

STATEMENTS

OF

A DELEGATION OF OGALALLA SIOUX

BEFORE THE

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
UNITED STATES SENATE,

APRIL 29 AND 30, 1897,

RELATIVE TO AFFAIRS AT THE PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S. DAK.

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STATEMENTS OF OGALALLA SIOUX BEFORE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, UNITED STATES SENATE.

THURSDAY, April 29, 1897.

STATEMENT OF AMERICAN HORSE.

(Dr. Charles A. Eastman, of St. Paul, Minn., interpreter.)

Senator PETTIGREW. Where were you born?

AMERICAN HORSE. At the foot of Black Hills there is a hill called Bear Hill.

Senator PETTIGREW. Bear Butte?

AMERICAN HORSE. Bear Butte. A little south of that there are two creeks and a fork formed. I was born between those creeks.

Senator PETTIGREW. How old are you?

AMERICAN HORSE. Fifty-five years old.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where have you lived ever since you were born?

AMERICAN HORSE. Since I was born I have been living about and around the Black Hills and Platte River, running up north, and Tongue River, and Little Big Horn, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. I have traveled around through that part of the country, and especially around Black Hills, and north and south of that.

Senator PETTIGREW. Are you a chief of the Sioux?

AMERICAN HORSE. There are four chiefs now living. I am the leader of that band.

Senator PETTIGREW. Of the Ogalalla Sioux?

AMERICAN HORSE. Of the Ogalalla Sioux.

Senator PETTIGREW. How did you come to be chief?

AMERICAN HORSE. Since I was 18 years old I began to be a warrior and prominent in warfare. At the time when I was 24 years old, and became a man by marrying a woman, we were living near the Black Hills on a creek called Bear Lodge. Our people came together then in great numbers, and there they put up a large tent. It consisted of 10 tents put together and made a lodge. It was a gathering of the people generally. The officers of the day came and led me to the place of honor. Then they brought Young Man Afraid of Horse, and then Sword (not Captain Sword there, but his brother; he is dead now), and then the fourth man they brought was Crazy Horse. Young Man Afraid of Horse withdrew from the chieftainship. I am not descended from any chief, but I earned my chieftainship.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you mean that you were elected chief?

AMERICAN HORSE. I was appointed by the people.

Senator PETTIGREW. Why did they appoint you?

AMERICAN HORSE. I earned it in public life, in warfare. My grandfather was a chief, but my father refused to be appointed chief, consequently the chieftainship went to another branch of the family. But when they came to select these four men to be the rulers of the people in their roving life I was selected as a representative of that branch of the chieftainship of which my grandfather was a chief.

Senator PETTIGREW. What is your religious belief?

AMERICAN HORSE. Personally, my own belief is that there is a God, a Supreme God, and while I am not an official, I am in sympathy with all religious work and I urge my people to attend churches and become church members.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have you the belief of the Dakotas before the missionaries went among them?

AMERICAN HORSE. Oh, yes; as a people we have permanent convictions. We believe in a supreme God, and we have a way of approaching Him. The sun dance was one way. Personally, I believed in the sun dance in old days, and I have been permanent in it. We have a sort of a rude cross—whether it means cross or not—we have somehow got the idea to put medicine and some other things on the top of a tree in a sort of a cross shape. It resembles something like the cross of the Christian people, but we do not know how we got the idea. Anyway we got the idea of putting something on the tree when we worship God, and I believe we practice the religion more strictly than white people do; that is, we do what we preach. Whether anyone condemns us or not, we do it.

Senator PETTIGREW. The sun dance was a religious festival or ceremony?

AMERICAN HORSE. Yes; ceremonies.

Senator PETTIGREW. Now, go on and say what you want to say to me.

AMERICAN HORSE. About forty-six years ago the Government borrowed a passway on each side of the Platte River toward the setting sun. They agreed to pay us \$50,000 worth of goods or things for fifty years. They have disregarded that to a great extent ever since then. I believe they broke that treaty before we did. I want my friend here to consider that matter and help me on that question. When a bird chases another bird, if he has considerable strength in his wings he will be apt to overcome his victim. Like that I have come after this matter and I want as much strength as I can get in the way of soliciting friends in my behalf. I trust that many of the public men here will consider this question carefully in our interest.

For quite a number of years our people have been holding councils about the matters that were entered into between the Government and ourselves, and yet there has been so much misunderstanding about these things we have come to the conclusion that there is no definite knowledge about them. In these councils they have selected twelve particular matters or subjects that they authorized me to speak of when I came here. My boys here were instructed with the same authority. They were told the same thing and they have the records of it. Perhaps I must not take too much of your valuable time, but we have these matters in a written form, and I will get my boys to bring it and give it to you when I get it in shape.

Senator PETTIGREW. You would rather do that than have it taken down?

AMERICAN HORSE. Yes; concerning those things.

Senator PETTIGREW. I am willing that you shall do as you choose, but I want to have it all taken down. If you have it written out and given to me, that will do just as well.

AMERICAN HORSE. We want to see these things in daylight, and have them printed so that all can see what is in them, and have a perfect understanding; but I fear that I may not remember some of the important points in the matter, and so I would rather have it written.

Senator PETTIGREW. Very well. I am anxious to do anything I can to help you along in every proper manner. I regard your people as my constituents, and think it is my duty to look after their interests the same as the interests of the white people. I have always taken an interest in their affairs, and I shall find all the time necessary to hear what you have to say and to talk with you and to look after the matter when you go away. I wish to know what you are doing now; whether you are farming and raising stock?

AMERICAN HORSE. I raise cattle and horses. I have plenty of horses and cows, and I pretend to till the land, too. I raised some oats myself. My son plowed the land and I sowed the oats, but it is merely disappointment. We have the pleasure of sowing it and seeing it come up, but after it comes up a little the sun scorches it down and there is nothing of it. So it is disappointment. We have a little pleasure in seeing it come up, but that is about all the enjoyment we get, for after July it is all disappointment.

Senator PETTIGREW. How many cattle have you?

AMERICAN HORSE. Up to the last round-up last summer I had 298, but this winter I do not know how much increase I have. It may be a decrease on account of the bad storms this winter. So I do not know how much I have at the present time. I have 70 horses. It appears clear to us that we can not raise anything in that country, and consequently our only support in the future is raising cattle and horses. There is enough grass there to raise cattle and horses. So we are very much encouraged in that, and we are doing a good deal of that kind of business.

In this connection I want to say to you that I for one do not desire to have our land surveyed and allotted to us. It is impossible for us to keep our cattle and things of that kind in a small area of land. It is just like putting us between two boards and squeezing us to death when you do that. I very often wish that a man who wants to pass that law might come up there and travel with me through our country so that I could show to his eyes the land we have there, how miserable it is for raising anything on it or cultivating it. We have enough timber for our fuel and houses. We have pine there, and use for our houses and fuel all we want. That is one advantage we have there.

About eighteen years ago a representative of the Government came to us and called a large council. He told us then that it was necessary for our children to become educated; that they must have education. He called on my name, he called on Little Wound, and Red Cloud, and asked us whether we were willing to send our children to school. Both of these men said no. They refused to have their children go to school, but I got up and said that we ought to have our children become educated and we must try it. A great portion of the people took up the idea, and they said, Anyway, we can send our children to school for three years at a time, and perhaps five years at a time. Well, we have sent a great many children East to other schools. They come back. They have education. At that time they told us that if our children

became educated they would be given positions among our people to carry on our own business, such as storekeeping and clerking and teaching school. That was the inducement they gave us. We have sent hundreds of pupils East to school. They have education. Nobody gave them positions. The positions were all taken by white men. Here in this house, when Congress meets, they talk about our people going back to wear blankets and breech clouts, as of course they would when they have nothing to do.

They promised all this to us, and then they did not do it. I do not want to say anything against any of the men here in Congress, but it seems that every Congressman or every Representative here has so many young men and young women on their string they are always ready to get these positions, and they fill up these offices and leave our Indian girls and boys out; they have nothing to do with it. That is one reason why I came here this time. It is a new Administration with new Congressmen and new men coming in here. I have had hopes that they might do better and that I might call their attention to these matters, and that they might fulfill these promises, so that we would have something to do for our young men and young women, so that there would be some ambition for them to look forward to when they go to school. I do not understand the reason of this. I do not understand why they are kept from having these offices. We find that a great many careless and dishonest people take up these places and live on the Indians and prey upon them. Sometimes I think they seem to fear the Indians will be too honest, and that is why they keep them away from these offices.

Senator PETTIGREW. Does the Government furnish you with clothing?
AMERICAN HORSE. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where did you get the clothes you have on?

