

1a



2a



P. P. Prando,  
St. Xavier, P. O. Mont.,  
Crow Indian Reservation.

3a



243

387, 309

4a





6a



7a



Montana C184/77  
Crow Agency M.T.  
February 19th 1877  
Lewis H. Carpenter  
U.S. Indian Agent

In reference to impracticability of using quarterly rations tickets at the present time

Crow Agency  
February 10, 1877  
Hon. J.Q. Smith  
Commissioner Ind. Affs  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to your communications of Nov. 25th last in reference to taking a census of these Indians and issuing rations upon the tickets provided for heads of families, and recording such issues in a book where made, etc.

I have the honor to state, that the customs and habits of these Indians, at the present time, renders a quarterly ration ticket an impossibility for the following reasons. viz: 1st: These Indians have not the ration called for under the schedule of articles contained in the letter referred to, having only beef and flour, and none of the latter for several weeks prior to the 7th last. 2nd: As a consequence of the foregoing they have been compelled to leave the agency, and hunt in various directions, at a distance of from thirty to sixty



miles from here, the families of the absent ones, being mixed up with those remaining, and changing from place to place, almost daily, so that the number in each lodge or family is continually changing every week, necessitating the issue of weekly tickets. 3rd: These people are continually losing their tickets and changing them, causing confusion and delay at the time of issuing, besides mistakes that have arisen therefrom, so that I have been compelled to abandon the quarterly ticket and issue upon a weekly record, ascertaining the number in each lodge every day of issue, and giving the supplies accordingly. 4th: Because I have not had supplies on hand, to issue as called for by the ticket, on each issue day, and consequently the ticket cannot show the amount issued, but only the amount called for, which would cause a very great discrepancy between the amt. stated on the ticket, and the amt. issued. I will keep an exact account of the issues made in accordance with instructions, and comply with the regulation in regard to issuing beer, which latter, has been the main way of issuing since I took charge.

When regular supplies can be obtained and the Indians induced to settle and remain in the vicinity of the agency, and live in separate families, the "quarterly issue ticket" will be practicable, but under present circumstances I find it impossible to use it.

10a

I shall limit the issuance of supplies so that the amount coming for present fiscal year will not be overdrawn, nor the appropriations exceeded.

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

Lewis H. Carpenter

U.S. Indian Agent

---

Post of Fort Custer, M.T.  
July 21, 1882

To the  
Assistant Adjutant General,  
Department of Dakota,  
Fort Snelling, Minn.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose with this a copy of the letter received from the Agent for the Crow Indians. It is in answer to one I wrote him enclosing a copy of a letter received from the commander of Fort McKinney. In this connection I would mention that I have just learned that white men trading with the Crow Indians who are off their reserve, have been telling them fearful stories of the prevalence of Small Pox [sic]; representing it as raging at this post. The Indians were so deceived by these stories that they were afraid even to send a runner here to ascertain their truth. A scout was dispatched by them to lie around outside the post without coming in. If no sign of the enlisted scouts was seen, it was to be understood that all were dead. Fortunately, he met one of the scouts who was out hunting and was brought into the post. I have sent word that there is no Small pox here or on the river, and that the General desired them to come on to their reserve.

As the Indian Department has supplies for but four months for these people, they will, if forced away from the buffalo, soon become very destitute. The Indians tell me they are willing to work if they are allowed

12a

to select lands in severalty and are supplied with tools and seed.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient Servant,  
Signed: Jno. P. Hatch,  
Colonel Second Cavalry,  
Commanding

1 Enclosure

United States Indian Service,  
Crow Agency,  
July 17, 1882.  
General Jno. P. Hatch  
Commanding Post,  
Fort Custer, M.T.

Dear Sir

Your Communication dated 12th instant, with two enclosures is received. I would prefer to have the Crows remain on their own country, as I requested them to, in the Council, at the time of the issue of annuity goods in April – but for two reasons:

The first is, that there is nothing on their reservation to subsist them and our supplies for this agency will subsist them over four months in the year. The second reason is that when all the camp is here at the Agency, as it must be, if they are not permitted to hunt outside their reservation, the wild element or party in the nation keeps those who are disposed to settle down to farming from doing so, principally by ridiculing the farmers, but sometimes by threatening them. By the terms of the 4th Article of the treaty of 1868, the Crows

have the right to hunt upon the unoccupied lands of the United States, so long as game may be found thereon, and the land where buffalo roam at large can hardly be called occupied; so that I really think that my Indians have the right to go outside their own country after buffalo, although I have been careful not to tell them so, but always the contrary. It seems to me that in issuing and enforcing military orders, some distinction ought to be made between Indians that have always been friendly towards the whites, and those who have always been at war.

