

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A communication of the 16th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, recommending an appropriation of \$14,100 for the purchase of stock-cattle, &c., for the bands of Sioux Indians of Red Cloud and Red Leaf.

FEBRUARY 19, 1883.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, February 17, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of the 16th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with inclosures noted therein, recommending an appropriation in the sum of \$14,100 for the purchase of stock-cattle, &c., for the bands of Sioux Indians of Red Cloud and Red Leaf, to reimburse them for 705 ponies taken from them in the year 1876.

An item of appropriation in the sum named is herewith presented, and the subject is earnestly recommended to the favorable attention and action of the Congress.

Very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,
Secretary.

To the PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
Of the United States Senate.

For the payment in full for seven hundred and five ponies taken from the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Indians, in the year 1876, fourteen thousand one hundred dollars, provided that said money shall be used, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, in the purchase of cattle for said bands, excepting so much thereof as may be found necessary to purchase two horses for the individual use of Red Cloud.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, February 16, 1883.

SIR: Referring to the copy of an interview between yourself and Col. George W. Manypenny, dated the 9th instant, and the interview with Red Cloud and others, under date of the 15th ultimo, informally re-

ferred to me on the 14th instant, in regard to certain horses alleged to have been taken from the Red Cloud and Red Leaf bands of Indians in the year 1876, I have the honor to say, that from the various statements submitted it appears that some 705 ponies were taken as alleged; that of this number so taken 404 were sold at Fort Laramie in November, 1876, 141 at Cheyenne Depot, December, 1876, and 136 at Sidney, December 27, 1876, and the remainder (24) were turned over to friendly Indians, Pawnees, and others acting as scouts.

The total sum realized from the various sales amounted to \$4,169.84, being an average of about \$6 each for the 681 ponies actually sold.

These various sales appear to have been made under the direction of Lieut. E. B. Gibbs of the Army, but what final disposition was made of the money realized therefrom is not known to this office. It is believed, however, that Red Cloud's and Red Leaf's bands have never received any benefit whatsoever from the proceeds of the sales aforesaid, and from all the facts that can be ascertained in connection with this matter, it would seem to be right that these Indians should receive a reasonable compensation for their losses in this respect.

Colonel Manypenny, without seeing them, estimates the value of the 705 ponies taken from Red Cloud and Red Leaf's bands, at from \$25 to \$50 each. But parties who saw the ponies say that some of them were "broken down," and I find that in a sale of 248 good ponies in 1877 and 1878, by the Indians themselves, of the Cheyenne River Agency, only about \$20 apiece was received.

The estimate of valuation by Colonel Manypenny, even at the minimum price mentioned by him, would be in excess of what I am willing to recommend, and if the price was estimated on the average realized from the sales, the aggregate on this basis would in my opinion be too small.

I therefore conclude that a fair price for the 705 ponies taken from the Indians aforesaid would be \$20 each, making an aggregate of \$14,100, for which sum I respectfully recommend that Congress be asked for an appropriation, with the proviso, that the money, when appropriated, should be invested in the purchase of cattle for the use and benefit of the two bands, reserving therefrom, however, a sufficient amount to be used in the purchase of two horses for the individual use of Red Cloud.

I will add that should it be hereafter ascertained that any part of the money received from the sale of the ponies has not been accounted for, and is yet available, that money could be turned into the Treasury of the United States.

The papers (with copy thereof) referred to in this report are herewith returned.

I also inclose a form for item to be inserted in the sundry civil bill, and two copies of this report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 15, 1883.

Present, the Secretary of the Interior, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Dr. T. A. Bland, Red Cloud, and Edward Laramie, interpreter.

RED CLOUD. I want to talk to you privately and alone.

The SECRETARY. He does not object to the Commissioner being present, does he?

RED CLOUD. Of course the Commissioner can stay if he wants to.

The SECRETARY. There is also Dr. Bland.

RED CLOUD. He is my friend, too, I do not care for him. I am going to mention a few things concerning some time back. Some time ago I made a treaty with General Sherman.

The SECRETARY. Can he tell what year it was?