AMERICAN HORSE. I bought them at the stores. I had packed up one whole set of issue of clothing to bring with me. I wanted to show it here before these people, and I had it packed and brought to the railroad station. Somehow my wife or my people carried it back by mistake. I wanted the people here to see how they fit and how they look, and how durable they are, and what they are made of. I wanted to convince these good men here what kind of clothing we receive, and I wanted to wear it here before them. But I lost this opportunity. Some of the clothing looks like that when I put it on [illustrating], coming halfway up to my knee. The leg is short, and the body part of the pantaloons come halfway up my body, and the stomach is too large, and the coat is the same way; I can not button it up. The sleeves are halfway up my arms. It never fits. I do not know what kind of people they take their measure from; it never fits in any respect. As to the shoes, I have a pair, No. 10, or No. 9, I think. They must have had the measurement of immensely large people and a large foot. I had intended to wear all those while I am here, but I forgot them and they carried them back by mistake. I protest that they do not have any more blind men to buy our goods. On account of these misfits and so on, we never can make use of the clothing. It is practically so much money thrown away. So I want to request the Government that they should give us money, so that we can make use of it either to buy clothing or to buy food, or to make some good use of it. Otherwise this clothing will not fit in any case, and consequently we sometimes dispose of it for a very trifling thing, and we lose money by it. There is no sense in it.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is the same thing true of the clothing furnished for the women?

AMERICAN HORSE. If they were made out separately, with the number of yards allotted to each Indian woman, it would be the same way—2 or 3 yards for one woman. But three or four women have so many yards. If those were cut separately and made out to them as they were given there would be a misfit, too, according to your standard of making dresses. So the clothing is not enough. Sometimes they will not use it at all, instead of one person using the share. There are seven of us in our family and they issue to us only four blankets and two quilts for our bedding.

Senator PETTIGREW. Are the blankets good?

AMERICAN HORSE. They look like black cattle hair.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do the Indians use them?

AMERICAN HORSE. Most of them we get rid of among the farmers around our country.

Senator PETTIGREW. Among the white people?

AMERICAN HORSE. Yes; among the white people.

Senator PETTIGREW. Why do the Indians get rid of them?

AMERICAN HORSE. We can not wear them. We are not allowed to wear blankets now. Besides that, the goods are not fit for the kind of use they were intended for. Consequently, we dispose of them the best way we can, at whatever price we can get.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you find any fault about the color?

AMERICAN HORSE. We do not like the color of it. As soon as the sun strikes it, it turns yellow or a kind of rotten brown. When it rains on it, it is the same way, it turns a kind of reddish or rotten brown. We trusted the Government, and supposed they knew their business better than we did. We trusted them with our money to buy our goods, but I think they are very bad dealers, and we would rather have the money.

Senator PETTIGREW. What do your people do with the shoes they get?

AMERICAN HORSE. They scarcely ever fit. They never consider a size a man wears. So we have to dispose of them, and sometimes we get whatever we can from the farmers for them. We rely on the white farmers around that part of the country to buy them. Of course, we use those that fit us; we wear shoes that fit us; but in most cases they do not fit.

Senator PETTIGREW. Does the Government furnish stoves?

AMERICAN HORSE. Yes; three kinds.

Senator PETTIGREW. Are they good stoves?

AMERICAN HORSE. They last one or two years, but most of them only one year.

Senator PETTIGREW. What is the trouble?

AMERICAN HORSE. They all come to pieces.

Senator PETTIGREW. Are they big enough to burn wood in?

AMERICAN HORSE. They are box stoves.

Senator PETTIGREW. Does the Government furnish cooking stoves?

AMERICAN HORSE. Yes; two or three sizes of cooking stoves.

Senator PETTIGREW. How do the cooking stoves last?

AMERICAN HORSE. The same as the other kind of stoves. There are two or three rounds on top and a long one between. As soon as that is heated it bends right down and becomes a sort of a cave on top, a cave-in, and the stove comes to pieces in a year or two.

Senator PETTIGREW. Would you rather have money for all the things that the Government furnishes you?

AMERICAN HORSE. Yes, sir; send the money to the agent, so that the agent can issue it to us.

Senator PETTIGREW. For the rations, too?

AMERICAN HORSE. No; we would rather have the rations.

Senator PETTIGREW. But everything else in money?

AMERICAN HORSE. Everything else in money. As far as those things are concerned, they are of no value to us, and there is no practical use we can make of them; but once in twelve months we could smile when we saw the money go out and buy what we need.

Senator PETTIGREW. What are the clothes made of which they furnish for the men to wear?

AMERICAN HORSE. I do not know what they are made of. None of them are wool, and there are not any signs of wool in them. I do not know what they are made of. We made a treaty with the Government to furnish us with woolen goods. That was a solemn treaty, but after we signed the papers and the papers were brought here that thing slipped somewhere; perhaps in the treaty; I do not know.

Senator PETTIGREW. The provision is in the treaty all right.

AMERICAN HORSE. But it was evidently forgotten, or lost, or something. They have never given us those things.

Senator PETTIGREW. Were the goods furnished last year any better than they were before that time?

AMERICAN HORSE. They were exactly the same as they were the year before.

Senator PETTIGREW. Last year I had placed in the law a special provision that the goods should be woolen.

AMERICAN HORSE. I know our good friends always do those things and try to defend us against some of these rogues, but when it goes beyond the hill there is something wrong on the other side; it gets out of sight.

Senator PETTIGREW. The same provision is in the law this year.

AMERICAN HORSE. I wish we could depend on it, but we can not. I wish the law could be fulfilled, but it can not. We would rather have the money.

Senator PETTIGREW. The law also provides that the Secretary of the Interior may pay the money instead of the goods, if in his judgment it is for the best interests of the Indians.

AMERICAN HORSE. That is not done.

Senator PETTIGREW. I have been many times to the Secretary of the Interior every year for several years and tried to get him to pay the money instead of issuing the goods, but he neglects to do it.

AMERICAN HORSE. Somehow some of these offices under the President get a great deal of money, and we do not seem to get any of our share of it.

Senator PETTIGREW. I want you to go to the Secretary of the Interior and tell him just as you have told me about the clothing and what you want done in that direction.

AMERICAN HORSE. Yes, sir; I shall do so. I hope to say the same thing to the President, if I have a chance, and also the Secretary, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and you two men from our State. I want to say that to you and other friends who are interested in our people. I want to tell them the same thing. That is what I came here for.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you or your family ever wear the clothes furnished by the Government?

AMERICAN HORSE. As I said before, a blind man must have pur-

chased all those goods. People who never knew anything about customs, and styles, and the fitness of things issued them out to us, so that none of them ever fit. Such as they are, we would wear them, and gladly wear them, if they fit us, but none of them ever fitted my family or myself, and where a thing is not ready made there is not enough to go around, so that we scarcely ever wear any of the clothing that has been issued to us. I understand that white people are very particular about their clothing as to their fit. They get their measurement all over; every corner and every crook of their body is measured and sized up. We would like to have our things measured something like that, or anywhere near like it, so that we would have some respectable appearance about it when we wear this clothing. It is not my intention to complain and appear dissatisfied, but I am compelled to call attention to these things. Common decency and justice compel me to call attention to these facts.

FRIDAY, April 30, 1897.

STATEMENT OF RED CLOUD.

(Dr. Charles A. Eastman, interpreter.)

Senator PETTIGREW. How old are you?

RED CLOUD. Seventy-six.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where were you born?

RED CLOUD. There is a branch of Platte River called Bluewater Creek. It is only about 15 miles from where Harney killed some of the Rosebud Indians. I was born there on that creek.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where have you lived since?

RED CLOUD. Mostly around the Black Hills. Occasionally I went out farther than that, but my usual ground was around the Black Hills.

Senator PETTIGREW. What did your people always do for a living before you went on the reservation?

RED CLOUD. The Great Creator had provided for us abundantly in the way of buffalo and deer, and the trees brought fruits. We were well provided for.

Senator PETTIGREW. What did you come down here for?

RED CLOUD (rising and shaking hands with Senator Pettigrew). I shake hands with you with my sincere heart, and I wish to tell you what I came for. The last term of the President who was President for eight years I was here the first time.

Dr. EASTMAN. I suppose he refers to General Grant.

RED CLOUD. I think I have been here something about a dozen times since. All the Presidents since the one I have mentioned have considered me their friend, and always said that they were my friends. I have been living at the Pine Ridge Agency for twenty-eight years.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you want to go on in your own way or shall I ask questions?

RED CLOUD. I would rather have you ask questions.

Senator PETTIGREW. Are you in favor of having allotments of land made to your people?

RED CLOUD. That is just one of the things I have come here for. I do not want that. All my people do not want it.

Senator PETTIGREW. You may tell me why you do not want an allotment of your lands.

RED CLOUD. Our people have been in that vicinity for many years, and since the reservation was formed we have inspected every inch of that land. We know that it is not adapted for agricultural use. We can not raise anything on it. That is the main reason why we do not want to have it allotted. We have tried to plant, and in fact we do plant every spring. It comes up very well in the spring and grows up to July. Then it begins to burn all out; the sun scorches it. The land is decidedly adapted for grazing purposes. We can raise cattle and horses, but if you allot those lands to us in small portions we could not keep our cattle within the limited land that we are liable to have according to the law, and there would be a great deal of trouble among ourselves. Our cattle would run into somebody's land, and go into the white people's land, and there would be trouble all the time. There would be an endless trouble among ourselves and among the white people. Consequently we do not want it.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have you cattle enough to use all the grass?