Can you not accommodate me by sending the Sergeant Charles Abbott, Company H, 11th Infantry, who platted the claims of Iron Bull and War-Man on the Big Horn, up here for one month? I want to make a map of the country for a distance of twenty miles, on every side of this Agency, and am short two employes[sic], and another is off on detached service, as you would say, being north on the Muscleshell with Takes Wrinkle band – and I have a great amount of work on hand, so that it seems impossible for me to do this myself, as I am instructed to do. If you will send Sergeant Abbott you will accommodate me very much indeed.

Very respectfully,  
Signed: H.J. Armstrong, Agent.  
A true copy  
Sgd:) Chas. F. Roe,  
1st Lieut. & adjt. 2d Cavalry,  
Post Adjutant

---

21658 Office of Indian Affairs  
Rec'd Nov 27 1883

Crow Agency Mont  
21st 11/83  
HJ Armstrong Agent  
Reply to "C" 20708  
Relating to Indians leaving the reservation  
to hunt

United States Indian Service  
Crow Agency, Mont  
Nov 20th, 1883

Hon. H. Price  
Commissioner Ind. Aff.  
Washington D.C.

Sir

In reply to your "C" #20708 I have the honor to refer the Hon. Commissioner to my communication on same subject dated September 15th 83 in which I make a full statement of the matter and request definite, positive instructions. I have given no passes to my Indians to leave the reservation for a year past excepting one or two cases where three or four Indians have wanted to go north of the Yellowstone to hunt their horses which had been stolen from them. I have told them this fall that I did not want them to go outside of their own country; and I have already requested the commanding officer at Ft. Custer to bring back to this reservation any parties of Crows found travelling eastward toward the Sioux agencies. I have discouraged parties of strange Indians coming to this reservation ever since I have been here and have written to other

15a

Indian agents who have given passes to their Indians to visit us, in terms which they probably considered to be more forcible than was necessary.

It is a mistake however to suppose that there is any game on this reservation for the Crows to hunt. There is none and they have to go outside to get elk and deer. The customs the Crows have had of going into the surrounding country hunting during the winter season has been going on for years and cannot be easily broken up. I am not sure but that the best way to do it would be for the Governor of Wyoming to call on the military as he proposes to do.

Very respectfully  
H J Armstrong  
U.S. Ind Agt

---

16a

16399 Office of Indian Affairs  
Rec'd Sept 15 1881  
Crow Agency M.T.  
September 3rd 1881  
A.R. Keller Agent

Relative to Indians being off their reserve and to alleged depredations at Tongue River

[illegible] Sept 19, 1881 + copy sent to Secy same date.

United States Indian Service, Crow Agency, Montana  
Sept 3d 1881

Hon. Hiram Price  
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir:

In reply to your Civ. 12 700 dated July 25th I have the honor to report the following: On the receipt of your letter I had already dispatched messengers to all the camps summoning them to the Council of Aug 22 and knew that when they arrived I would have a favorable opportunity to investigate the matter. Accordingly, I began inquiry as soon as the Indians began to arrive at the Agency. I learned that about 30 to 40 Lodges under "Spotted Horse" had been in the vicinity referred to in your letter and on his arrival here I sent for him and advised him what complaints had been made of them. He seemed much surprised at the charge and very emphatically denied that they either let out any fire or killed any Cattle. He avers that the country "over there" was swarming with white hunters, singly, and in parties and that they did these things and



charged them to the Crows. An Indian is a very convenient scapegoat for any misdemeanors that may be committed in the vicinity of his whereabouts. I would not like to say unqualifiedly that they had not done either as Spotted Horse says but I have reason to know that his conclusions were correct. [We?] "Keeping the Indians on the Reservation" trust the Hon. Commissioner will see the impracticability of any such course when he reflects that only sufficient rations are furnished this Agency to feed the Indians about (3 ½) three and a half months of the year. There is not sufficient game upon the reservation to keep them the remainder of the year – if relieved of the trespass of white men. But its inadequacy is still more apparent when we reflect that the government itself has set the example of trespass by placing one of its largest Military Posts (Fort Custer) in the very heart of their reservation and their favorite game country. The limited force of the Agency precludes the possibility of our preventing frequent trespass from hunters trappers graziers and [drovers]. Add to all the above the fact that the Treaty of 1868 not only did not forbid the Indians from hunting off the reserve but went so far as to guarantee them that right and it will be seen that they have just cause of serious complaints. Of these facts the Indians are not ignorant and it presents the Government in the light of not only acting unjustly but unlawfully as well. Our Government is certainly too great, too powerful, and too just to merit such a verdict. If we would civilize the Indians let us by all means be fair

18a

and just to him, and ourselves observe the law we  
would enforce upon him

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Serv't  
A.R. Keller  
US Ind Agt

---