

## Excerpts of Office of Indian Affairs Reports, 1871

Colyer to President, 15 November 1871, in United States, Office of Indian Affairs, *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary for the Year 1871* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1872), 12-22, NADP Document RB1871.

A.

### THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS.

WASHINGTON, D.C., *December 12, 1871.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the third annual report of the Board of Indian Commissioners to the President of the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

VINCENT COLYER,

*Secretary.*

Hon. COLUMBUS DELANO,  
*Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C.*

### CONFIDENCE AND GOOD WILL BETWEEN WHITES AND INDIANS.

The remarkable spectacle seen this fall, on the plains of Western Nebraska and Kansas and Eastern Colorado, of the warlike tribes of the Sioux of Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming, hunting peacefully for buffalo without occasioning any serious alarm among the thousands of white settlers whose cabins skirt the borders on both sides of these plains, shows clearly that the efforts of the friends of peace in establishing confidence between the white people and the Indians, in this heretofore greatly disturbed section of the country, have been eminently successful. We contrast this picture with that presented by the same tribe, when five years ago, in consequence of our Government's bad faith in violating its treaties with them...

### PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH RED CLOUD AND THE SIOUX.

With the exception of some slight manifestations of ill-will against the progress of the Northern Pacific Railroad, caused by a misunderstanding, this numerous and powerful tribe has been perfectly friendly during the past year.

...The Sioux are extremely sensitive in regard to the slightest encroachment upon their reservation, or the hunting grounds allotted to them in the treaty of 1868, and have objected even to the establishment of an agency for their own benefit within its limits. They are impressed with the conviction that where one white man is allowed to enter their territory many will inevitably follow. In view of their past experience, we cannot think them unreasonable in this. The same wise consideration which led the Government to withdraw the garrisons of Forts Reno, C. F.

## Excerpts of Office of Indian Affairs Reports, 1871 (continued)

Smith, and Phil. Kearney, in 1868, and to prevent the proposed Big Horn expedition in 1870, should induce a proper effort to gain their consent by negotiation, before permitting any breach of the treaty stipulations by the invasion of their hunting grounds by surveying or exploring parties. It is believed that the privilege which may be deemed necessary for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company may be had by negotiation at a moderate cost, whereas the attempt to seize it without will probably occasion a renewal of the war.

"Report of a visit to Red Cloud" in United States, Office of Indian Affairs, *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary for the Year 1871* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1872), 22-29, NADP Document RA1871A.

A a.--Report of a visit to Red Cloud and chiefs of the Ogallala Sioux, by Commissioner Felix R. Brunot.

FORT LARAMIE, WYOMING TERRITORY  
JUNE 14, 1871.

I wish Louis Richard and Joseph Bissenet to interpret for me. (He then said:) I am Red Cloud. The Great Spirit raised both the white man and the Indian. I think He raised the Indian first. He raised me in this land and it belongs to me. The white man was raised over the great waters, and his land is over there. Since they crossed the sea, I have given them room. There are now white people all about me. I have but a small spot of land left. The Great Spirit told me to keep it. I went and told the Great Father so. Since I came back, I have nothing more to say. I told all to the Great Father. I was to tell all the Great Father said to my nation. I told them all of it. Whatever I do, my people will do the same. Whatever the Great Spirit tells me to do I will do. I have not yet done what the Great Father told me to do. God raised us Indians. We are two nations. Whatever we decide to do, we want to do together. I must ask you to wait. I am trying to live peaceably. I told the Great Father so. When I went to him I asked no annuity goods; all I asked was for my lands--the little spot I have left. If you have any goods to give, I want you to wait awhile. I will then tell you what to do with them. Between here and the railroad is much land. I have not been paid for it. I want to think of it.

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