner does not object, the cabin will be built.

I have stated to the Hon. Commissioner more than once that I should be very much opposed to allowing any parties to graze stock upon that portion of the reservation it is expected would be retained for the permanent reservation for these Indians, but it seems that the favor asked by Mr. Campbell is different, inasmuch as he merely wishes to establish an outpost at a point where a spur of the mountain range terminates abruptly, to keep his cattle from straying away and on to this reservation. It will be at a place where our cattle will never go unless they go as strays, and Mr. Campbell undertakes to help us keep them from doing so. I believe he will do as he promises, and the cabin will be built, unless objection is made, as it will be an advantage to the agency to have good neighbors there.

Very respectfully,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

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FORT CUSTER, MONT., *July 30, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the honorable Secretary of the Interior, through you, to the following matter:

I, with three other parties, are grazing 3,500 head of cattle on a range east of the Crow Reservation, on Arnel and Reservation Creeks. We are desirous of keeping these cattle off from the Indian reservation, and to effectually do this I respectfully ask to be informed whether the Department of the Interior has any objection to my building a cabin at the junction of the forks of Sarpy Creek, to be occupied by two riders, whose sole business it shall be to drive back such of our herd as may drift that far west; I shall also make it their duty to drive back such of the agency and Indian cattle as may stray that far east. This point is not known to be on the reservation, although it is west of the one hundred and seventh meridian as laid down on most maps; but it is understood and believed by many that the maps place the one hundred and seventh meridian too far east by 6 miles. I am informed by Major Sheets, who has been engaged with Captain Blake, who has recently surveyed the Big Horn and Little Big Horn country, that the one hundred and seventh meridian is actually 20 miles east of the mouth of the Big Horn River; therefore the said junction of the forks of Sarpy Creek, where I desire to build said outpost, is not on the reservation.

If at any time it should appear that I am on the reservation, and it is desirable and necessary to remove said cabin, I shall cheerfully acquiesce in such removal. My only

purpose is such that I will keep back our cattle from trespass, and the Indian cattle from wandering off.

I respectfully refer to General P. H. Sheridan, to establish my character as a man likely to do as I agree.

An outpost cabin, suitable for the purpose, cannot be located elsewhere for want of water.

As I verily believe that this point is not on the reservation and because it will be for the benefit of the Indian service as well as my own, I hope to be informed that the Department sees no reason why I should not establish such outpost, subject to such orders from the Department as may seem best in case I shall be found to be on the reservation and it be desirable that I should vacate.

I served under General Sheridan as scout during the war, and I have been intimately connected with the Crows for seven years, and have their confidence.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES A. CAMPBELL,  
*Scout, U. S. Army.*

Hon. HIRAM PRICE,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs.*

[Inclosure.]

FORT CUSTER, MONT., July 30, 1884.

Respectfully referred to Mr. H. J. Armstrong, United States Indian agent, with request that he will forward the inclosed communication to the Department with such recommendations as he may be willing to make.

JAMES A. CAMPBELL,  
*Scout, U. S. Army.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, August 25, 1884.*

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th instant inclosing a communication from James A. Campbell, scout, United States Army, dated Fort Custer, July 30, in which he states that he, with three other parties, has a herd of 3,500 head of cattle grazing on a range east of the Crow Reservation, on Armel and Reservation Creeks, and being desirous of keeping said cattle off the Crow Reservation, applies for permission to build a cabin at the junction of the forks of Sarpy Creek, to be occupied by two riders, whose sole business it shall be to drive back such of the herd as may drift that far west and such of the agency and Indian cattle as may stray that far east. It appears that it is not definitely known whether the site selected is on the Crow Reserve or not, but that an outpost cabin suitable for the purpose cannot be located elsewhere for want of water.

I see no objection to Mr. Campbell being permitted to put up an outpost cabin at the point, and for the purposes indicated, provided that if the site selected shall be found to be within the boundaries of the reserve, he will hold himself in readiness to vacate and remove the same on notice from the Department; that he put up no permanent structure of any kind, and that he commits or suffers no violation of the Indian intercourse laws.

Very respectfully,

E. L. STEVENS,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,  
*United States Indian Agent,  
Crow Agency, Montana Territory.*

FORT CUSTER, MONT., July 30, 1884.

SIR: I have written to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs asking to be informed whether there is any reason known to the Department why I shall not build an outpost cabin at the junction of the branches of Sarpy Creek to prevent my cattle coming east on the Crow Reservation.

If this point be on the reservation, which I do not believe, it would be a benefit to the Crows, as I should order my men to keep the Indian cattle back. I do not propose to graze any cattle on the reservation; I want to prevent such a thing.

I respectfully request you to make such indorsement hereon as will recommend me to the honorable Commissioner as likely to do as I agree, and such other remarks as you may see proper.

Very respectfully, &c.,

JAMES A. CAMPBELL,  
*Scout, U. S. A.*

Mr. GEORGE R. MILBURN,  
*Special Indian Agent, Fort Custer, Mont.*

[Indorsement.]

Respectfully returned to Mr. J. A. Campbell.

I have known Mr. Campbell since May, 1833; he is a resident of Fort Custer (scout), an honest man, a friend of the Crows, always disposed to aid the Indians; he is a man who bends his energies to do what he undertakes; he enjoys the full confidence of the officers of the Government under whom he serves.

The point where he wishes to locate a cabin for guards to keep his cattle off from the reserve may be or may not be on the reservation; nothing but an actual survey can determine. That Mr. Campbell would have his men drive back any Indian cattle which should stray so far, and thus serve the Government, I have no doubt.

GEORGE R. MILBURN,  
*United States Special Indian Agent.*

FORT CUSTER, MONT., *August 16, 1884.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Crow Agency, November 20, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose the application of J. M. Kagy for permit to graze a band of about 3,000 sheep upon the western part of the Crow Reservation.

Very respectfully,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

[Inclosure.]

STILLWATER, MONT.,  
*October 31, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to request permission to graze a band of sheep on the portion of the Crow Reservation west of Clark's Fork, about to be treated for retrocession by the Crow tribe to the Government, under a permit from Agent Armstrong. Last season I had cut a number of tons of hay on the reservation, paying therefor the price of \$1 per ton, and being unable to dispose of the same, respectfully ask privilege of feeding it to my sheep and grazing them on that portion of the reservation, it being unoccupied by the Indians and about to be restored to the public domain.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. KAGY.

The Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, December 2, 1884.*

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 20th ultimo, transmitting application of J. M. Kagy for permit to graze a band of about 3,000 sheep on the western part of the Crow Reservation, you are referred to the letter addressed to you by the Hon. Secretary of the Interior on the 11th April last, by which you will be governed in the premises.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent,  
Crow Agency, Montana.*

BILLINGS, MONT., *November 24, 1884.*

Hon. HIRAM PRICE,  
*Washington, D. C.:*

It has come to our knowledge that a scheme is on foot to lease the western portion of the Crow Reservation, containing 3,500,000 acres of the richest farming and grazing lands of Montana and inexhaustible stores of mineral wealth, and capable of supporting a population of 100,000 people.

We maintain that when this reservation is thrown open it should be for the benefit and use of only such citizens of the United States as desire to secure homes for themselves and their families, and not for the exclusive use of a grasping monopoly.

Experience has taught that such a lease would work injustice to the Crow Indians themselves, as well as to the white settlers of Eastern Montana, in that it would result in endless conflict between the Indians and the cattlemen, with all the horror of savage warfare.

The citizens of Yellowstone County, representing all the people of Eastern Montana, irrespective of party or business interests, earnestly protest against a lease being made between the Crow Indians and any person or persons, having for its object the exclusive use of the Crow Reservation.

We are circulating a petition to the Senate Committee on the Crow Reservation, and base our action on the following reasons:

In the first place, it is a direct violation of the statute law of the United States (Section 2116, Chap. 3, page 369) to negotiate with any tribe of Indians for the lease or purchase of their reservations without express authority from Congress.

If this lease were consummated its manifest effect would be to give the stock syndicate the opportunity to intrench themselves thereon, to stock and occupy its whole area with cattle, to fence in its numerous valleys of fertile agricultural lands, so that when the reservation or any part of it is restored to the public domain they and their agents and employes could seize every ranch site and all water privileges, to the exclusion of bona fide settlers. What more could they want than previous possession, the whole country stocked with their herds, their numerous agents and employes at command, and unlimited wealth already yielded from the abundant resources of the reservation, to consummate and perpetuate their usurpation of it? It would be no consolation to the worthy husbandman in search of a home to see the reservation opened to settlement under such circumstances.

To establish such a proprietary dominion over 3,500,000 acres, is opposed to our most sacred national policy, heretofore pursued in disposing of public lands, and would amount to a national scandal.

It would when the complete purpose is developed and consummated establish a private principality.

It would furnish a precedent temptation, and even invitation to organize like schemes of usurpation, creating gigantic monopolies to the permanent deprivation of the rights of every citizen of the United States to a share in the public lands.

We ask the aid of every patriotic citizen to prevent the consummation of this lease, and we believe that the honorable Secretary of the Interior, who has always shown his hearty sympathy with the bona fide settlers of the West, will prevent such plots against the public interest and see that when this reservation is opened to settlement it will be with equal advantages to all.

COMMITTEE OF CITIZENS OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY.

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ROOMS OF THE HELENA BOARD OF TRADE,  
*Helena, Mont., November 19, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Helena Board of Trade held this day.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. DAVIDSON,  
*President of the Helena Board of Trade.*

Hon. HENRY M. TELLER,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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*Ringling resolutions protesting against the lease of 3,500,000 acres of the Crow Reservation.*

A large and justly aroused mass meeting of the citizens of Yellowstone County, held on the 13th instant, gave utterance to their indignation by the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas it has come to the knowledge of the citizens of Eastern Montana that a scheme is on foot to lease the western portion of the Crow Reservation, containing three and one-half million acres of the richest farming and grazing lands in Montana, and an inexhaustible store of mineral wealth, the same being capable of supporting a populace of hundred thousand people; and,

Whereas we maintain that when this reservation is thrown open it should be for the benefit and use of only such citizens of the United States as desire to secure homes for

themselves and families, and not for the exclusive use of a grasping monopoly; and Whereas experience has taught that such a lease would work injustice to the Crow Indians themselves, as well as to the white settlers of Eastern Montana, in that it would result in endless conflict between the Indians and cattlemen, with all the horrors of savage warfare: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, By the citizens of Yellowstone County, in mass convention assembled, and representing all the people of Eastern Montana, irrespective of party or business interest, that we earnestly protest against a lease being made between the Crow Indians and any person or persons having for its object the exclusive use of the Crow Reservation; further

*Resolved*, That we respectfully call on the Hon. Henry M. Teller, Secretary of the Interior, to prevent any such scheme from being carried into effect; and further

*Resolved*, That we ask H. J. Armstrong, agent for the Crow Indians, to stop any negotiations looking to a lease so far as he may be able to do so; and further

*Resolved*, That we pledge ourselves to one another to resist to the extent of our power by all lawful means any such disposition of the Crow Reservation.

THE HELENA BOARD OF TRADE.—ITS ACTION TO-DAY IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE CROW RESERVATION.

Whereas the Helena Board of Trade has been made aware of an effort to obtain a lease of the western portion of the Crow Reservation in Montana by a corporation that would use it for cattle-grazing, to the detriment of an agricultural and mining population who expect by wise councils and legislation to occupy it at an early day by amicable treaty;

Whereas we maintain that when this reservation is thrown open for settlement it should be for the benefit and use only of such citizens of the United States as desire to secure homes for themselves and families in the pursuit of agriculture and mining;

And whereas the citizens of Yellowstone County, directly affected by the leasing of the Crow Reservation to a foreign monopoly, in mass meeting assembled, passed strong resolutions against the loss of 3,500,000 of acres to the legitimate settlers and farmers: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Helena Board of Trade, in behalf of the people, respectfully reiterate the sentiments of the citizens of Yellowstone County as expressed in mass meeting assembled, and make their remonstrances its grievous objections to the leasing of the Crow Reservation, which the board has the honor to urgently lay before the Secretary of the Interior.

[Indorsement.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
November 29, 1884.

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in connection with 5177 and 5217-84.

GEO. M. LOCKWOOD,  
Chief Clerk.

PITTSFIELD, MASS., November 20, 1884.

MY DEAR SIR: I have just received the inclosed telegram. The affair seems to me to be very important, and if it has not been done with your full authority and knowledge of the subject, would it not be well to stop it by telegraph until it is fully understood.