RED CLOUD. They are multiplying very fast, and there will be a time when we will not have enough land to hold our cattle if we do not dispose of them fast enough. There are really only a few places now not occupied by cattle. There are small vacancies where the cattle have not been, but most of it is now used by our cattle. Even if we get \$5 for a cow or a steer and \$5 or \$6 for a horse, we will make a living by raising cattle and horses, but if we try to depend on tilling the land we have no returns for it; there is no way of making ourselves self-supporting when the Government lets us alone.

My friend, you know I am getting old and blind, and I am not fit to go anywhere. Really, it is a great effort for me to come here, but I wanted to come and grasp my friends' hands and make my last appeal to them to stick to their promises, and to grant what we have to ask. It is reasonable. I wanted to shake hands with the good men here, and especially you, and to have your assistance in this matter.

The reservation is a small portion when you take account of the number of our people and that much of it is useless. They are bad lands, and rough, and even for grazing they are not accessible. When you figure out the good land, there is not enough for us after all, especially if our people increase at all. I hope that the good men of Congress will make an effort to assist us in keeping the reservation common to us all.

During my visit to the President that stayed here eight years, and previous to that, there was a time when we received a great deal of goods from the Government, but ever since then I have the promises of all the Government, and I want to call your attention to that. My friend, you are my debtor; I am a creditor. I have got my goods all with me in words of promise.

In 1851 the Government negotiated with me and asked permission to pass a road through the country, and they promised to provide for my people for fifty-five years. I think it is forty-six years ago that this happened. Sanborn and Harney afterwards came and made another agreement with me, and I still have their promises.

Senator PETTIGREW. I do not understand about a treaty of 1851. I can not find any such treaty of that date. I want to know where that treaty was made.

RED CLOUD. It was at Fort Laramie.

Senator PETTIGREW. I understand, then, it was not ratified until 1853, and the date is 1853 instead of 1851. Did the next treaty take the place of that one?

RED CLOUD. We did not understand it so. They told us that they wanted to open a railroad through that country and have a general use of the country there, and we agreed to give that permission, but we did not understand that it was intended to take the place of the previous treaty.

Senator PETTIGREW. Mr. Eastman, who is a Sioux, will look this matter up for you, and I will help him all I can.

RED CLOUD. I am getting old; my memory is not clear; and I have brought my next chief (American Horse) to do the talking for me. He is younger and his memory is clearer. I may make a mistake in dates and so on. Then, again, although I have those things in my mind, I would rather have him talk.

Senator PETTIGREW. I talked with American Horse yesterday, and he is a very smart man; you did well to bring him; but I want to talk with you also. Do you want the Government to continue to issue clothing to your people, or what do you want in that direction?

RED CLOUD. We prefer to have the money. The clothing we receive we are thankful for, and we would make good use of them if they anywhere at all fit, if they were given out to men who could wear them. But they issue them now to men who neither have the size nor any way to make use of them. Sometimes, when given to a big man, they are very short and small, and sometimes a small one will receive them too big and too long. The goods are all a misfit, and sometimes there is not enough to go around.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you want money instead of rations too?

RED CLOUD. I told you a few minutes ago that we can not raise anything. Of course we would want to have the rations. If we could raise anything, we would not care for the rations.

Senator PETTIGREW. You want the rations instead of money?

RED CLOUD. Instead of money.

Senator PETTIGREW. And money instead of clothing?

RED CLOUD. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. What about the half-breeds? Do you want them to have all the rights of the Indians?

RED CLOUD. We used to find it the case that a great many white men came among us even when we were wild. They became our people almost; we adopted them; they married among our people; their children were our children. They lived with us wherever we went in old days. Those half-breeds we considered Indians, and we want them to have the full rights. But in recent years white men came among us to make money, to take our Indian women, and get land wherever they could, and pick out our best lands, and raise cattle on our land there. Of course they know more about the business, and they manipulate everything and monopolize everything and push us back. Those people have more say about agency matters than we have, and they have no right to come among us and have control of our affairs and push us back. We do not care for those white men, but we want those white people who had full rights according to the law of 1888.

Senator PETTIGREW. The law of 1888 provides that where an Indian woman after that time marries a white man their children shall have no interest in the tribal property. Do you want that law to stand?

RED CLOUD. Yes, sir; I want to have it so. There are a great many white people who have come in and taken the best lands and they take the best waters on our land. They get hold of all the springs and occupy the best places. They in fact take away all of our best property. They come in there for business. We are not after business yet, and

they are taking everything away from us. We do not want any such people to come into our land.

Senator PETTIGREW. Then you want the law of 1888 to stand?

RED CLOUD. Yes; that is what I said. I said yes.

Senator PETTIGREW. The Indian appropriation bill, now being considered by the conference committee on the part of the House and Senate, provides that all children born of a marriage between a white man and an Indian woman by blood, and who is at the time recognized by the tribe (that is, where the woman is recognized by the tribe), shall have all the rights and privileges to the property of the tribe to which the mother belongs that any member of the tribe possesses.

RED CLOUD. After the present time?

Senator PETTIGREW. Where they are now, any Indian woman to-day.

RED CLOUD. Do you say this is already considered by the conference committee?

Senator PETTIGREW. It has passed both Houses and is in conference now. I am going to ask all the Ogalalla Sioux present the same question, and I want a separate answer from each.

Dr. EASTMAN. (After conversing with Red Cloud.) Whether the mother of a child is a half-breed or not?

Senator PETTIGREW. It does not make any difference, if she is recognized as a member of the tribe by descent.

RED CLOUD. Here is the difference we notice: Those half-breed children of Indian women who lived with us in old days in wild life are considered Indians, and the husbands of those women were considered adopted Indians, and they signed the treaties. The children of those half-breeds who signed the treaties are considered Indians. That is the difference I want to make. But those mixed bloods who have come in later and never signed any treaty we think should be excluded from the tribe.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you want the law so framed that a white man can marry an Indian woman now and have his children become members of the tribe?

RED CLOUD. No; I do not want to have those people become members of the tribe and have rights.

Senator PETTIGREW. I have opposed this provision all the way through, but the rest of the committee think differently, and it has been put in the bill against my judgment. I shall try to have it fixed so that it will not be made to apply to the Sioux Nation.

STATEMENT OF HIGH STAR.

Senator PETTIGREW. What is your age?

HIGH STAR. Thirty-six.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where were you born?

HIGH STAR. At Fort Lyon.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where have you lived since then?

HIGH STAR. I have lived among the Indians—the Sioux—ever since.

Senator PETTIGREW. The Ogalalla Sioux?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who was your father?

HIGH STAR. I do not know who my father is, because he was killed in 1861.

Senator PETTIGREW. When you were a little fellow?

HIGH STAR. Yes.

Senator PETTIGREW. And your mother?

HIGH STAR. My mother is living.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is she a Sioux of full blood?

HIGH STAR. She is a Sioux woman of full blood.

Senator PETTIGREW. You are a full member of the tribe, of course?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. You are in the class that Red Cloud talks about—that he wants to stay in?

HIGH STAR. Yes.

Senator PETTIGREW. How did you happen to come down here; were you selected by the council?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir; I was selected by the council.

Senator PETTIGREW. What did the council do? How did they select you?

HIGH STAR. They were selected by the committee first that was appointed by act of the council. It was adopted in the whole council.

Senator PETTIGREW. How many did the council select to come down here?

HIGH STAR. Four.

Senator PETTIGREW. Give the names of the four.

HIGH STAR. Red Cloud, American Horse, Clarence Three Stars, and myself, High Star.

Senator PETTIGREW. You may state what the Indians want in relation to allotments in severalty. Do they want to have the land allotted in severalty?

HIGH STAR. No.

Senator PETTIGREW. Why not?

HIGH STAR. Because the country is not suitable for that purpose.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you ever raise any kind of crops?

HIGH STAR. No.

Senator PETTIGREW. What is the country suited for?

HIGH STAR. It is suited for grazing; it is grazing land.

Senator PETTIGREW. How many cattle have you?

HIGH STAR. That is myself?

Senator PETTIGREW. Yes.

HIGH STAR. I have about 80 head.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have you taken an allotment?

HIGH STAR. No.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have any of the four here present?

HIGH STAR. No.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where do you live on the reservation?

HIGH STAR. I live on a branch of Medicine Root Creek, on a small creek called the American Horse Creek.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have you fenced any land?

HIGH STAR. Yes; I have fenced about 6 acres where I thought I could raise something, but I have never done it.

Senator PETTIGREW. Before you came here did your people talk over the question of the issue of clothing to them?

HIGH STAR. Yes; they have been talking about that, but most of the people say they would rather have the money in place of the annuity goods.

Senator PETTIGREW. What is the reason why they want to have that change made?