RED CLOUD. The treaty of 1868. After that I came to Washington. Then he gave me an agent. I was in peace with the white people then; I moved away from that place and crossed Laramie River, and then he gave me another agent. I moved away from that place and came to White River, and then he gave me another agent again; then that agent went off, and then there was another agent took possession. I had four different agents during that time. I lost some things, and I dropped some things, and, Great Father, I want you to straighten them for me. I was seven to eight years in peace with the whites, and I did not go back north nor anywhere, but kept along with the whites for eight years. Then the man we called Red Leaf came and we lost everything of the property we had. We mentioned the Black Hills to the Great Father at the same time, for I had made the treaty at the Black Hills. We moved down there and located on the reservation, and I moved between the two reservations to stay for the winter, and at that time they took the horses away from me. I want the Great Father to help me in regard to these horses; I am relying on you and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Congressmen; I depend on them to straighten that up for me. If men are friends they ought to help each other. I am a human man as well as any other man, and I have also children to support; sometimes those children ask me for some things and I cannot give anything to them because I am poor. I have mentioned to you \$10,000; I do not want it all in money, I want \$5,000 in supplies.

The SECRETARY. That is what he thinks his one hundred horses are worth?—Ans. Yes, sir.

The SECRETARY. One hundred dollars apiece?

RED CLOUD. And the property; yes, sir.

The SECRETARY. What other property does he claim beside horses?

RED CLOUD. There were four lodges of furniture, a light wagon, that were burned.

The SECRETARY. Who does he think burned this property?

INTERPRETER. I do not recognize the name of one, but General Crook was there, and one officer with one hand cut off.

RED CLOUD. After that thing happened—about a year and a half after—I went to Washington with General Crook.

The SECRETARY. Mr. Commissioner, what did you find out about these horses—anything?

The COMMISSIONER. Yes, sir. General Terry states, under date of December 14—I will just read this over to you.

Disposition of the ponies and other property of Red Cloud.

William Vandever, late United States Indian inspector, in letter to Hon. J. Q. Smith, late Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in a letter dated Dubuque, Iowa, October 23, 1876, refers to morning papers' dispatches from Red Cloud that General Crook had captured about 300 lodges of Sioux Indians at a place called Chadron Creek, about 20 miles from Red Cloud and Spotted Tail Agencies.

The inspector states that these Indians had kept the peace, and had just signed a stipulation with commissioners sent by the government by which they gave assurance of their peaceable intentions for the future, agreeing to relinquish their right to the Black Hills and to be removed to the Indian Territory. They appear to have been camped here for the purpose of conferring more conveniently with Spotted Tail's Indians in regard to the terms of the new agreement offered. It was their favorite camping ground, and they remained there.

The late inspector was very pronounced in his views on the matter of the said capture, and the only deduction to be drawn therefrom is that it was altogether unnecessary and uncalled for.

The honorable Secretary of War, under date of June 19, 1877, in response to department letter of April 19, 1877, submitted copies of reports of the disposition made of certain property taken from the Sioux Indians in the autumn of 1876, and of the proceeds of the sale of property sold.

Lieutenant Gibbs reports, under date of May 10, 1877, that the total number of ponies received and sold under his direction at Saint Paul was 605.

General Terry, under date of June 8, 1877, reported that "none of the arms seized at the agencies had yet been sold; that they were in store at the posts." The ponies had all been sold. The amount received from them was \$19,412.96. The expense of bringing them to market was \$5,683.96, and there was still an unadjusted account for ferrage at Fort Abraham Lincoln. This money was deposited at Saint Paul, as a separate fund in the name of Lieut. E. B. Gibbs, Sixth Infantry, acting assistant

quartermaster, who was directed to call for proposals for furnishing cows to be purchased from these funds for the use of the Indians.

Under date of December 22, 1877, the honorable Secretary of War transmitted for the information of the department copies of reports of General Crook and General Terry, dated respectively November 28 and December 14, 1877, on the disposition of surrendered Indian ponies during the fall of 1876.

General Terry states, under date of December 14, 1877, that "the amount stated in his indorsement of June 8, 1877, viz, \$19,412.96, was the amount received for ponies taken from both agencies, and not for the ponies taken at Cheyenne River alone."

The whole number of ponies seized at the two agencies was 4,277. General Crook, under date of November 23, 1877, states that in dismounting the bands of Red Cloud and Red Leaf there were taken 705 ponies, 404 of which were sold at Fort Laramie in November, 1876, for \$1,883.54; 141 at Cheyenne depot, December 16, 1876, for \$1,348.85; and 136 at Sidney, December 27, 1876, for \$937.45. The remainder were turned over to friendly Indians, Pawnees and others, acting as scouts.