I am obliged to go out of town in a half an hour, or I should write more fully, and I will communicate with you on my return.

Yours, truly,

H. L. DAWES,  
By H. L. DAWES, JR.

Hon. H. M. TELLER,  
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

[Inclosed telegram.]

BILLINGS, MONT., 11, 19, '84.

HENRY L. DAWES (forward if absent):

Citizens of Montana ask your intervention to stop lease Crow Reservation to cattle syndicate. Petitions and protest reach you few days.

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.



[Indorsement.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
November 29, 1884.

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in connection with 5176 and 5217-84.

GEO. M. LOCKWOOD,  
Chief Clerk.

STILLWATER, MONT., November 12, 1884.

Excuse me for intruding upon your valuable time, but I wish to call your attention to a fraud upon the Crow tribe now in progress. I present the facts to you just as I gather them.

A Denver syndicate of cattle men have for some time back been endeavoring to lease and get control of the greater part of the Crow Reservation (viz, from the Big Horn west). This country is about 135 miles long, and from 30 to 60 miles wide, and embraces the best cattle ranges in the Territory, water power, and immense deposits of minerals.

Rumors have been plentiful of late that this plan was being brought to a focus. Last night an Indian runner came in here with the news that the agent (Major Armstrong) refused to issue farther rations to any Indians who refused to sign the lease; leasing their land for a term (as near as we could make out) of twenty years and the refusal of it for twenty more at the expiration of the first lease, for a small consideration.

This story the runner sustained through a severe examination.

As your Excellency well knows, in almost all agreements and trades of this nature with various tribes the Indians almost invariably have been swindled. In this case it can and I think will be done by accusing the Indians of stealing, and charging them with every head of cattle missing, which, owing to losses from thefts by whites, losses from wild animals and cold, will be enough to almost if not quite consume the consideration promised.

Courses like this are almost certain to precipitate an Indian war. The Indians are told they had better get what they can for their land, as the Great Father is intending to take all their land from them for nothing, and more to that effect. Some have signed it, others are holding out; but as the affair is being conducted, there can be but one ending, and that shortly, for it means starvation to all the insubordinates.

The agent and white men who have married squaws are now openly charged with receiving bribes to help carry the business through. Of course the agent knows his term of office is short at the best. The whole affair is conducted with great secrecy. If the business is not *instantly* stopped, till it can be investigated, it will be too late, and, in the opinion of hundreds here, a great outrage upon the nation's wards will be consummated.

I have been as concise as possible to be lucid, and present what I believe to be true.

Sincerely believing you will do what is just and right, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant and will wisher,

MALCOLM M. McDONALD.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

[Indorsements.]

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of the Interior. By direction of the President.  
November 17, 1884.O. L. PRUDEN,  
Secretary.DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
November 29, 1884.

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in connection with communications from Hon. H. L. Dawes and A. J. Davidson upon the same subject.

GEO. M. LOCKWOOD,  
Chief Clerk.

TOPEKA, KANS., December 6, 1884.

SIR: With reference to the matter of the lease of a portion of the Crow Reservation, Montana, asked for by us, we desire simply to state that the proposition has been made in good faith and for the purposes indicated in said lease proposal.

S. Ex. 22—3

We further beg leave to suggest that if it should be deemed advisable we are perfectly willing to give ample and satisfactory security for the full and faithful carrying out of our proposed lease in such manner as may be required by that Department.  
Very respectfully,

BLAKE & WILSON,  
*Trustees.*

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C.*

[Indorsement.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*December 10, 1884.*

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

GEO. M. LOCKWOOD,  
*Chief Clerk.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*December 15, 1884.*

DEAR SIR: By your reference, I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. John A. Schmitt, in reference to opening up the Crow Reservation to settlement. I have recommended in my report for this year that 3,000,000 acres of this reservation be disposed of in some way for the benefit of the Crows, but nothing of that kind can be done without action by Congress authorizing it.

Mr. Schmitt's address is Billings, Mont. T.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

HON. JOHN A. LOGAN,  
*United States Senate.*

(The letter to which this is an answer is temporarily mislaid in the Indian Office.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, November 26, 1884.*

SIR: I send you herewith a copy of a letter from Malcolm McDonald, of Stillwater, Mont., dated November 12, 1884. As the statements made by Mr. McDonald are in the nature of charges, I submit the letter to you for reply.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary.*

Mr. HENRY J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent,  
Crow Agency, Montana.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*New Crow Agency, Montana, December 3, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to reply to your note of November 26, 1884, inclosing a copy of a letter from Malcolm McDonald, of Stillwater, Mont., charging that I had endeavored to persuade the Crows to sign a lease of a portion of their reservation, and that I had withheld rations from such Indians as refused to sign; all of which I declare to be an utter falsehood. It is true that the Crows have agreed to lease a portion of their country to J. C. Wilson, esq., of Topeka, Kans., and John T. Blake, of Colorado, but it is not true that I have persuaded them to do this. I have not asked any Indian to sign the lease, much less have I endeavored to coerce them to do so.

I have simply permitted it to be done. I will relate a history of the affair.

In the first place, Mr. Wilson came to the old agency a year and a half ago with some of his friends, strangers to me, for the purpose of getting a lease. They brought with them nothing from the Department that would authorize me to permit them to do any business with the Indians, and I declined to have anything to do with it or to allow them to talk to the Crows.

After a time they came again, bringing with them a letter from the honorable Assistant Secretary, Mr. Joslyn, addressed to myself as agent, with Mr. Wilson's name in the body of it, authorizing them, as I understood it, to proceed with the business and get a lease, if they could, and instructing me that my duties in the matter were simply to see that no wrong was done to the Indians. This time they did not succeed in securing a lease; in fact, they made no efforts to do so. In a short time another party came from Illinois for the same purpose, but they brought no letter from the honorable Secretary or Commissioner, so I declined to have anything to do with it or permit it to go on, and the Illinois party went away without attempting to do any business with the Crows.

In a little while I received a second letter from Mr. Joslyn censuring me rather severely because I had declined to assist the Illinois party, and explaining that the letter he had given to Mr. Wilson was not intended to favor him at all to the exclusion of other parties (as I had *not* done), but merely to show how the Department regarded the matter. And this, it seemed to me, confirmed the construction I had put upon the letter brought by Mr. Wilson.