HIGH STAR. Every time they get the clothes they never fit.

Senator PETTIGREW. The clothes will never fit?

HIGH STAR. They will never fit.

Senator PETTIGREW. What about the blankets?

HIGH STAR. We do not know what the blankets are made of. I think they are made out of cow hairs and dyed with ink. As soon as it rains on them we see the ink dropping off.

Senator PETTIGREW. What do you do with them?

HIGH STAR. For my part I generally use them for saddle blankets. I see that the other people sometimes get rid of them for a few potatoes or vegetables. They get rid of them.

Senator PETTIGREW. They get rid of them to the white settlers?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. They never use them?

HIGH STAR. They never use them. They try to trade them off.

Senator PETTIGREW. For some truck?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir; for some truck.

Senator PETTIGREW. What do you do with the clothes the Government issues?

HIGH STAR. I never wear them.

Senator PETTIGREW. What do you do with them?

HIGH STAR. I do the same.

Senator PETTIGREW. The same that you do with the blankets?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir; the same.

Senator PETTIGREW. You get rid of them for what you can get?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. What do you say about allowing white men to marry Indian women now and have their children draw rations and get land?

HIGH STAR. Most of the full-blood and mixed-blood—that is, those born between 1868 and 1888—do not want to have any land in severalty, but those who want to get severalty in land are the people coming after 1888. Those are the advocates of it, because they think if they would get severalty on the reservation they could stay there forever. But for my part I think it will be a mistake whenever Congress does that. I think it should be the extent the way it is.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you want the law of 1888 to stand or the new law proposed?

HIGH STAR. Yes; the law of 1888.

Senator PETTIGREW. Not this new law proposed?

HIGH STAR. No; not this new law.

Senator PETTIGREW. Then, do you want me to have the Sioux Indians excepted from this new law?

HIGH STAR. I do not want to have them affected by that law.

Senator PETTIGREW. How many Indians are there on the Pine Ridge Reservation?

HIGH STAR. The last time I heard there were 6,500.

Senator PETTIGREW. That is the number your people think there are?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Of course, I can get the census the Government has taken, but I wanted to know what your people think. How do you find out how many there are? How do you know that?

HIGH STAR. The people give their names. I got 1,200 and some odd names and I multiplied that with 3. That is for each family. I should judge there are pretty nearly 6,500 people on the reservation—that is, those who belong there under the treaties—who have the rights under the treaties, besides the white people who come in and live on the reservation.

Senator PETTIGREW. When did you ascertain the number you state?

HIGH STAR. In 1888.

Senator PETTIGREW. You say there were about 1,200 men, and you multiplied the number by 3?

HIGH STAR. Yes; I multiplied it by 3.

Senator PETTIGREW. That would be only 3,600.

HIGH STAR. The highest, if it was a big family, would be 7 persons in one family, or 10, and I just multiplied it by 3, and it came out in that way.

Dr. EASTMAN. You averaged it up?

HIGH STAR. I averaged it up.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is there anything else you want to say?

HIGH STAR. Yes; I should like to say to Congress, and the Commissioner, and the Secretary of the Interior, and the President, that I wish to have the allotment of the reservation deferred for a period of ten years. I should like to put in here the main points I got from the people—what they decided on before I left there, and I will read it:

To the Honorable Members of the Fifty-fifth Congress.

GENTLEMEN: The following resolutions were adopted at a council of the Sioux Indians residing upon the Pine Ridge Reservation on April 13, 1897, viz:

First. We, the undersigned adult males of the Ogalalla Indians on Pine Ridge Agency, respectfully and earnestly petition and request that the honorable Members of Congress cause this our prayer to be brought before the Congress of the United States, to the end that it may obtain the enactment of such laws as will secure to us the right to hold our land in common as a people for stock-grazing purposes only. Experience teaches us that we can not prosper by farming, as our land is not suitable for that occupation; that by following stock raising we will in time become civilized, enlightened, thrifty, self-governing, and independent citizens; that we are not in favor of taking land in severalty, knowing that this is not the best thing for us in our march toward the white man's standard and intelligent citizenship.

Second. We, the undersigned adult males of Pine Ridge Reservation, do hereby set forth that all half-breeds and mixed bloods born prior to the act of Congress approved August 9, 1888, shall be considered by us as our equals in all respects to our rights, treaties, lands, etc., and request that they be so considered by the Government, and that laws, regulations, or rules in force depriving them of any of the full rights or free access to all our privileges should be annulled and abrogated.

STATEMENT OF CLARENCE THREE STARS.

Senator PETTIGREW. Give your age, Clarence.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Thirty-three.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where were you born?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. About Bear Butte, close to the Black Hills.

Senator PETTIGREW. On the east side of the Black Hills?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; on the east side.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who were your parents?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. My father was dead when I was only 5 years old. His name was Yellow Knife.

Senator PETTIGREW. And your mother?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. My mother is living.

Senator PETTIGREW. You are an Ogalalla?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. An Ogalalla Sioux.

Senator PETTIGREW. Was your father a full-blood Sioux?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. And your mother?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where did you go to school?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. At Carlisle.

Senator PETTIGREW. How long were you at Carlisle?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Five years.

Senator PETTIGREW. When did you leave Carlisle?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. I left Carlisle and worked in Philadelphia, in Wanamaker's store, for about two years. I worked at different places around in Pennsylvania before I went home.

Senator PETTIGREW. How long since you went home?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. About thirteen years ago.

Senator PETTIGREW. What are you doing now?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. I am keeping a store there. I am a merchant.

Senator PETTIGREW. At the agency?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. At Corn Creek, Pine Ridge Agency, about 65 miles east of the agency.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have you a partner?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. No, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have you any other business except the store?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. No; that is all.

Senator PETTIGREW. How did they choose you to come here? Tell me about the council that sent you here.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. For the past four or five years we have been getting together and looking up the old treaty books to see if the Government has been fulfilling the treaties between the nation and the Government. We have been looking up that, and we have been looking for some intelligent Indians who will bring these things up before the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the Secretary, and the President, and before Congress also. We have been looking for a lawyer at the same time who will be a suitable and a good man to look up these things. Then they came to the conclusion that four of us here should have the power to get a good man right here in the city or elsewhere suitable to represent us. We have the power to select a man.

Senator PETTIGREW. To look up the old treaties and see what is due you that you have not got?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; if any treaty has not been fulfilled by the Government to us, we are to find men to look that up and see that we get something out of it.

Senator PETTIGREW. Did they hold a meeting, or did they just have an understanding through the tribe?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Oh, yes; it was a council. It has been formed about four years, I guess. There is quite an organization there, with a president of the council, a secretary, and a treasurer. They raised their own funds.

Senator PETTIGREW. They raised the money to send you four here?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir. They voted the fund, and chose us as delegates here.

Senator PETTIGREW. What is it that they claim the Government owes them that it has not done?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. One of these treaties, they claim, was never ratified.

Senator PETTIGREW. That is the treaty of 1876; they claim that that treaty was never ratified?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; the treaty of 1876.

Senator PETTIGREW. They claim that it was not ratified by the Indians?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; that it did not get the three-fourths vote from them and it was never ratified. That is one of the claims that we expect to bring up.

Senator PETTIGREW. How much do you claim for that?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. As I say, we want to get a man who will look into the things and find them. We only know that the land was not sold to the Government by three-fourths of our nation. We know that now, but we do not know how much is coming to us out of the Hills.

Senator PETTIGREW. I understand that point. Now, what else?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Twenty-five thousand dollars was promised by the Secretary of the Interior when the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies gave up after Harney ran over into Nebraska. They never got that.

Senator PETTIGREW. They never got the \$25,000 for the North Platte hunting country?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. No, sir; an additional appropriation was to be made by Congress, but it never was done. Last year we got information from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. There is due us \$50,000 on the hunting grounds they gave up to the Government. We have found that in the treaty books, but it will of course have to be investigated closely when we find a man who will do these things for us.

Senator PETTIGREW. What do they claim about the treaty of 1851? How many payments were made under that treaty?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. We never knew how many payments were received from that treaty. These old men claim that they received but one payment; that they received it the first year and after that there was no payment at all. There was one treaty made on top of another, they were connected together, and we do not know what they are. We know there is something coming out of all of the treaties, the treaties of 1851 and 1868, and that something has been left out that is due to the Sioux Nation.

Senator PETTIGREW. I understand what you want. You want to overhaul all those treaties and see what there is coming to you.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. You want somebody who is able to do that?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. I understand it. What do you say about the provision in the law in regard to mixed blood?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. We want the law of 1888 to stand just as it is. That is the way it has been discussed in our council there, and it is one of the things that we will present to the Department here. We have found that a party of what we call "squaw men" right at the agency are working to repeal the law of 1888, and have raised money to employ a lawyer, who is right in the city here now.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who is he?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Colonel George. They got money and said, "If you get some Senator to draw up a bill and put it into the Indian appropriation bill, and that bill passes both Houses and becomes a law, we promise to pay you \$500;" and they advanced him \$100 cash.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who are the people who advanced this money to Mr. George? Give some of their names.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. George Corloff, who is one of the traders right there at the agency.