There is nothing of record in this office to indicate that Red Cloud received any benefit whatsoever from proceeds of sale of ponies or other property hereinbefore mentioned, but the Indians of the Cheyenne River Agency in 1877 received 450 milch cows and five bulls from the proceeds of the sale of 1,936 head of ponies turned over by Lieutenant Manchester.

According to these reports, 705 ponies were taken from Red Cloud and Red Leaf, and 681 of these were sold at different points for \$4,169.84 and the remainder given away.

The COMMISSIONER. According to the papers there appears to be in the hands of the War Department some \$4,000 unaccounted for.

The SECRETARY. They ought to account for that certainly. I suppose it would be impossible now to tell to whom it belongs?

The COMMISSIONER. We have nothing in the records to show anything about individuals.

The SECRETARY. That is the time they took all the stock from them and disarmed and dismounted them. Ask him if they have ever taken any horses from him more than once?

RED CLOUD. After General Crook took away my horses—some time afterwards—General Crook asked for ponies again from the Indians, and they were willing to give up their ponies and arms peaceably. After this thing happened to me, General Crook said the President wanted me to go after Crazy Horse, who was hostile, and I set out and went and got him and brought him in. This is the reason General Crook asked for horses again, and he gave the horses and he returned them to us again. That is all I know about these horses. I have a hard time to get along. I want two horses anyway to get along with on my farm.

The SECRETARY. Has he got any horses?

RED CLOUD. Yes; I have got one and my son has one. We get along with these two, but my son has the use of them most of the time and I have none. I had two horses given to me by the government, but one of them was not of much account, and I gave it away to my daughter.

Now, I want to speak of something else. Every time I come here I speak of the half-breeds. The half-breeds have been ordered off the reservation for three years.

The SECRETARY. Whom does he refer to?

ANSWER. Louis Changreau. (?)

RED CLOUD. He has got lots of children.

The SECRETARY. Did he go off?

ANSWER. He is off now.

The SECRETARY. Where is his family?

RED CLOUD. They are living about three miles from the agency now. He is an Indian now, and is a nephew of mine, and has a right to live there, and I want you to give him permission to come back to the agency. I have written to you with the hands of fifty persons last summer.

The INTERPRETER. He means a petition, I suppose.

RED CLOUD. At that time I asked you for another agent. Afterward, after Major Pollock was up there, I told him to tell you officers here to send me another agent, but I have not heard anything in regard to that, and I want to hear something about it—whether I am going to have another agent or not.

The SECRETARY. Ask him what fault he finds with the agent.

RED CLOUD. When I come here you people always give me an agent for my agency, and when you do give me one you tell me to look over, around, and under him, and see how he gets along. And be sure and see that he is doing right, and if he don't do everything right and don't conduct himself right, then Red Cloud, if he don't suit you just tell him to go home. There are lots of other good people, say they. We will give you another one in the place of him.

The SECRETARY. Who does he say told him all that?

RED CLOUD. Different Presidents and different Secretaries I have been with. I am a chief, and anything you people tell me, I've remembered it for years. I don't have any interest, any personal hard feelings against the agent myself, but I have looked upon his misconduct that he has done since I sent you that last fall.

The SECRETARY. What is his misconduct? What does he do that he ought not to have done?

RED CLOUD. I have already told you what I have to say against the agent, and Major Pollock ought to have brought these charges against the agent here. It would be hard for me to go to work and make all the charges over again as I did at the agency. Even Indians and white people have told the inspector.

The INTERPRETER. They call him "Long Whiskers," that is his Indian baptism.

RED CLOUD. I am well aware of it, that the charges are true, so far as I know. I suppose Major Pollock has told you about it. I have mentioned once that I have four stores on my reservation—four white traders.

The SECRETARY. Does he find fault about that?

RED CLOUD. It would be well and good enough to allow these traders to trade at the post, but they have permission to go and spread themselves all over the village. I don't like that. That has never been mentioned to me yet.

COMMISSIONER. Does he say the traders do not confine themselves to their places of trade?

INTERPRETER. Suppose there is a trader has a license to trade at the post, and another a license to trade at the village.

The SECRETARY. Ask him what is the trouble about that?

RED CLOUD. Because of this. It would be better for them to keep their posts right at the agency, and not run in opposition to each other. It causes hard feelings through the village.

The SECRETARY. Between the traders?

RED CLOUD. Yes.

The SECRETARY. That is for the benefit of the Indians. The more competition we can give them the cheaper they will get the goods.

