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Rosebud Agency General Report, Preliminary Observations

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Rosebud Agency General Report, Preliminary Observations

About

Government Relations with Native Americans, Native American Reservations, Rosebud Sioux

Identified Persons

A.J. Helzer; Jim; LeDoux; Libbeus Foster Spencer; Louis Roubideau; Major Edmond Mallet; Mr. Irvine; Mr. Whitfield; Paul Charbonneau; Peter [Pinault?]; Red Bonnet; Robert Emery; Tom Flood; W.L. Porter; William Smith; Yellow Eyes

Identified Places

Dakota Territory; Rosebud Agency; Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota

Recipient

Secretary of the Interior

Indian Inspectors' Office,

Omaha, N. B., November 5, 1888.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

1 In compliance with telegraphic instructions from your office dated September 17, 1888, I left Omaha, Neb., on September 19th, and proceeded to ~~the~~ Rosebud Agency ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~place~~. to inspect the Indian Agency at that place. I arrived on ^{the eve of} the 20th, and found that Agent Spencer was absent, at ~~the~~ ~~place~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~agency~~ Grow Creek, Dak., on business connected with the ^{labors of the} Sioux Commission. The acting agent, Mr. ^{W. L.} Porter, clerk, received me rather coldly, expressing surprise that an inspector should be sent to the agency whilst the agent was absent on important official business.

2 Mr. Porter, I soon learned, had tendered his resignation as clerk ^{on account of ill health and desire of the} and was on the eve of his departure from the agency. I cannot account for his lack of due courtesy to me on any other ground than that ~~of~~ of his ill-health (as conveyed ^{by} ~~by~~ ~~means~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~ill-health~~) and of the loss of his head on finding himself the acting chief of so large an establishment as is the Rosebud Agency. ^{a few} ~~some~~ days after ^{my arrival} I requested ~~for~~ a copy of the roll of employees from Mr. Porter to enable me to inquire into the ~~status~~ personnel of the agency, but I never received it; the excuse being that the clerk and his assistant ^{had been} ~~were~~ too busy to prepare it, ~~and~~

Preliminary
Observations.

2
a few

days after

started
 left for Wash'ton; yet the vouchers were
 prepared some the signatures, ~~and~~ the
 checks ~~dated September 29~~ were all filled
 out ~~but~~ not even to the dates, which was
September 29, 1888, but not issued.

In the case of the school-teachers the matter
 is even worse, as the majority ^{of the} have to come
 from great distances, ^{to receive their salaries} ~~and~~ ^{have} to
 close their schools
 for nearly a week to travel to the agents
 off' and return to their camps. Then
 when they receive their checks they ~~must~~
~~times~~ have no means of disposing of
 them as they are ^{more} forty miles from the nearest
 white settlement.

The agent claims that he could not con-
 form with the regulations ^{with} or ^{any} views in regard
 to prompt pay to ~~the~~ ^{as carried out by} ~~the~~ ^{with} his present Cleri-
 cal force. (I would suggest to the Dept.

~~to consider the~~ ~~matter~~ that the a-
 gent be allowed an additional clerk so that
 he be required to pay the employes promptly
 on the last peculiar day of each quarter, and
 that the school teachers be paid at their
 camps during the last ^{two days} ~~part~~ of each quarter,
 the pay to be made in cash.

The Agents' Accounts.

I could not make a thorough examination

~~which~~

of the agent's accounts, but those that I examine ^{carefully} were prepared with the view to for ^{the} reasons already stated, par 5. I endeavored to examine the ~~part~~ ^{entries} ~~mainly~~ ^{mainly} reports of public funds, but no copies had been retained of those which I particularly desired to see. The pay-rolls of Ind. & Brights ~~and the pay-rolls~~ were not conformable with the truth ^{has been} as stated in par. . The Cash Book was not posted to date and the entries ^{made} for the time since Clerk ~~Mr.~~ Porter has been ^{in office} were not in accordance with the regulations. I pointed out to Mr. Porter the defect ~~system~~ adopted by ~~Mr. Porter~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~part~~ by comparison with the previous entries. ~~He~~ ~~acknowledged~~ ~~the~~ ~~defect~~ ~~system~~ ~~recently~~ ~~followed~~, ~~and~~ ~~admitted~~ ~~the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~but~~ ~~claimed~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~had~~ ~~not~~ ~~heretofore~~ ~~noticed~~ ~~the~~ ~~defects~~. ~~He~~ ~~claimed~~ ~~that~~ ~~it~~ ~~was~~ ~~impossible~~ ~~for~~ ~~an~~ ~~agent~~ ~~to~~ ~~prepare~~ ~~accounts~~ ~~in~~ ~~conformity~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~regulations~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Department~~.