Senator PETTIGREW. How long has John Whelan lived with your tribe?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He claims that he has lived with the Sioux for thirty-five years. He married an Indian woman over twenty years ago.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do they consider him a member of the tribe?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; I guess they consider him one. The old men have adopted and incorporated him into the tribe.

Senator PETTIGREW. Why are you opposed to allowing a white man to marry an Indian woman and then having his children members of the tribe?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. The way it is now, some white people want to get into the tribe just for the purpose of getting the land from them and gain property out of the tribe. They go there. They do not do any hard work. They lie around. They simply look over and take care of a few cows, it may be. I have seen men there who, fifteen years ago, when they started in would have four or five head of cows, and they live from the rations their wives get from the Government. The man is not trying to make a living for his wife and children. The woman is the one making a living for him, instead of the man making a living for the woman. That is one reason why I oppose it. They are getting rich quickly, right along, faster than the Indians, and of course we know how it is.

Senator PETTIGREW. They take possession of the tribal property and the water.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. All the good chances?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. All the good chances. They are brighter and smarter than we are, and of course as long as we do not know how to do a thing they go ahead and do it.

Senator PETTIGREW. What do you say about allotments in severalty? Do you want them?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. That has been opposed by the tribe, and I think of it the same way.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have you taken an allotment?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. No, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have any of the Indians on that reservation taken allotments?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. No, sir; none of them.

Senator PETTIGREW. None of them want to do it?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. None of them want to do it.

Senator PETTIGREW. Why are they opposed to it?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Because the Government is trying to educate them in a civilized way. We have farmers there who are supposed to teach us to farm the lands right there on our reservation. But the land is not suited for that purpose. I know what I say. I have seen it with my own eyes. I have seen Indians try to plow and plant corn and turnips and other things. Just as these old men said, it sprouts, it looks nice when it comes up in the springtime, but in the middle of the summer it is scorched away.

Senator PETTIGREW. The land is fit only for raising cattle?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. It is only fit for raising cattle. There is a lot of cattle there, and they will be increased for the next twenty years, it may be. That country may be overflowed with cattle in twenty years.

Senator PETTIGREW. Have you some cattle?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. How many?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Eighty five head.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you brand them and let them run?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; I brand them with my own brand and let them go through the winter. In the spring we gather them up

and brand the calves, the increased stock. We brand twice a year—in the spring and in the fall. I could live on 75 head and support myself. Even if I did not get my rations from the Government, I could get along with 75 or 100 head, whereas if we took the land in severalty I would have to reduce my cattle it may be to 15 or 20 head. As it is, I can depend on my cattle, but I can not depend on my farming land. It is impossible to make a living at all out of the land there by plowing and raising.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do you want to have day schools, so that the children can learn English?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. I have been in school work there for about twelve years. It is a very hard question, but I will say these few words. There have been, it may be, two or three thousand attending the day schools right there on our own reservation. Most of the growing children from 14 to 18 years go to day school. They go, it may be, two or three years and they drop out, and that will be the last of it. They do not receive any benefit from the day school unless they come East. A schoolboy returning from an Eastern school has been inferior in some cases, but on our own reservation most of them are doing well to-day. I have compared the Eastern schools and the day schools, and I have found that the Eastern schools are doing better work than the day schools. That is my argument with our present agent there, who is trying to get me into day-school work, and says it would be a good thing for me, but I oppose it. If the Government would put together the money that goes to the day-school work, and if that money could be used in two or three boarding schools right there on the reservation, it would be better than the day schools. In the boarding school the children can stay a whole week. He may go out just once a week on Sunday or Saturday to see his parents and come right straight back Monday to school, where he will be taught in a very civilized way to speak English and all that. But in a day school it is impossible to make them talk English. The outside influences are stronger than the school work right there on our own reservation. That is what I told Major Platt. I have been in school work for twelve years. I have taught little children to speak English the best I know how. The only place I can force them to talk English is right there in the schoolroom, right there before my eyes, but outside of that I have no power. This is the same way I have talked with the Indian agent and all the Government employees. I have seen that. I speak from experience.

If you will allow me, I should like to say a few words on the annuity goods.

Senator PETTIGREW. Yes; I want to hear you on all these questions.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. I left the agency and came East to school in 1879. At that time, of course, there might be something coming to me from the annuities which I did not know anything about. From 1884 up to the present time I received no benefit from the annuities coming to me from the Government. I never wear any shoes they issue me, and it is the same with the pants, and vest, and coats, and overcoats. Whatever they gave me I never wore them, because they never fit me. I have repeated that to the Indian agent.

Senator PETTIGREW. What do you do with them?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. I give them away. Whoever is nearest by me, I just hand them to him. Perhaps the next one will go off and sell them. I have seen that. I have watched an Indian where he sold a pair of pants, vest, and coat for 75 cents, and I have seen a second-

hand store right in the town of Gordon, Nebr., where there is nothing but these Government goods on the shelves. There are shoes, and socks, and red shirts, and there is not a single thing that has not been issued or that has been bought from a wholesale house in the East. Everything was composed of Government annuity goods. I went in and saw it.

Senator PETTIGREW. He had bought them from the Indians?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He had bought them from the Indians. I have seen an old woman coming there with a sack and I have stood in the room to watch what she had in the sack, and she dumped out the whole thing on the floor, and there were two pairs of shoes, an overcoat, vest, and socks, and all the things that she received from the agent, and she sold them to this man right there in the town. I told the man I would like to buy a pair of shoes. He said, "Well, there is a good, sound, strong shoe I will let you have for a dollar and a quarter." He paid that poor woman only 25 cents a pair for the shoes. An Indian loses the money which he received under the treaty on that, and the white man makes a pile of money out of it.

Senator PETTIGREW. You think the Indians ought to have the money instead of the goods.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; we ought to have the money instead of the goods, and that is explained in my own case. I assure you I am entitled to receive the benefits coming to me from the treaty and laws, and I have never received a cent. I have received no benefit for the past eighteen years, and that has been the expression of the whole reservation, especially in council.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do they issue stoves to you?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; but the stoves they issue to us go wrong altogether. There are five districts. I live in one of the districts there, farming districts they are called. There are 900 people in it, close to a thousand, and only half a dozen cooking stoves go out there for all those people. Thirty or forty of them crowd around the post farmer there to apply for six cooking stoves. Of course he has favorites among the people there, and wherever he pleases he gives to his friends.

Senator PETTIGREW. Were the stoves good for anything?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Where I taught school last year the Government issued me one of the same cooking stoves they issue to the Indians. It lasts just a year.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do the stoves burn out or fall to pieces?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Different rods are connected with all the different parts and the rods burn up. Otherwise the screwed part comes of in some way and the thing all goes to pieces.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is there anything else you want to say, or that you came here to say?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. I want to say something about our beef, and that will be the last, unless I think of something else. From July 15 up to April 1 we received 3,611 head altogether; that is, steers, stags, bulls, and cows. We understood that the Government was to furnish us nothing but good beef, good steers of an average weight of over 1,000 pounds, but from July 15 we have been receiving all kinds of animals, as I said, bulls, stags, steers, and cows, which were most of them unfit to eat. We are people the same as any other race; we consider ourselves human beings. We made a treaty with the Government and they promised to give us none but good things, woolen clothing and good beef, which they never fulfilled.

Senator PETTIGREW. Did they issue bulls last year?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. How many bulls do they issue there in your division?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. We received in our own district three regular bulls.

Senator PETTIGREW. At one issue?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. At one issue. At other times we received different cows and stags, but at just one issue I saw three regular bulls right there.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do they issue them on the hoof?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. No, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. They kill them?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; they kill them. Our district is about 65 miles away. They drive them out from the agency to our district, where they butcher them.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who butcher them?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. They are butchered by the farmer and his assistants. My store is only 400 or 500 yards from the slaughterhouse, where I have seen these things almost every issue.

Senator PETTIGREW. Did they issue that way to you four years ago?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. No, sir. There has been poor beef right along, but for nine months the beef has been getting worse than anything else I know of.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who is the contractor who furnishes the beef this year?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Adolph Heller. I think he is just the agent. The other man, the regular contractor, I do not know, but he comes there often with a herd. Every fifteen days we receive the beef. The army officers receiving the cattle were notified too late every time to come on and inspect the beef. You tell them that you want them there and they are coming on, but they are behind. The contractor figures that the lieutenant may be there after the steers are in the corral and branded. He will come over a day behind, and we will have to take the cattle just as they are. He figures on that, and so he notifies him too late, a day behind, in order to pass his poor beeves, and stags, and bulls, and everything to the Indians. When the lieutenant gets there, he simply looks over them. He can not do anything. They have been received and branded. They are always received and branded by the chief clerk and agent, and he simply looks over the herd and says, "That will do," and he lets it go. It has been all that way from July 15, 1896, to April 1.