RED CLOUD. It causes us much hard feeling whenever they close him up.

The SECRETARY. What does he want? Does he want the Indians to do the trading?

RED CLOUD. Yes; I want half-breeds and Indians to trade on my reservation.

The SECRETARY. Does he want to start a store himself?

RED CLOUD. If I was able to do it I would do it.

The SECRETARY. Are there Indians there who have got money enough to start a store?

RED CLOUD. Yes; American Horse started one now.

COMMISSIONER. A full-blood can trade at any time; they do not need a license, and any half-breed that will comply with the statute.

RED CLOUD. I've got one thing to ask from my friend, the Secretary—that is a boss farmer.

The SECRETARY. Has not he got a farmer?

RED CLOUD. I've none, to my knowledge.

COMMISSIONER. I think there is one at his agency.

RED CLOUD. I've been located on that place for five years, and there is no one there to show me how to get along on the farm. I do not know how to farm.

The SECRETARY. Does he try to farm?

RED CLOUD. Yes; all the Indians do.

The SECRETARY. How large a farm has he?

RED CLOUD. I've no measurement at all.

The SECRETARY. What do you raise?

RED CLOUD. Corn, potatoes, beans, beets, watermelons, and pumpkins, and another kind of pumpkins, onions, and cabbage. I've not tried it yet, I would not know how it would be.

Another thing, do you know why my agent tried to take me over to some other post, or tried to arrest me? I have an idea this way. I have had eighteen hogs killed at that agency, and may be he had an idea to do the same thing to me that he did to my hogs?

The SECRETARY. What does he mean by that?

INTERPRETER. He thinks the agent would try to kill him.

The SECRETARY. Were his hogs taken down there to be killed?

RED CLOUD. No; I live right across, opposite the agency, and my hogs would go into the agency yard and they killed them.

The SECRETARY. What did they do with the hogs?

RED CLOUD. It was in the winter time; I don't see what damage those hogs would do. The first time they killed one he said, "Give it to whoever wants it;" but finally I never took notice of it at all. I said, "I won't mind it." He stopped my ration ticket for beef. I was very poor when I came here, but you have fed me so well I am getting fat.

The SECRETARY. He had better stay here.

RED CLOUD. Yes. (Shakes hands with the Secretary and Commissioner.) Mr. Secretary, have the land commissioners come back yet?—Mr. Hinman, I mean.

The SECRETARY. Not yet. They will be back after a little.

RED CLOUD. When the land commissioners came there they asked me to sign just for our own reservation; but I told them I would sign for this reservation, but I would not sell a strip of it. When they came there I told them this. I have been selling lands to them, but they never kept their promises, and I won't receipt nothing to them until they do what they promise.

The SECRETARY. What does he claim that they promised?

RED CLOUD. They have made a great many promises. At the time they made the treaty of 1868 they promised cows, and horses, and stallions, and wagons, and plows, that we never received.

The SECRETARY. Tell him they have been giving them those things as fast as the Indians were ready for them. When they wanted plows and were ready to go to plowing, they have had the plows.

The INTERPRETER. He has reference to that time they made a contract with him about going out buffalo hunting. Some \$15,000 was allowed to them, and they never received it.

The SECRETARY. Under the treaty of 1868, they were to have cows and oxen to each family. Ask him if they have ever asked for the cows and oxen?

RED CLOUD. Yes.

The SECRETARY. Ask him if there have been any cows given?

Answer. Yes.

The SECRETARY. Has he had any?

RED CLOUD. Yes.

The SECRETARY. Has he got them now?

RED CLOUD. The band has a few. I never got any myself. I've got cows, but I raised them myself.

The SECRETARY. Ask him if he has ever had any of those oxen?

RED CLOUD. They got fifty yoke of cattle only once.

The SECRETARY. What became of them?

RED CLOUD. I don't know what became of them.

The SECRETARY. Did they ever use them to plow the land?

RED CLOUD. They were issued to Cutt-Off's band and Little Wound's band. They never issued any to my band.

The SECRETARY. How many of that band live on land and cultivate it?

RED CLOUD. Do you mean the whole tribe of Ogalalla Sioux?

The SECRETARY. Yes.

RED CLOUD. They are living on lands of our own reservation, and taking homes.

The SECRETARY. Does he mean by that they have gone out and taken pieces of land of their own?

RED CLOUD. They are out on villages and streams down in the reservation where the land is better.

The SECRETARY. Do they work that land?