In addition to the letters from Mr. Joslyn I received letters from Senators, Members of Congress, and from the late chairman of the Indian Committee in the House, assuring me that it was all right and urging me to permit Mr. Wilson to obtain the lease. I was also indirectly informed by one of the parties who came to obtain the lease that if I opposed it I would not oppose it very long. And so, as I said before, I permitted the lease to be made; but any accusation that I used my position wrongfully to induce the Indians to sign is false.

My own idea about the matter is that while there is no moral wrong in it, yet it is contrary to what ought to be the policy of the Government.

I would have preferred very much that all the land in the reservation not actually needed to provide homesteads for the Indians should have been thrown open for settlement; and to prove that I have honestly labored to bring this about, I will refer the honorable Secretary to the inclosed communication\* which I have caused to be published in the New York Nation, in the hope that I might influence public opinion in the East, and in this way get the Government to adopt a policy in dealing with the Indians—all Indians—and their affairs, which, as I firmly believe after being acquainted with the Indian people during my whole lifetime, is the only plan that will settle the vexatious question completely and fairly for all parties.

I hope the honorable Secretary will do me the honor to consider the policy I proposed in the Nation.

As a further proof that I have honestly tried to get this reservation diminished to the smallest limit that will leave each Indian his homestead under the treaty, I would refer the honorable Secretary to the following copy of an official communication which I sent to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs nearly six months ago:

"CROW AGENCY, MONTANA,  
"June 19, 1884.

"SIR: I have the honor to inclose an article I have clipped from a Montana paper, blaming the Indian agent because the large reservations are not cut down.

"I do not know that it is customary or even proper for an agent to address the honorable Commissioner upon this subject until he is invited to do so; but we have a great body of country to the west of this (new) location which the Indians have no use for at all, and which can just as well be thrown open for settlement as not.

"I want to be relieved of the care of it, and presume that any agent who comes after me will feel the same way. The agreement can be arranged with the Crows in a short time, and I hope it may be done not later than September.

"Very respectfully,

"H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
"United States Indian Agent.

"Hon. H. PRICE,  
"Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C."

I presume the Commissioner thought me impertinent for writing on such a subject. If so, I am sorry.

I can also refer the honorable Secretary to my annual report, wherein I made the strongest argument I am capable of making for a reduction of all reservations, or their abolishment, and for a more vigorous policy in dealing with the Indian people.

I hope the honorable Secretary will not consider that I write this much in the nature of a defense in order to retain my position.

\* See "The Nation," No. 977, March 20, 1884, article entitled "The Indian Question," signed "Jacques." (Does not relate to leases.)

I shall always maintain that I have committed no intentional moral wrong since I have been agent for the Crows, but I do not care to retain my position.

I am thoroughly tired of contending with the public, with the Department, and with the Indians for \$2,000 a year, and shall be perfectly willing to turn over to my successor as soon as I get the rest of the Government property down here from the old agency, which will be in a very few weeks.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.*

Whereas a treaty made between the Government of the United States and the Crow tribe of Indians on the 12th day of June, A. D. 1880, provided for grazing privileges as follows:

"SEC. 3. If at any time hereafter we, as a tribe, shall consent to permit cattle to be driven across our reservation or grazed thereon, the Secretary of the Interior shall fix the amount to be paid by the parties so desiring to drive or graze cattle, all moneys arising from this source to be paid to us under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe;"

And whereas, at a council of the Crow Indians residing upon the Crow Reservation in the Territory of Montana, acquired in pursuance of a treaty between the Crow tribe of Indians and the Government of the United States, and confirmed by subsequent acts of Congress, and decisions and rulings of the Department of the Interior, which said council was held at the Crow Agency on the Little Big Horn River, on said reservation, on the 29th day of October, A. D. 1884, the following proceedings were had, and appear of record as follows:

Wherefore, this agreement witnesseth that the Crow tribe of Indians, in consideration of the sum of \$30,000 per annum, to be paid semi-annually in advance, except the first payment, of which \$6,000 shall be paid within thirty days after the approval of this contract by the Secretary of the Interior, the semi-annual payments to be made on the 30th days of April and November of each year, do let and lease to J. C. Wilson, of Topeka, Kans., and John T. Blake, of Salida, Colo., trustees; their heirs or assigns, for the term of ten years from the 1st day of June, A. D. 1885, the following-described land, to wit: All that part or portion of said Crow Reservation lying west of a line beginning at Pompey's Pillar, on the Yellowstone River, on the northern boundary of said reservation, running in a southerly direction to a point 10 miles west of Fort C. F. Smith; thence south to the southern boundary of said reservation on the line separating the same from the Territory of Wyoming, excepting such portions of said described territory in what is known as the Yellowstone Bottom, which have been surveyed by the United States Government for the purpose of setting apart in severalty to members of said Crow tribe of Indians for agricultural purposes. The lands within the foregoing boundary contain about 1,500,000 acres of grazing lands, the remainder thereof being rocky, mountainous, and not adapted to agricultural or grazing purposes. All payments of rental, as hereinbefore set forth, shall be made at the agency buildings on said reservation, and in such manner and to such person or persons as said tribe may designate. The said J. C. Wilson and John T. Blake, trustees, their heirs or assigns, shall have the privilege of fencing the land included in this lease, or any portion of it, and to use any timber necessary for such fencing, and for all necessary ranche buildings or corrals, and firewood for employes, but no privileges granted to sell or dispose of timber in any other manner.

The said J. C. Wilson and John T. Blake, trustees, their heirs or assigns, shall, so far as practicable, employ as herders of stock members of said tribe residing on said reservation.

It is further agreed by and between parties to this lease that the cattle, horses, or other stock owned or held by the said J. C. Wilson and John T. Blake, trustees, their heirs or assigns, on the above described land, shall be held as guaranty for the prompt payment of the rental as stipulated in this lease. It is further understood and agreed by and between the parties hereto that the said J. C. Wilson and John T. Blake, trustees, their heirs or assigns, may at any time after the execution hereof, and its approval by the Secretary of the Interior, enter into and take possession of the lands herein described for the purpose of building fences or corrals, the erection of ranche buildings, and the location and placing of stock.