Dr. EASTMAN. Some of them die on the way.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; I will tell that, too. There are five districts. They send out so many head to the five districts every fifteen days. During this winter most of them died on the way in going out to the different districts.

Senator PETTIGREW. In going out from the agency?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. In going out from the agency to the various districts.

Senator PETTIGREW. They died on the way out?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. They died on the way in getting out to the district, and they were butchered on the way. The farmer orders some Indian to bring his wagon over to where a dead steer is laying, and tells him to butcher it and haul it over to the station.

Senator PETTIGREW. What made them die?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. On account of being poor, and perhaps

there was some disease in them. I do not know what kills them. They drop dead anyway, somehow.

Senator PETTIGREW. How many died last winter?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. I have in my pocket the number, if you want the exact number [examining memorandum]. One head died March 4. One head died on White Clay near Holy Rosalind Mission. Three dropped dead between Wounded Knee and Porcupine, butchered and hauled to the issue station in wagons. Two died between Porcupine and Medicine Root. A farmer describes them as butchered on the way from the agency to his district. There were 18 old bulls, fresh cut, apportioned to the several districts February 19 of the same year.

Senator PETTIGREW. February 19, 189.?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; last winter.

Senator PETTIGREW. The first was March 4?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. March 4 last. February 19 three head dropped dead near the mission school, and a number reported to have died while en route to the other districts. Over 80 old bulls, fresh cut, were apportioned to the several districts, most of them going to White Clay, Pass Creek, Medicine Root, and Porcupine. The Indians made complaint to the agent, and he told them if they did not want them to let them alone, and otherwise used harsh and unreasonable language. The agent does not usually assist in receiving cattle, but sends his clerk, who manipulates the scales. The inspecting officer from Fort Robinson is generally notified too late to arrive on time, and he simply looks over the herd after being received and branded. Army officers detailed to make inspection are young men, lieutenants just from West Point. A request was made by Clapp to do away with army officers' inspection of beef cattle.

Senator PETTIGREW. Clapp is the agent there?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. An army officer is detailed for that purpose?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; an army officer. Additional farmers and their assistants and the leading Indians are the best witnesses as to the condition, sex, and actual weight of beef cattle.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who is the additional farmer in your district?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Joseph Rooks, one of what we call "squaw men."

Senator PETTIGREW. If this committee should go out there to take testimony about these things, would those people come in and tell the truth, or would they be afraid of the agent?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; even these two old men right here know it, and Joseph Rooks, the farmer. I have talked with him many times. But, even if he loses his position, he will tell; and his assistant, who is a friend of mine, also holding a Government position, says, "Even if I lose my position, I will stand for justice and right for my people."

Dr. EASTMAN. He is an Indian?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He is an Indian. If these things are investigated, I am right here. I have seen these things with my own eyes. Coming into the agency with this party last week, I saw three head die on the way. During this warm weather perhaps there might be some disease in them, and they die on the way. I have seen the places where they butcher them.

Senator PETTIGREW. You say they issue to the Indians, just the same, all the cattle that have died?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; they die going out, and the

farmer orders a wagon to come on and butcher them, and he hangs them in the butcher house and issues them the next day. Most of them are unfit to eat. I draw rations of beef right there most of the time. I give it to the pigs. I have about eight head of pigs in a pen, and I have been feeding my pigs with the beef I draw from the issue house all winter. One of the three that died going out to our district the farmer hauls over to the issue station and weighs. It was a cow, and she weighs only 304 with hoofs and horns. The average weight is 400 pounds, when they are supposed to have an average weight of 1,060.

Senator PETTIGREW. How do they get at the weight? Do they weigh every one?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. They weigh by the herd at the agency.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do they weigh them all?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. They weigh them all; five, ten, fifteen head at a time, and they just average them up.

Senator PETTIGREW. They guess at it?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. They just guess at it. The average in our agency is 1,060. That is the average weight made out on the cattle we have been receiving all winter.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where do they keep those cattle during the winter?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. They have been kept about 25 miles east of the agency along the head of Little White River. They receive a number of herd there for twenty eight days, and when the fourteenth day comes we receive in our district 36 head every time. The cattle received twenty-eight days ago were kept on barren ground; there is nothing for them to eat at all. Weeds do not grow there. There is nothing but sand. All these men have seen that there is nothing but sand. There will be about a thousand acres fenced in where the beef cattle were kept for twenty-eight days. The weight of them taken off, after they have been kept for twenty-eight days, has been decreasing right along for the last fourteen days. When they are about to drop there they are sent out to us, and of course most of them die on the way before they reach us. So the weight of them at that time taken by the clerk is not correct, because one of the cows that they weighed twenty-eight days ago, when received into our district and weighed, would weigh 304 pounds, and perhaps at the agency they have got on their records 1,060 pounds.

Senator PETTIGREW. What other things are there that they issue where it is wrong? The clothing is no good and the beef is bad. Now tell us about the other things.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. There are some wagons that they brought into the agency from somewhere to be sold to the Indians. It has been asked me by leading Indians—even this man American Horse says: "Who sent this here and sold it to us? Where does the money go that we put into the wagon?" I said, "I do not know; I will try to find out." Of course I do not know, but we will find out all we can. One hundred wagons came out there this spring, and all were sold to Indians at \$46 and something.

Senator PETTIGREW. At \$46 apiece?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who sold them to the Indians?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Clapp claims that he sent for them. They were Moline wagons, from Moline, Ill.

Senator PETTIGREW. Clapp claims that he sent for them?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. That he sent for them for the Indians.

Senator PETTIGREW. Then Clapp sold them to the Indians?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Clapp sold them to the Indians.

Senator PETTIGREW. Did Clapp get the money?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He received the money, but whether the money received by him was kept by him or whether it belongs to some other party we do not know.

Senator PETTIGREW. He took the money?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He took the money.

Senator PETTIGREW. Does the Government ever issue you any wagons?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Before that time, mostly, we received wagons—not enough, though.

Senator PETTIGREW. Has the Government ever issued any other tools?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. They have been issuing to us plows, and rakes, and hoes.

Senator PETTIGREW. Mowers?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Mowers, which they sold lately to the Indians, too.

Senator PETTIGREW. Lately they have been selling mowers?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who sold them—Clapp?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; Clapp from the agency. Three mowers came out into our district to be sold, perhaps to different parties, five or six clubbing together and buying a machine, and during hay time those five men go together and use the mower.

Senator PETTIGREW. They buy the mower of the agent?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do they ever issue horses to you?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Away back of the old Red Cloud Agency they did.

Senator PETTIGREW. Not of late years?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Not of late years. We have received no horses at all of late years. I think the farming implements they have issued to us for the past four or five years are of no use to us at all. They have been scattered all over the reservation.

Senator PETTIGREW. Why were they not of any use?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. We have farmers there of the five districts who are supposed to instruct us in farming, which they never did. On account of that the Indians get discouraged. We have a farmer here. He never goes around to show us how to plow, to show us how to put up a fence around our garden.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who are those farmers—white men?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; all of them white men.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where do they come from?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Joseph Rooks is from our own reservation and Gleason is from Porcupine, S. Dak., I think.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is he any good?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He seems to be a good man. I have heard something talked about the others they had around there. They look after cattle. They do well at that. We call them farmers.

Senator PETTIGREW. You say the crop would not grow if you did put it in?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. In the low bottoms close to the creeks they grow small gardens. We just have small vegetables, which we produce for our own use, but to try to raise a big crop of oats and

wheat is a failure. The white men along the line close to us feel that they can not raise wheat and oats to make a living or to make money. They fail every summer. If a white man fails in the farming occupation the Indian can not do it; it is impossible for him to do it. They are discouraged in farming life, and they do not think much of the tools they receive from the Government; they just let them lie and rot.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do they issue bacon to you?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. What about that?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. The bacon has been good, I know. I have been using it right along.

Senator PETTIGREW. What about the blankets?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. As to the blankets, I would say just what these three men have said.

Senator PETTIGREW. What do you say?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. In old time, away back eighteen years ago, we received very good blankets, but now, just as these men said, I do not know what they are made of. They are composed of some sort of hair. I do not know, of course, whether it is cow hair; I do not know what it is; but they are not good blankets like they used to be away back, it may be twenty years ago.

Senator PETTIGREW. What about the color?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. The color is very bad. The first rain that comes on them the drip of water will show like water running out of them, and when the sun strikes on them they turn some other color. I do not know what we would call it; I can not express it.

Senator PETTIGREW. I want you to go to the Secretary of the Interior and tell him about the beef.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. That is what we came here for.

Senator PETTIGREW. And about the blankets?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes. The agent just before we left there asked me if any kicks would be made against him. I told him we had the privilege to take along a representation to the different Departments in Washington, and there is nothing in the paper that is kicking or saying anything against your affairs here, but in talking matters over something may be brought up. I told him so. I said to him, "I can not kick right against you; I can not say that to you right here in your face, because it is hard to tell whether it will come up as a subject or not."