The regulations of the Ind. Office as he ^{agent} ~~stated~~ ~~if~~ ~~it~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~necessary~~ ~~that~~ ~~accounts~~ ~~be~~ ~~strictly~~ ~~true~~ ~~provided~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~Govt~~ ~~and~~ ~~not~~ ~~the~~ ~~Ind.~~ ~~men~~ ~~defended~~. I am of the opinion that some ~~of~~ ^{who is} Inspector ^{of the Ind. Camp} ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ ~~sent~~ ~~to~~ ~~properly~~ ~~instruct~~ ~~the~~ ~~agent~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~en-~~ ~~play~~ ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~see~~ ~~correct~~ ~~accounts~~ ~~and~~ ~~report-making~~. I must also express the opinion that ^{very} ~~may~~ ~~if~~ ~~not~~

~~25/10~~

are defective & mis-leading

all of the blanks of the I'd ser^{ies} should
be revised by a committee or board of persons
~~with~~ familiar with practical I'd work.

Summary of Recommendations

- 1 That ~~the~~ the agent be instructed to pay (1)
quote par. 38.
- 2 That a ~~Department~~ Circular be issued on
subject of pay to freight. Par 38.

well behaved. The number of children is very large & the women are modest & virtuous, after their own manner. As the number of women is far in excess of the men polygamy is quite prevalent.

8 I visited a large number of Indian dwellings ~~and~~ especially those near the agency headquarters, ~~and~~ ^{those} in the Big Turkey Camp ~~and~~ ^{those} on White River, and I found them miserable indeed. They are small log pens with ~~the~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~roof~~ ~~covered~~ with earth ^{concealed roofs}. They have no floors and no furniture, except ~~perhaps~~ ^{in some instances} a rough bedstead of ~~rough~~ boards and a cracker-box in which are ^{kept} the few cooking utensils of the household. The ~~glass~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~doors~~ windows are generally with glass in them and the ~~door~~ entrance is closed with a curtain made of ^{old} flour sacks. *I ~~requested~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~allowed~~ ~~to~~ ~~visit~~ ~~the~~ ~~agency~~ ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~visit~~ ~~the~~ ~~part~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~agency~~ ~~where~~ ~~the~~ ~~majority~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Indians~~ ~~live~~ ~~in~~ ~~tepees~~ ~~pitched~~ ~~near~~ ~~their~~ ~~log~~ ~~huts~~ ~~when~~ ~~I~~ ~~visited~~ ~~them~~.

9 I found the men more independent than those of the Markton ~~by~~ reservation, and disposed to complain of the conduct of the agent and some of the employes. They also complained that the visits of the inspectors were not followed by ~~reform~~ changes for the better - that their grievances exposed to the inspectors were not remedied. The most common complaints were the following as I noted them down ^{in my tablets} at the time;

Rareland Agency

General Report

Washgton D.C.

November 22, 1886

P * During my conversations with the agent, later
I ~~asked~~ suggested that he ^{should} send out the carpenters
with a few wagon loads of lumber, sashes,
glass, hinges, nails, &c. to the ~~Ind's~~ ^{camp} ~~dwellings~~
to make the most necessary repairs on the old
dwellings. ~~He insisted that~~ before the approach of
bad weather, ^{he} insisted that that was impossible
as all the workmen were extremely lazy.

1. That the Ind's were not sufficiently encouraged to work; ~~as~~ they charged that the Ind's were unable to get freight to do, by reason of the agent's favorites, the agency employes at the office, getting more than their share. They also complained that those who did ^{carry} freight were ^{obliged} ~~compelled~~ to wait [for their money] so long that they were compelled to sell their certificates to the Indian traders for half cash or half goods. Many even suggested that one of the traders ~~was more a~~ had too much influence with the agent.
2. That there were too many white employes; ^{specifically requested} they ~~wanted~~ that Chief ^{Robert} Emery, chief herder, Jim ^{chief} hostler, or Mr. Whitfield, assistant farm, be removed, = the latter for ^{driving} ~~knocking~~ on Ind's ~~down~~, or that squaw-men, half-breeds or Ind's be employed in their places.
3. That the mills were not running or that they were greatly in need of floors or doors for their houses.
4. That the issue clerks threw the rations to their woman as if they were dogs.
5. That their rations issued were ridiculously small or that there were ^{withheld} ~~taken~~ from them by the agent for every petty offense.
6. That some of the beef-cattle issued to them were so small that the Ind's ^{made sport of} ~~laughed at~~ them, ^{saying} ~~they said~~ "See that poor little calf looking

for its mother."