The object and purpose of making this lease on the part of the members of the Crow tribe of Indians is to derive a revenue from leasing their surplus lands, and to enable our young men to learn the habits of civilized life, to breed, to improve, and grow domestic cattle and horses, and to enable them to earn wages for themselves; and the object and purpose of J. C. Wilson and John T. Blake, trustees, in entering into this agreement is to graze, breed, and improve domestic cattle and other stock upon the lands described in this lease.

In witness whereof the parties hereto have set their hands, at Crow Agency, on the Little Big Horn River, Crow Reservation, Territory of Montana, on the 29th day of October, A. D. 1884.

J. C. WILSON, *Trustee.*  
JOHN T. BLAKE, *Trustee.*

Witnesses to signatures above of J. C. Wilson, trustee, and to John T. Blake, trustee:  
C. H. BARSTOW,  
THOS. E. WALKER.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1. FRINGE, <i>Chief, Band No. 5,</i>       | his x mark. |
| 2. LONG OTTER,                             | his x mark. |
| 3. OLD DOG, <i>Chief, Band No. 7,</i>      | his x mark. |
| 4. HORSE GUARD, <i>Chief, Band No. 17,</i> | his x mark. |
| 5. ALLIGATOR,                              | his x mark. |

CROW AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 1 to No. 5, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.  
THOS. E. WALKER.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 6. TAKES WRINKLE, <i>Chief, Band No. 14,</i>       | his x mark. |
| 7. SPANIARD, <i>Chief, Band No. 19,</i>            | his x mark. |
| 8. LONG HAIR,                                      | his x mark. |
| 9. JOHN WALLACE,                                   | his x mark. |
| 10. OLD CROW, <i>Chief, Band No. 21,</i>           | his x mark. |
| 11. BUSY WOLFE,                                    | his x mark. |
| 12. DOG EYE, <i>Chief, Band No. 24,</i>            | his x mark. |
| 13. SHELL ON THE NECK,                             | his x mark. |
| 14. LONG ELK, <i>Chief, Band No. 16,</i>           | his x mark. |
| 15. PRETTY GUTTS, <i>Chief, Band No. 4,</i>        | his x mark. |
| 16. CRAZY SISTER-IN-LAW, <i>Chief, Band No. 6,</i> | his x mark. |
| 17. OLD NEST, <i>Chief, Band No. 26,</i>           | his x mark. |
| 18. SMALL WAIST,                                   | his x mark. |
| 18. MEDICINE CROW, <i>Chief, Band No. 8,</i>       | his x mark. |
| 19. BEAR IN THE WATER, <i>Chief, Band No. 3,</i>   | his x mark. |
| 20. BULL GOES HUNTING, <i>Chief, Band No. 12,</i>  | his x mark. |
| 21. TWO BELLY, <i>Chief, Band No. 20,</i>          | his x mark. |
| 22. BIG OX, <i>Chief, Band No. 25,</i>             | his x mark. |
| 23. FIRE FISH, <i>Chief, Band No. 2,</i>           | his x mark. |
| 24. BIG FOREHEAD, <i>Chief, Band No. 15,</i>       | his x mark. |
| 25. ENEMY HUNTER,                                  | his x mark. |
| 26. PLENTY COOS, <i>Chief, Band No. 13,</i>        | his x mark. |
| 27. PRETTY EAGLE, <i>Chief, Band No. 11,</i>       | his x mark. |

CROW AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 6 to No. 27, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.  
THOS. E. WALKER

28. IRON BULL, <i>Chief, Band No. 9,</i>	his x mark.
29. BELL ROCK,	his x mark.
30. OLD WOMAN,	his x mark.
31. DRIFT WOOD,	his x mark.
32. SHORT NOSE,	his x mark.
33. LITTLE WOLF, <i>No. 2,</i>	his x mark.
34. BULL CHIEF,	his x mark.
35. POOR ELK,	his x mark.
36. BLACK HEAD,	his x mark.
37. SHAVINGS,	his x mark.
38. CUT TURNIP,	his x mark.
39. RATTLES,	his x mark.
40. WHITE SHIRT,	his x mark.
41. WOOD TICK,	his x mark.
42. THREE WOLVES,	his x mark.
43. TEN BEAR,	his x mark.
44. BEAVER THAT SLIDES,	his x mark.
45. SINGS,	his x mark.
46. BULL WOLF,	his x mark.
47. SHOWS THE BIRD,	his x mark.
48. BIG PORCUPINE,	his x mark.
49. BAD MAN,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian on this page, from No. 28 to No. 49, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.  
THOS. E. WALKER.

50. CRAZY CRANE,	his x mark.
51. HUNTS,	his x mark.
52. OLD BOAT,	his x mark.
53. NARROW KNIFE,	his x mark.
54. SHOWS PLENTY,	his x mark.
55. BLACK BIRD,	his x mark.
56. RAISE UP,	his x mark.
57. BEND,	his x mark.
58. SHOT,	his x mark.
59. WOLF THAT LAYS DOWN,	his x mark.
60. HE HAS GONE,	his x mark.
61. BIG NOSE,	his x mark.
62. GREY BULL,	his x mark.
63. BIG ROUND,	his x mark.
64. BEAR OF,	his x mark.
65. DEAF BULL,	his x mark.
66. LONG EAR,	his x mark.
67. BLACK BULL,	his x mark.
68. DREAMER,	his x mark.
69. SHORT BULL,	his x mark.
70. PUKES ON THE GROUND,	his x mark.
71. RED FOX, <i>No. 2,</i>	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, No. 50 to 71, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.

72. ROCK CHIEF,	his x mark.
73. CHARLEY FOSTER,	his x mark.
74. SPIES ON THE ENEMY,	his x mark.
75. LITTLE BOY,	his x mark.
76. GOES AHEAD,	his x mark.
77. THE OTHER GUN,	his x mark.
78. BREAD,	his x mark.
79. GUN CHIEF,	his x mark.
80. BIG MEDICINE,	his x mark.
81. HIDES,	his x mark.
82. WRINKLED FACE,	his x mark.
83. THE WET,	his x mark.
84. JACK,	his x mark.
85. STRONG,	his x mark.
86. PRETTY ON TOP,	his x mark.
87. AIN'T AFRAID OF THE CORRAL,	his x mark.
88. RED FOX,	his x mark.
89. SPOTTED HORSE, Chief, Band No. 22,	his x mark.
90. CALF,	his x mark.
91. LONG ANN,	his x mark.
92. FOOLISH MAN,	his x mark.
93. THE BIRD FISH,	his x mark.
94. BAD BOY,	his x mark.
95. BUFFALO GRUNTS,	his x mark.
96. BIRD SHIRT,	his x mark.
97. SEES THE WHITE HORSE,	his x mark.
98. GRANDMOTHER'S KNIFE,	his x mark.
99. BULL SQUIRREL,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 72 to No. 99, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.