Senator PETTIGREW. What do you say about the agent anyway? I want to know all about him.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. In my own case I did not get along; I did not think much of him at all. My character has been good for the past fifteen years, and all the chiefs here and who live have known me for fifteen years, and what I say is nothing but the truth; there is no lie in it. They have faith in me, and they feel just the same as I do. Something he says to me seems to be all right at first, but in thinking over the matter the second time I come out at some other point in my views toward him.

Senator PETTIGREW. Does he have anything to do with weighing the cattle?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. As I said, he receives them.

Senator PETTIGREW. He receives them before the inspector gets there?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; but most of the receiving is done by the chief clerk.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who is the clerk?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. C. T. Langue.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where is he from?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Clapp brought him along there as his chief clerk. In the council these people want a civilian appointed in place of an army officer. Still, the way it has been and is now right at our own agency the change has been equal to the army officers. Perhaps one goes there for a year, or a year and six months, another one stays there two years, and what they are trying to do does not do any good to us at all, whereas if we had a man who would be with us perhaps for four years, he could do something for us during that time. But the army officer goes there, and he does not know but perhaps the next day he will go away. He does not know when he will go, and the Indians are feeling all the while that it is just as though no Indian agent was there at all, because there is a whole flock here, you may say, that manage the affairs themselves. I do not think the agent runs the agency now. That is what I think, and I told him so, too, before his face.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who does run it?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. There is a party there who runs the agency instead of the Indian agent.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who is it?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. A man has been working there for the past twenty years named R. O. Pugh. The Indian trader there is H. A. Dawson.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do they run the agency?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is Dawson getting rich?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He is getting rich very fast.

Senator PETTIGREW. He has all the local contracts?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; mostly.

Senator PETTIGREW. Does he buy all the hides?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. There are five traders there at the agency who compete with one another, and it is hard to tell. I can not say much about that, because there are too many there.

Senator PETTIGREW. But Dawson and Pugh really run the thing?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; that has been my own case. I was working there at the agency for ten years before I was out in the country away from there.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is there anything more that you want to say?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. I will show you one instance where I think Pugh is running the agency. The interpreter was coming away from there to go along with Buffalo Bill and his show, and there was an interpreter to be appointed in his place. The agent thought he would appoint a young man who has been married and it would be a little living for his family. He called the young man up and thought he would give him this position. Pugh heard of it and went over to the office and said, "This young man is not a good interpreter and I do not think it would be the best place for him. I have a man here who I think will do better than this young man." The agent says back, "You have been here long enough to know better than I do, and whatever you say goes," and he takes the other man. He commends him to Clapp, and he is right there now.

Senator PETTIGREW. What is Pugh's business?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He is an issue clerk.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is there anything more you want to say?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Unless you think of something you wish to ask me.

Senator PETTIGREW. I do not think of anything more. I want to ask American Horse several questions. You can interpret for him, I presume?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT OF AMERICAN HORSE.

(Clarence Three Stars, interpreter.)

Senator PETTIGREW. You have heard what has been said about the mixed bloods. Do you want the law to remain just as it has been since 1888?

AMERICAN HORSE. We want the law of 1888 to stand just as it is, because our people are increasing, and if the white people intermarry with our people and come in and keep on increasing there is not enough land for them to take hold of there on the reservation. It would be very unfair for them to take their wives and go outside of the land and support them. Why does not the Government and the Congress of the United States take up our treaty laws and act accordingly? They have been sleeping. The Government here employs men and sends them out to us, and the chief of them sits around the house here and does not know anything about what they are doing out there. What I mean when I say the treaty is sleeping is that they do not do anything in accordance with our treaty laws. Here on the southern part of our reservation [indicating on the map of Indian reservations], the line was about 22 miles farther from the south line of our reservation. I ask you as a friend to look into that matter and find where the exact line is.

Dr. EASTMAN. They always claimed that when they made the treaty the line followed the river down into Nebraska.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. From the mouth of the Niobrara up.

Dr. EASTMAN. And did not follow the State line as it is now.

AMERICAN HORSE. That is all I have to say.

Senator PETTIGREW. I want American Horse to tell me about the issue of bulls and poor meat.

AMERICAN HORSE. Every time we come up here and bring such matters as we have given you now, the agency people at home—the white people there employed by the Government—find these things out, and, like a wild, strong tiger, they come and jump on to us because we have said things against them right in the city of Washington to the Great Father and to the people here in this house. If that sort of thing comes up from the white men employed by the Government there, I want the Government to stand up for me.

Senator PETTIGREW. I want you to tell me the truth, and if they make any trouble when you go back, let me know it and I will protect you.

AMERICAN HORSE. I thank you. Some of the beef cattle they issue us have big jaws, big lumps, and all over the body in places there are big lumps; there is swelling on them. They issue us bulls; some regular bulls and some fresh cut. One of our men, Red Shirt, brought it to the agent's office and showed it to him, and that thing is now in the agent's office. He wanted to show the actual facts about the issue. The chief cut it out and showed it to the agent, and said: "You have been issuing us bulls, and here is one of the stones cut out." He made complaint, and he laid it on the table in the office there. That is a time when he used harsh and unreasonable language, and said: "If you do not want to take the beef throw it away."

Senator PETTIGREW. The agent said that?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir. My own uncle, Three Stars, who adopted me, did the same thing, and told him, and he said: "Well, if you do not want the beef throw it away; do not eat it."

Senator PETTIGREW. That is what the agent said?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW (to American Horse). Go on.

AMERICAN HORSE. When we are about to receive the cattle at the agency there, the beef contractor feeds them hay there and sprinkles water all over the hay and gives them plenty of salt. He uses 9 barrels of salt before he drives the cattle to the agency to be received, so that they may eat plenty and drink a whole lot of water so that they may weigh heavy.

Senator PETTIGREW. When was that?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. This winter.

AMERICAN HORSE. And when they are about going to the corral to be received, the night before they have done the same thing, right there at the corral.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Right there at the corral, where they use only 1 barrel of salt, they give it to the steers so that they may drink a whole pile of water and that they may be heavier.

AMERICAN HORSE. When we receive the cattle, we buy salt and water; that is what the money is spent for. We pay for more salt and water than for beef. This is the actual fact. It is nothing but truth that I speak, before the God. Some who may hear our talk here before you may write to you, and say American Horse said things untrue—that he said nothing but falsehood; but when anything of that sort comes before you I want you to remember me and to remember my words that I say here to you.

Senator PETTIGREW. I believe you are telling me the truth. I can tell by your looks whether you are lying or not.

AMERICAN HORSE. We have a farmer at Medicine Root, and out of the rations sent out to us from the issue house the farmer uses the rations in buying trinkets. He gets moccasins and some bead work from the Indians; he trades for sugar and other stuff sent there to the issue house. He uses that in buying trinkets for himself. If he employs anybody to do work for him, he pays him out of the rations; he gives him rations; and when the time comes for us to draw our rations some will have short rations; they will not draw rations because they are short. About beef, it is the same way; and when we come to the time to draw our beef we are some short. One thing he has done that I will tell. While the beef was on the floor, scattered all over, he made a pea on the beef. Whenever an Indian comes to him and says to him, "Why have you done this thing, it is wrong," he answers back and says, "You keep still; you shut your mouth. If you keep on talking, I will send you over to the guardhouse." And then all the Indians are afraid of him and will not say anything against him, because they are liable to get into trouble. About receiving the cattle and weighing them, the agent does not know much about it, but his clerk and other parties run the things there. I want to know if there is a way to get the farmer out. I want someone to get him out of that work.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where did that farmer come from?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. From Crawford, Nebr., I think.

HIGH STAR. Hay Springs, Nebr.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He is from some of those small towns there; they are close together.

Senator PETTIGREW. How long has he been there?

AMERICAN HORSE. He has been a long time there. If he has come there to earn money to pay his debts, it may be he will pay his debts now and will go. He has got enough money to pay his debts.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He has been there about five years, I think.

Senator PETTIGREW. Does the agent attend to the business himself or let the clerks do it?

AMERICAN HORSE. There are two times I have been there when they were receiving cattle, and both those times the agent was not there, but his chief clerk was there receiving cattle. Those farmers at the various districts were there before the agent, Clapp, came there, and they do not know what to do more than Clapp, and they have favorites to run the affairs there. That is all I know of them.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT OF CLARENCE THREE STARS.

Senator PETTIGREW. I will ask Clarence Three Stars if the agent ever visits the different districts?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He was one time there, a year and a half ago. He came out there to hunt ducks, and he came out through our district. We have a whole lot of lakes, where we have ducks. I do not think he came out to visit the different districts. That is the only time that he came out that I know of, but I know that he did not come out to visit the various districts.

Senator PETTIGREW. The agency is divided into five districts?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Five districts.

Senator PETTIGREW. And there are five issue houses?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. There are five places where they issue rations?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. And there is a farmer in charge of each of the districts?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; and they have their superintendents.