RED CLOUD. Yes. There was about seven hundred and some odd log-houses built.

The SECRETARY. Mr. Price, do you know anything about whether any large number of them have applied for certificates?

Mr. PRICE. I do not think they have.

The SECRETARY. You see after they have applied for certificates, the Indians shall be entitled to receive seeds, agricultural implements to the value of \$100 for the first year, and to the value of \$25 for three years thereafter, &c.

The COMMISSIONER. I do not think there has been any application from these people for certificates.

RED CLOUD. Whenever we raise anything we generally bring it to the agency or post—corn and potatoes.

The SECRETARY. Ask him if he don't think if the government furnishes him a lot of cattle they can take care of them?

RED CLOUD. The Indians used to have many horses to take care of, and if they had cattle, they would take care of them as well as they would of horses.

The SECRETARY. Ask him if they are not willing to exchange some of their land for cattle, if they have their own reservation large enough for themselves?

RED CLOUD. They have mentioned to me 800 head of cows and 100 bulls; but I did not want them.

The SECRETARY. He did not think that was enough. Well, their contract has 26,000 cows for the whole Sioux Nation, which would give them about 8,000, and then they provided also for a yoke of cattle; the same as they did in the original treaty.

RED CLOUD. My friend, you rush me into being a citizen of the United States; you give me lots of rules on the agencies that I don't understand at all. I would like to understand farming before I get full of all the rules. I would like to understand farming first. You discourage me.

The SECRETARY. He don't want to be a citizen?

The INTERPRETER. He wants to be a citizen, but don't understand the rules and laws.

RED CLOUD. There is some on my agency that don't understand anything; and then there them that do; and therefore I say so.

The SECRETARY. What does he specify now? He wants a farmer; that is one thing.

RED CLOUD. Yes, that is the main thing I want.

The SECRETARY. Does he want any seeds?

RED CLOUD. Generally gets seeds from the agent.

The SECRETARY. When does he want to go home?

RED CLOUD. I want to hear something in regard to these things before I go.

The SECRETARY. Does he want to wait until this commission gets back here?

RED CLOUD. I want to know whether my horses are going to be paid for?

The SECRETARY. Do you suppose what you have there is all the information you can get?

COMMISSIONER. This is all the records show.

(Secretary examines memoranda.)

The SECRETARY. This now refers to the time in 1876, when General Crook took their horses?

COMMISSIONER. Yes.

The SECRETARY. Did this come from the War Department?

Answer. From the Indian Office.

The SECRETARY. Is this money in the War Department?

Answer. Yes.

The SECRETARY. You had better open correspondence with the War Department and perhaps this matter can be settled.

The INTERPRETER. You had better tell Red Cloud.

The SECRETARY. We will inquire into the matter of these one hundred horses.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 9, 1883.

Statement of Col. George W. Manypenny—Horses taken from Red Cloud and Red Leaf in 1876.

Colonel MANYPENNY. If you had the Commissioner of Indian Affairs' report of 1876, which contains the report of our Sioux commission, you would find some facts bearing upon this matter. We were in the country when the ponies were taken, and we alluded to it in our report. Just before we went to the Indian country Congress inquired about the Sioux war. The Secretary of War wrote a letter to President Grant in July, 1876, stating that the purpose was not to disturb any friendly Indians at the agencies, but to subdue an obdurate and disobedient band, and make the civilization of the agency Indians possible. With that knowledge we put into our agreement a pledge of protection of the lives, liberty, and property of these Indians at the agencies that ratified the agreement. Army officers were present when this agreement was made, and witnessed the same at some of the agencies. Before we got out of the country, and while we were in a boat on the Missouri River, going from Cheyenne to Crow Creek, one of our colleagues having got an intimation at Cheyenne that this thing was to be done, we prepared a letter on the steamer, stating that it was in the air that these friendly Indians were to be despoiled of their arms and their ponies, and forwarded the same to the department, and asked that measures be taken to stop it. It was, however, done before our report could have been received. We had arranged to send a delegation from Red Cloud and Spotted Tail to look at the Indian country with a view of locating there. Red Cloud had not a horse—everything he had was taken and his tepees burned—and he could not go, and did not go; but a delegation did so.

The SECRETARY. What do you understand was the excuse for burning the tepees? Did they claim Red Cloud had been at war, or was likely to go to war?