100. GOES TO WAR, No. 2,	his x mark.
101. TWO LEGGINS,	his x mark.
102. STRETCHES,	his x mark.
103. HOLDS ON TO HIM,	his x mark.
104. BEAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GROUND,	his x mark.
105. BIG EYE,	his x mark.
106. PUT ON ANTELOPE CAP,	his x mark.
107. FLAT DOG,	his x mark.
108. ARAPAHO,	his x mark.
109. BLACK HAIR,	his x mark.
110. NO GROUND,	his x mark.
111. CROOKED ARM,	his x mark.
112. THE BACK,	his x mark.
113. OLD WOLF,	his x mark.
114. THE FOOT,	his x mark.
115. CROW TAIL,	his x mark.
116. LEADS THE WOLF,	his x mark.
117. YOUNG HAIRY WOLF,	his x mark.
118. HE IS THE BEAR NOW,	his x mark.
119. NO HAIR ON HIS TAIL,	his x mark.
120. BIG LEG,	his x mark.
121. NO NAME,	his x mark.
122. TWO PEOPLE,	his x mark.
123. WHITE FOREHEAD,	his x mark.
124. GOES ON,	his x mark.
125. THE RIVER,	his x mark.
126. BEAR LAYS DOWN PLENTY,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 100 to No. 126, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.  
THOS. E. WALKER.

127. IRON FORK,	his x mark.
128. THE IRON,	his x mark.
129. THE BANK,	his x mark.
130. BEAD ON THE FOREHEAD,	his x mark.
131. WHITE BEAR,	his x mark.
132. OLD WHITE MAN,	his x mark.
133. NARROW FACE,	his x mark.
134. YELLOW HORSE,	his x mark.
135. WHITE FAWN,	his x mark.
136. WALKING BIRD,	his x mark.
137. GROS VENTRES HORSE,	his x mark.
138. YOUNG SWALLOW,	his x mark.
139. STRIPES IN HIS FACE,	his x mark.
140. GOES TO ALL THE LODGES,	his x mark.
141. FINDS THE FEATHER,	his x mark.
142. SLINGS HIS ANN,	his x mark.
143. GOOD LOOKING OLD MAN,	his x mark.
144. PLENTY BEAR,	his x mark.
145. SMALL HEART,	his x mark.
146. HORSE NO JOINT,	his x mark.
147. BIG KNOT ON HIS FOREHEAD,	his x mark.
148. WALKS SLOW,	his x mark.
149. BULLS EYE,	his x mark.
150. BAD BABY,	his x mark.
151. RIDES ALONE,	his x mark.
152. CRAINE IN THE SKY,	his x mark.
153. MOUNTAIN POCKET,	his x mark.
154. WHITE CLAY ON HIS FOREHEAD,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,

October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 127 to No. 154, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.

THOS. E. WALKER.

155. STRAWBERRY ROAN,	his x mark.
156. STANDS AMONG THEM,	his x mark.
157. ENEMY WELL KNOWN,	his x mark.
158. DOES EVERYTHING,	his x mark.
159. SETS IN THE MIDDLE,	his x mark.
160. BIG BEAR,	his x mark.
161. HIS TOBACCO,	his x mark.
162. LOUIS BOMPARD,	his x mark.
163. LONG NECK,	his x mark.
164. DOG CRYING,	his x mark.
165. SUGAR,	his x mark.
166. GOES TO WAR, No. 1, Band No. 1.	his x mark.
167. STRONG WIND,	his x mark.
168. FIRE BIRD,	his x mark.
169. DANCING WOMAN,	his x mark.
170. SPOTTED HAT,	his x mark.
171. WALKS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GROUND,	his x mark.
172. PRETTY TAIL,	his x mark.
173. BULLET NOSE,	his x mark.
174. YELLOW TOP,	his x mark.
175. YELLOW FACE,	his x mark.
176. WALKING MOUSE,	his x mark.
177. THE OTHER LODGE,	his x mark.
178. MOUNTAIN CHIEF,	his x mark.
179. TWINS,	his x mark.
180. RED WING,	his x mark.
181. BULL HAIR,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,

October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 155 to No. 181, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW,

THOS. E. WALKER.



182. WHITE FACED HORSE,	his x mark.
183. PLENTY WINGS,	his x mark.
184. GOOD BIRD,	his x mark.
185. ONE BLUE BEAD,	his x mark.
186. SMART MAN,	his x mark.
187. RED HAIL STONE,	his x mark.
188. ON THE PRAIRIE,	his x mark.
189. STRONG ALONE,	his x mark.
190. LONG SNAKE,	his x mark.
191. GOT THINGS,	his x mark.
192. YOUNG CURLEW,	his x mark.
193. HALF WHITE,	his x mark.
194. SPOTTED ARROW,	his x mark.
195. PRETTY OWL,	his x mark.
196. SPOTTED JACK RABBIT,	his x mark.
197. SETS DOWN SPOTTED,	his x mark.
198. LONG DAY,	his x mark.
199. BEAR THAT GETS UP,	his x mark.
200. SHARP HORN,	his x mark.
201. LOW HORN,	his x mark.
202. BEAR TOOTH,	his x mark.
203. BOB TAIL OWL,	his x mark.
204. HEAD AND TAIL ROBE,	his x mark.
205. SMOKES,	his x mark.
206. WOLF THAT DRINKS WATER,	his x mark.
207. MAD BEAR,	his x mark.
208. THE FENCE,	his x mark.
209. STRONG TIE,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 182 to No. 209, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.  
THOS. E. WALKER.