Senator PETTIGREW. At your district there are about a thousand Indians?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; less than a thousand, but close to a thousand.

Senator PETTIGREW. All the cattle are received at the agency?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. And then they are distributed from there? When the issue day comes, they are driven in bunches from there to the different issue places?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Then they issue at the agency and at five other places?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Making six places?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Twice a month?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; every fourteen days. There is a butchery at the agency, another one down on the same creek at White Clay, another one at Wounded Knee, another one at Porcupine, and another one at Medicine Root, and at Pass Creek—that is, six. The seventh is vacant—it is not occupied; there is no farmer there.

Senator PETTIGREW. Do they issue there?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. No; they do not issue there.

Senator PETTIGREW. They used to issue there, but they do not do so now?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. All this evidence will be printed, and of course a copy of it will go out to the agency. I want you to tell me anything and everything you know about mismanagement and dishonesty at the agency, and if when this evidence gets out to the agency they undertake to cause you any trouble for what you have said here, and you will let me know I shall protect you. [To Clarence Three Stars.] I want you to say this to the others. Is there anything more that you can tell about the agent?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. In regard to the Eastern schools and day schools, Clapp has fought hard against Eastern schools. He is getting all the information he can out of the farmers he has there under his charge about the schoolboys that return to the reservation. There has been a fight between Clapp and Pratt, who lives in Pennsylvania, Pratt defending the Eastern schools.

Senator PETTIGREW. You think the way to do is to put them in boarding schools?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. That is my belief, and that is the general belief.

Senator PETTIGREW. In boarding schools somewhere out in that country?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir; in that country.

Senator PETTIGREW. We are building a boarding school at Rapid City, and another one at Chamberlain, and we are enlarging the school at Flandreau. We have a law that no Indian child can be taken out of Dakota to any other school without the consent of its parents. So we are going to try to furnish schools enough for them right in that country.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes; I understand.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT OF RED CLOUD.

(Clarence Three Stars, interpreter.)

Senator PETTIGREW. What do you know about the issue of bad beef?

RED CLOUD. Whatever they have told you, I speak the same thing. Red Cloud speaks true. They bring the beef cattle close to the agency, to the old corral there, where there are a thousand acres fenced in, where there is nothing but barren ground, and they are kept there before they are sent out to the various districts. They are starved in there, just as they told you. I know the same thing. They issue to us bulls, and some bulls have been fresh cut, because I know when they were sent out to us. I know the same things they do. Of course, because I am partly blind, I never go out much to see what is going on.

Senator PETTIGREW. Did you ever go to Agent Clapp and complain about the kind of beef issued?

RED CLOUD. Yes; I have told him many times, "Look around and see, my people there have been dying off, and they are dying off from the cattle which we receive and have eaten. The disease is out of these beeves you have issued to us." I say that to him frequently.

Senator PETTIGREW. What does the agent say in reply?

RED CLOUD. Red Cloud told Clapp there, "I want you to write to the Great Father and tell him we have received this bad beef," and he hung his head down and thought about it for a moment, and said,

"Well, this is a great thing. It is a matter that it is impossible to get it through, and I do not think you can get it." That is all the answer he gave to him, me. Red Cloud said, "You are the agent here; you are taking care of us here; you are our father here, and whatever goes wrong here you are to report it to the Great Father."

Senator PETTIGREW. That is what the agent said?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. That is what Red Cloud told Clapp.

RED CLOUD. That is all the talk I had with him there in regard to the beef.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT OF HIGH STAR.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is there anything more that any of you want to say?

HIGH STAR. Sometimes the agent gives permission to some white people outside to buy cattle off the reservation, and those white people come in and buy the cattle from the Indians and then hire about five or six men, and the first they buy they round up before we have any time to round up our cattle. Often, when we are off from home, they drive our cattle to the ranch and they get in steers that are big enough to make money on them, and when we come home we find notes written to the store and post-office, "We got so much of our cattle;" and our cattle go off the reservation.

Senator PETTIGREW. They sell them without consulting you at all?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. They catch them themselves?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir. The way I understood that, the man went to the agent in the first place and got permission from the agent, and he told him he wanted nothing but three-year-old steers. He allows about \$50 or \$100 to farmers not to say anything about what he is going to do in that district, and then he goes and buys the yearlings and two-year-olds, whatever he can get hold of, and gives \$10 or \$12 a head. Not only that, but sometimes they drive off some of the cattle that they do not buy. They drive them off with the others. They buy them by the guess at how much they weigh. Sometimes he says, "I think it will weigh about 600; that is about \$10." Now, hereafter we wish to stop that business. Some of the full-blood or mixed-blood Indians in the reservation could buy the cattle themselves; they have money enough to do it. Or they should wait until the contracts come up, and then we could put our cattle in the contract or we could sell the cattle to any merchants—that is, full bloods. I respectfully request that from the Department.

Senator PETTIGREW. When did they allow men to come in and buy cattle?

HIGH STAR. Last year.

Senator PETTIGREW. How many of these men from the outside come in and buy cattle?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. It is hard to tell the exact number. There are people buying cattle all over the reservation. It is a hard question to tell.

HIGH STAR. A fellow named Dawson bought the cattle.

Senator PETTIGREW. That is the trader?

HIGH STAR. Yes. His partner there is Mr. Comer. He bought cattle from yearlings up to two-year-olds from Indians, and when he bought them turned them right on the reservation and let them grow up. I know I had five head rounded up at my place. I sold those cattle. They

are now about four years old, and he is ready to take them out because they are big enough to sell. I see a good many cattle of his own running on the reservation to-day.

Senator PETTIGREW. He would buy them of the Indians when they were a year old and leave them right there?

HIGH STAR. He would leave them right there on the reservation. These chiefs here went to the agent's office and notified him that Dawson had some cattle on the reservation, and he says, "Well, when it comes the time we will take them out." But when they do run up to the weight they never take them off. They gather them up and see how many head they have got on the reservation, and as soon as they round up they just turn them back on the reservation again.

Senator PETTIGREW. How many cattle do you think Dawson has got that way?

HIGH STAR. I can not tell. He must have over 200 head— that is, of steers.

Senator PETTIGREW. Who is Comer?

HIGH STAR. He used to be chief clerk.

Senator PETTIGREW. Where does he live now?

HIGH STAR. He lives in Nebraska.

Senator PETTIGREW. What is he doing in Nebraska?

HIGH STAR. He had a house there, but most of the time he lives down at the agency. He was there at the agency all the time.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is he there now?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Most of the time he is at the agency?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Dr. EASTMAN. He lives in the house I lived in?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Does that house belong to the Government?

Dr. EASTMAN. Yes, sir; it is the physician's house.

Senator PETTIGREW. Comer lives in that house?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. It belongs to the Government?

HIGH STAR. The house belongs to the Government.

Senator PETTIGREW. Does Comer have any regular business there?

HIGH STAR. He is a notary public.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is he court commissioner?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Our chief clerk there, Langué, is court commissioner.

Senator PETTIGREW. Comer is a notary public?

CLARENCE THREE STARS. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. What else does he do?

HIGH STAR. I do not know.

Senator PETTIGREW. Was he buying cattle with Dawson?

HIGH STAR. Yes, sir.

Senator PETTIGREW. Is he considered an honest man by the Indians?

HIGH STAR. He would do all he could— [A pause.]

CLARENCE THREE STARS. He has been so long there that the Indians are used to him, and it may be that they like him there. It is hard telling; it can not be proved, I think. I have seen the cattle on the reservation; that is all I know. A whole lot of cattle belong to them there. That can be proved; but as to other matters it is impossible to prove it. But they are in the cattle business. I have seen their cattle running there on the reservation.

HIGH STAR. Besides a good many cattle run on the reservation that

do not belong there. Some people along on the line of the reservation just depend on the reservation to raise their cattle. They turn all their cattle on the reservation.

AMERICAN HORSE (Clarence Three Stars, interpreter). The beef contractor there had cattle scattered all over the reservation, feeding on the reservation, and there is a time when he sends out his men there to round in his cattle. Then he picks out the fattest of them and ships them to Omaha and other places, but the poor ones he lets alone and sends them to the corral, there to be received for us as our beef. The fat ones he ships off to the East. He is trying to get another year to furnish beef for us. I do not want him to come there. If there is some way to head him off, I want to have that done.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. I understand they will be buying annuity goods for us very soon. We want to make that just as strong as we possibly can to the Secretary of the Interior, and we would say the same thing here to you.

Senator PETTIGREW. They open bids for the contracts next week in Chicago. I shall see the Secretary to-morrow about this matter.

CLARENCE THREE STARS. On our reservation there this thing has been discussed by the general council, and all are in favor of taking cash instead of goods. That is one of the very things that we came here to work hard on—to get cash instead of goods this year; that is, next winter, if possible.

AMERICAN HORSE (Dr. Eastman, interpreter). We are very glad to hear these very good words from you, Senator, and we are very thankful for the assistance you have promised to render us.

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