Colonel MANYPENNY. General Sherman states in his annual report that after the repulse by Sitting Bull and the fatality there with Custer, that General Sheridan fell back on the original plan of the campaign, which was to go to the agencies and despoil the Indians of their property; and I think the Secretary of War, in his annual report, alludes to the same thing, and intimates that it was a meritorious act. I undertook to run the matter down in 1878. I think they took 700 or 800 ponies from Red Cloud and Red Leaf, and more from Indians over on the Missouri River, and they have returned 700 cows for all those ponies; but they returned no cows to Red Cloud and Red Leaf. I was sent down to Omaha to wait for this delegation—which

was going to the Indian Territory—to come out; but Red Cloud could not come, he was so disabled and broken down, and had not a pony to use. Now, Mr. Secretary, the finest lot of Indian ponies I ever saw were those the Indians had there at that time.

The SECRETARY. You refer to Red Cloud's band?

Colonel MANYPENNY. Yes; I saw all his horses. The Indians were down at Chadron Creek when General McKenzie surrounded them. General Crook telegraphed that it was "the first gleam of daylight" he had seen during the war. The Indians never fired a shot. They were down at Chadron Creek, where they could be in consultation with Spotted Tail's people, and were peaceable. I was among them, and I know that.

The SECRETARY. What were those ponies worth apiece?

Colonel MANYPENNY. They undertook to take those ponies from the Missouri River to Saint Paul and Yankton and sell them. They were sacrificed. I think they sold those taken to Saint Paul and Yankton at about \$5 apiece. I think that those ponies would have sold in the settlements at from \$25 to \$50 apiece. It would be well for you to get some correspondence here in the office—old correspondence—about this matter.

The SECRETARY. Nobody seems to know anything about it here.

Colonel MANYPENNY. I saw some papers down in the Indian Office yesterday; among them the letter written on the steambot and forwarded to the department. The Sioux commission, in their report, said the contemplated seizure of the animals was concealed from the members. It seems that the Indians had understood in some way that it was contemplated, and they spoke to us about it. We told them to have no fears about it. General Sheridan wrote in May, 1876, a letter in which he said that every Indian at the agencies was at heart a friend; and then after the Secretary of War had said, in July, that these Indians at the agencies had faithfully kept their treaty stipulations, and that it was this obdurate band only that they were trying to subdue, the seizure seemed specially unjust.

The SECRETARY. What was the idea then, when they took the horses? To exchange them for stock?

Colonel MANYPENNY. I do not know anything about what the purposes were? That is what they seem to have tried to do. The result was nineteen thousand and some odd hundred dollars from the sale of the ponies from the agencies on the Missouri River, and between five and six thousand dollars as the expense of the sale; and the return has been 700 cows! I made a chapter in the book I wrote about it. My own impression is there were between six and seven thousand ponies taken from the Sioux at Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, and Red Cloud Agencies.

The SECRETARY. I think taking the ponies was all right, if they had only paid for them: the pony is a curse to the Indian, you know.

Colonel MANYPENNY. These Indians were dispersed about in bands at points from twenty-five to fifty miles of the agencies, when they were despoiled. I had an account of how many of the Indians came, weeping, to deliver up their property. They did not resist at all.

The SECRETARY. I have no doubt it would trouble them more to deliver up their horses than anything else.

Colonel MANYPENNY. We said in our report that the least the Government could do was to reimburse these Indians the full value of the property taken.

The SECRETARY. I think they ought to be paid, certainly.

Colonel MANYPENNY. I thought we were neglecting our duty, and we ought to put ourselves to some trouble to right this matter. I never had any correspondence with Red Cloud or any of the Sioux about it at all.

The SECRETARY. It seems a little difficult to determine who owned those horses. I suppose the stock might be given to Red Cloud and his band?

Colonel MANYPENNY. I do not think there were any ponies taken from any Indians at Red Cloud Agency, except from Red Cloud and Red Leaf's bands.

The SECRETARY. I suppose one hundred of them were his own?

Colonel MANYPENNY. I do not know anything about that; a man's wealth among them was usually in his horses; they were peaceably at Chadron Creek. They went down there after an understanding with us, and the Spotted Tail Indians wanted to talk with them. Spotted Tail said they never would have signed this agreement otherwise.

The SECRETARY. That was after the cession of the Black Hills?

Colonel MANYPENNY. Yes, sir. They were living there so they could communicate with Spotted Tail. You will find the military report says they took about 700 ponies.

The SECRETARY. That is about the only information we can get, apparently.