210. LITTLE STAR,	his x mark.
211. MEDICINE HIGH,	his x mark.
212. THE KICKER,	his x mark.
213. MAKES IT HIMSELF,	his x mark.
214. STRONG HEART,	his x mark.
215. THE BALL,	his x mark.
216. THE FIRE,	his x mark.
217. SHOT IN THE FACE,	his x mark.
218. THE KISSER,	his x mark.
219. BOB TAIL WOLF,	his x mark.
220. GROUND COMES UP,	his x mark.
221. WALKING TOBACCO,	his x mark.
222. OTTER MAN,	his x mark.
223. SITS ON A MOUNTAIN,	his x mark.
224. BURNED MOUTH,	his x mark.
225. BOB TAIL CROW,	his x mark.
226. STANDS HIGH UP,	his x mark.
227. HARRY,	his x mark.
228. OLD CAYOTE,	his x mark.
229. THAT SHAVES,	his x mark.
230. RUNS AMONG THE ENEMY,	his x mark.
231. RED CAYOTTE,	his x mark.
232. THE ELK,	his x mark.
233. FOUR BALLS,	his x mark.
234. RIDES A HORSE,	his x mark.
235. THE HORSE,	his x mark.
236. PLENTY BUTTERFLY,	his x mark.
237. BEAR COMES FROM BELOW.	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 210 to 237, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW,  
THOS. E. WALKER.

238. HOLE IN THE LODGE,	his x mark.
239. TWO BEARS,	his x mark.
240. BLACK HAWK,	his x mark.
241. RED EYE,	his x mark.
242. LONG BEAR,	his x mark.
243. SPOTTED HORN,	his x mark.
244. THE GUN,	his x mark.
245. CHARLEYS,	his x mark.
246. HUNTS THE ENEMY, No. 2,	his x mark.
247. THE GREENE,	his x mark.
248. TOP OF THE HILL,	his x mark.
249. CURLEY,	his x mark.
250. BLACK FOOT,	his x mark.
251. BIG SKY,	his x mark.
252. STRIKES HIM ON THE HEAD,	his x mark.
253. FLAT HEAD WOMAN,	his x mark.
254. BIRD THAT TURNS HIS HEAD,	his x mark.
256. STRIKES THREE,	his x mark.
257. PAINT ON HIS FOREHEAD,	his x mark.
258. PUTS THE BEEF UP,	his x mark.
259. THE WOLF,	his x mark.
260. THE MOON,	his x mark.
261. FOUR BIRDS,	his x mark.
262. OWL WELL KNOWN,	his x mark.
263. SMALL POX IN THE GUTS,	his x mark.
264. NO JOINT,	his x mark.
265. WHITE BUFFALO,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONTANA,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page from No. 238 to 265, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW,  
THOS. E. WALKER.

266. BOY THAT GRABS,	his x mark.
267. SPOTTED WOLF,	his x mark.
268. CRAZY WOLF,	his x mark.
269. THE COOS,	his x mark.
270. LITTLE HAWK,	his x mark.
271. BEAR CRANE,	his x mark.
272. PLENTY OF HOOPS,	his x mark.
273. FETCH GOOD HORSE,	his x mark.
274. PORR ASSINNABOINE,	his x mark.
275. LITTLE IRON,	his x mark.
276. TAKES PRETTY THINGS,	his x mark.
277. SCHOOL MASTER,	his x mark.
278. NAGS,	his x mark.
279. PLENTY MUSKRATS,	his x mark.
280. YELLOW,	his x mark.
281. HAILSTONE,	his x mark.
282. MEDICINE BEAR,	his x mark.
282. OLD TOBACCO,	his x mark.
283. LONE TREE,	his x mark.
284. BLACK TAIL,	his x mark.
285. ONE FEATHER	his x mark.
286. BULL NOSE, <i>Chief Band No. 18,</i>	his x mark.
287. STAND ON A CLOUD,	his x mark.
288. BIRD ALL OVER THE GROUND,	his x mark.
288. STRONG WELL KNOWN,	his x mark.
289. POUNDED MEAT,	his x mark.
290. GOT A GREY BLANKET,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONTANA,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page from No. 266 to 290, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW,  
THOS. E. WALKER.

291. RED EAGLE,	his x mark.
292. TAKES HOLD OF THE DEAD,	his x mark.
293. THE BRAVE,	his x mark.
294. TRAVELS WELL KNOWN,	his x mark.
295. STRIKES THE HAT,	his x mark.
296. SHOW THE BIRD,	his x mark.
297. THREE BLACK BIRDS,	his x mark.
298. WHITE ANN,	his x mark.
299. FAT TOBACCO,	his x mark.
300. VOICE WELL KNOWN,	his x mark.
301. YELLOW HEAD,	his x mark.
302. LITTLE WHETSTONE,	his x mark.
303. HUGS THE PIPE,	his x mark.
304. YOUNG WOLF,	his x mark.
305. CRANE WELL KNOWN,	his x mark.
306. MEDICINE HORSE,	his x mark.
307. STANDS ON THE MOUNTAIN,	his x mark.
308. THE BEARD,	his x mark.
309. OLD ROBE,	his x mark.
310. BEAR TAIL,	his x mark.
311. RUNS WITH THE ENEMY,	his x mark.
312. TAKES A CROOKED STICK,	his x mark.
313. BAD FACE,	his x mark.
314. DUMMY,	his x mark.
315. LOOKS IN THE WATER,	his x mark.
316. CROSS WEASEL,	his x mark.
317. CHARGES ALONG THE HILLSIDE,	his x mark.
318. BULL IN THE WATER,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONTANA,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from 291 to 318, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW,  
THOS. E. WALKER.

319. THE IRON WOMAN,	his x mark.
320. GOOD HEART,	his x mark.
321. GOOSE CHIEF,	his x mark.
322. THE FLY,	his x mark.
323. OLD BEAVER,	his x mark.
324. HOLD ON THE TAIL,	his x mark.
325. OLD WOLF, No. 2.	his x mark.
326. SITTING ELK,	his x mark.
327. CUT A HOLE IN THE ICE,	his x mark.
328. THE IRON HORSE,	his x mark.
329. ANTELOPE CAYOTE,	his x mark.
330. THE HAIR,	his x mark.
331. KNIFE CHIEF,	his x mark.
332. TAKES A MAN'S HORSE,	his x mark.
333. SETS BEFORE A CLOUD,	his x mark.
334. COVERS HIS NECK,	his x mark.
335. STRIKES ACROSS THE WATER,	his x mark.
336. WHISTLE WATER,	his x mark.
337. TAKES ACROSS THE WATER,	his x mark.
338. WHITE DOG,	his x mark.
339. RIDES THE BEAR,	his x mark.
340. STRIKES THE SCALP,	his x mark.
341. CRAZY PEN D'ORIELLE,	his x mark.
342. RED GUN,	his x mark.
343. CALF WOMAN,	his x mark.
344. MAD WOLF,	his x mark.
345. BULL ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN,	his x mark.
346. GET OUT OF THE CROWD,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 319 to 346, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW,  
THOS. E. WALKER.

