

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*Copies of correspondence relative to Sioux agreements, omitted in his communication of January 22, in reply to Senate resolution December 6, 1883.*

FEBRUARY 13, 1884.—Referred to the Committee on Sioux Indian Reservation and ordered to be printed.

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

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of certain correspondence which were inadvertently omitted in the reply of this Department of 22d ultimo, to Senate resolution of December 6, 1883, transmitting copies of papers and correspondence relating to late Sioux agreements, &c.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,  
*Secretary Interior.*

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
*Washington, D. C., February 24, 1883.*

DEAR SIR: Is there any evidence in the Interior Department that the agreement lately entered into with the Sioux Indians, by which they parted with a portion of their reservation, has been executed in conformity with the twelfth section of the treaty of 1868; if so, will you do me the favor to send down to the Senate as early as you can on Monday such evidence.

I am, very truly yours,

H. L. DAWES.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, February 28, 1883.*

SIR: I have just received by your reference a letter from Hon. H. L. Dawes, of the United States Senate, in reference to the "agreement lately entered into with the Sioux Indians by which they parted with a portion of their reservation," and wishing to know whether it "has been executed in conformity with the twelfth section of the treaty of 1868."

In reply I have to say that this agreement is not a literal compliance with said treaty, but follows the precedent established in the treaty with the Sioux Indians for the cession of the Black Hills, ratified by the act of Congress approved February 28, 1877.

Respectfully,

H. PRICE,  
*Commissioner.*

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

PITTSFIELD, MASS., July 17, 1883.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt from a highly responsible gentleman of great intelligence and reputation among all who know him, and who has just returned from a visit to the Sioux Indians, a written statement containing very serious charges against the manner in which the consent of the Indians has been obtained to the treaty of last winter. I deem it my duty to communicate the nature of these charges to you before I go out there. It is charged—

1st. That a large part of the Indians were made to understand, not that it was a treaty parting with a large tract of land (11,000,000 of acres), but only a treaty separating the different bands, and conferring title to these bands in separate divisions of the existing reservation.

2d. That at one or two of the agencies the Indians were given to understand that "in the event of their not signing the agreement they would be deprived of homes and farms without compensation, and, if need be, removed by the military."

3d. That the names of *children*, some as young as a year old, have been appended to the treaty to make up the necessary three-fourths of "adult males."

These charges are made with particularity, and names given to substantiate them.

I have not the slightest knowledge of their truth, and I do not desire to be misled or to make any charges. But Mr. Morgan, one of the committee, as well as myself, once investigated a transaction of this Mr. Hinman, who seems to have obtained the signatures, which very much shake one's confidence in him. If the treaty is still out there, I would suggest that you instruct those having it to submit it to the committee for inspection if they should conclude to investigate these charges. If the treaty has been returned to the Department, could we take it out with us for that purpose? Any suggestion you would feel like making I should be glad to receive. I shall leave here the 29th.

I am truly yours,

H. L. DAWES.

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

JULY 18, 1873.

True copy of foregoing letter was sent to Hon. Newton Edmunds, chairman Sioux Commission, and true copy also sent to Mr. James H. Teller, secretary of said commission.