347. WHITE BEAR, No. 2,	his x mark.
348. CUT EAR,	his x mark.
349. YELLOW TAIL,	his x mark.
350. RED DUCK,	his x mark.
351. SHOOTS THE ENEMY,	his x mark.
352. CUT LIP,	his x mark.
353. WOUNDED ARM,	his x mark.
354. RIGHT AMONG THEM,	his x mark.
355. PLAIN LEFT HAND,	his x mark.
356. YELLOW SHIELD,	his x mark.
357. BLUE BELLY,	his x mark.
358. WOLF THAT DON'T TOUCH THE GROUND,	his x mark.
359. BIG WING,	his x mark.
360. GREY ARM,	his x mark.
361. BROKEN ARROW,	his x mark.
362. TAKES THE GUN,	his x mark.
363. THE GROS VENTRES,	his x mark.
364. CUTS THE BEAR'S EAR OFF,	his x mark.
365. GOT NICE COOS,	his x mark.
366. THAT KILLS,	his x mark.
367. GETS CRAZY,	his x mark.
368. HIS STRONG ARM,	his x mark.
369. CHARGES ON THE CAMP,	his x mark.
370. HORSE WELL KNOWN,	his x mark.
371. SHOWS THE PIPE,	his x mark.
372. FAT IN THE MORNING,	his x mark.
373. LITTLE BEAR,	his x mark.
374. OLD CAYOTE,	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from 347 to 374, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.  
THOS. E. WALKER.

375. MIDDLE AGES MAN,	his x mark.
276. WHITE OTTER,	his x mark.
377. YOUNG BEAVER,	his x mark.
378. STRONG WELL KNOWN,	his x mark.
379. WHITE BULL,	his x mark.
380. RUNS HIMSELF,	his x mark.
381. EAGLE SITS DOWN,	his x mark.
382. RIDES PRETTY HORSES,	his x mark.
383. LITTLE WHETSTONE,	his x mark.
384. SKINS THE WOLF,	his x mark.
385. ONE HORN GONE,	his x mark.
386. LEAN MAN,	his x mark.
387. PRETTY OTTER,	his x mark.
388. STRAY HORSE,	his x mark.
389. HE IS DOWN ON THEM,	his x mark.
390. ROUND FACE,	his x mark.
391. WHITE CROW,	his x mark.
392. ARM AROUND THE NECK,	his x mark.
593. SPOTTED TAIL,	his x mark.
394. OLD BEAR,	his x mark.
395. BLOODY MAN,	his x mark.
396. BEAR ALL THE TIME,	his x mark.
397. CHIEF'S CHILD,	his x mark.
398. BULL ALL THE TIME,	his x mark.
399. MEDICINE TAIL,	his x mark.
400. YELLOW WEASEL,	his x mark.
401. GOOD LUCK,	his x mark.
402. HE DON'T RUN.	his x mark.

CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,  
October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 375 to 402, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW.  
THOS. E. WALKER.

403. KETTLE THAT BOILS WELL,	his x mark.
404. HORSE,	his x mark.
405. CRAZY HEAD, <i>Chief Band No. 23,</i>	his x mark.
406. WHITE MAN RUNS HIM,	his x mark.
407. YOUNG JACK RABBIT,	his x mark.
408. BEAR IN THE MIDDLE,	his x mark.
409. YOUNG CRANE,	his x mark.
410. BIG HEAD,	his x mark.
411. BLUE MOCCASIN,	his x mark.
412. TAKES RIGHT AMONG THEM,	his x mark.
413. WOMAN CHIEF,	his x mark.
414. RED HAT,	his x mark.
415. BEAD ON THE ANKLE,	his x mark.
416. THE WIND,	his x mark.
417. WHOOP ON THE FOREHEAD,	his x mark.
418. STRONG SHIELD,	his x mark.
419. PRETTY OWL,	his x mark.
420. STRIKES A GUN,	his x mark.
421. ON TOP OF A CLOUD,	his x mark.
422. YELLOW CRANE,	his x mark.
423. GRAY DOG,	his x mark.
424. PRETTY GRASS,	his x mark.
425. CURLEY,	his x mark.
426. SHOOTS THE LODGE,	his x mark.
427. SPOTTED ARM,	his x mark.
428. PAINTS HIMSELF PLENTY,	his x mark.
429. RED PLUME,	his x mark.
430. FINDS THEM AND KILLS THEM,	his x mark.

## CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONT.,

October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page, from No. 403 to No. 430, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW,  
THOS. E. WALKER.

431. NOT MIXED,	his x mark.
432. YELLOW WOLF,	his x mark.
433. YOUNG ROCK,	his x mark.
434. BIG PRAIRIE DOG,	his x mark.
435. RUNNER,	his x mark.
436. OLD BEAR,	his x mark.
437. BIG SHOULDER BLADE,	his x mark.
438. BUFFALO WELL KNOWN, <i>Chief Band, No. 10,</i>	his x mark.
439. CROOKED FOOT,	his x mark.

## CROW INDIAN AGENCY, MONTANA,

October 29, 1884.

We certify on honor that we witnessed the signature of each and every Indian named on this page from, No. 431 to No. 439, inclusive.

C. H. BARSTOW,  
THOS. E. WALKER.

I hereby certify on honor that I have explained to the Indians above named and am satisfied that they understand the nature of the foregoing lease, and that I witnessed the signature of each and every Indian to said lease.

BERNARD BRAVO,  
*Interpreter.*

I hereby certify on honor that the foregoing lease was made with the Crow Indians by the parties named therein under Section 3 of the treaty of June 12, 1880, and that I attended the council held by said Indians on the 29th day of October, 1884, by which said lease was ratified and confirmed.

H. J. ARMSTRONG,  
*United States Indian Agent.*