7. That the issue of beef-cattle (only only 14 days) was wrong - they should receive beef every 12 days or less.

8 That no rations were given to small children.

9 That on ~~July 30~~ ^{July 1st} of each year the warehouses were full of supplies which should have been issued ^{to them} during the ^{previous} year.

~~11 That Property issued to Indis as for which the Indian Indis has receipts were taken away or given to other Indis for alleged bad conduct.~~

Stet

tr {

~~12~~ That the Indis had to pay to have their wagons repaired

10 That their annuity goods were not given to them until so late in the winter that their women and children suffered for clothes. They named some Indis ^{among the} who had died of cold last winter for want of blankets.

12 That white herders had cattle on the reservation for which they paid the agent who declined to say what became of the money.

13 That Louis Rouhidoux, ~~an~~ watchman, is too who has been an employe 10 years, is too officious and treats the Indis badly and should be removed.

Inquiry into Indian Grievances

I explained into the complaints of the Indis as well as I could; I had ~~not~~ during the short time I had for consultation with the agent, he-

twice the time of his return from Crow Creek
at his departure for Washington with a delegation
of Indians, I obtained explanations from him on
the subject. I report the result ^{of my inquiries} ~~of the agents' explanations~~ ^{serializing}.

1. On October 5th, that is five days after the
close of the first quarter 1888-'89 I visited the
agents' office and requested the agent to show
me the Pay Roll of Indian Freighters (Form 5-334).
for the ~~quarter~~ first quarter 1888-'89. It consisted
of several ^{sheets, five or six in number,} pages ^{and} was completed, except that
the two last columns, ~~signature~~ "marks" and "Witness
ses", and the signatures to the these certificates
were left blank. The three certificates were ^{each} dated
"September 30, ~~1888~~ ^{the dates were} ~~which was~~ erroneous since the
~~dates~~ ^{are intended to} refer to the ~~last~~ day on which the certificates
were actually signed, ^{and they were not signed at all.} then the ^{first} column "Dates" ~~was~~
filled out with dates ranging through the whole
of the month of September ~~which~~ ^{which} was also erro-
neous since ^{* I guess} ~~the Indians~~ ^{did not} ~~know~~ ^{know} ~~the date~~ ^{the date} ~~of completion~~ ^{of completion} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~work~~ ^{work} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~money~~ ^{money} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~actually~~ ^{actually} ~~paid~~ ^{paid} ~~during~~ ^{during} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~month~~ ^{month}.

which were
filled out

they

which refers to
the dates of pages
in case was

I called the attention of the clerk Mr. Porter to
the fact that the dates were erroneous and he an-
swered with some heat that they were "all right".
I asked how the certificates could properly be dated
on September 30th when they were not actually signed
at ~~the~~ that moment, namely, ^{on} October 5th. He
replied that that was the correct way to prepare
the certificates. I then ^{pointed} ~~referred~~ to the dates in the
first column ^{of the tabular statement} ~~and~~ ^{asked} ~~where~~ ^{where} the Indians had actually

*' The agent had repeatedly told me that he could not pay the Indian freighters or the agency employees by reason of his not having funds since ~~June 30 last~~ the close of the last fiscal year.

in cash, as stated,
 been paid, on the date stated, i.e. in September. He
 replied "Yes." I said "how can that be
 when Cal. Spencer has told me that he has not
 a cent ^{of goods} ~~available~~ ^{to his credit} for the pay of the employes
 & the freighters for ~~the~~ ^{since} Dec 30." "Well
 it's all the same," he replied. I said "it is
 not the same; either these people were paid
 or they were not paid during the period of
 July 1 to September 30. If they were paid these
 vouchers are correct, except the dates of the
 certificates ~~which must be corrected~~; if they were
 not paid you have no vouchers to prepare, since there
 were ~~was~~ no disbursements." "Well you ^{had} better talk to Cal.
 Spencer ^{about it} ~~Mr. Porter~~." ^{Mr. Porter}

Agent Spencer had entered the clerk's office in
 the meantime & I called his attention to the
 matter. He took the same view ^{that} Mr Porter had
 taken & ~~discussed~~ ^{discussed} the matter, ^{at considerable length} insisting that that
 was the only way to dispose of the matter & that
 his ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~views~~ ^{views} ~~agreed~~ ^{agreed} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~agent~~ ^{agent} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~many~~ ^{many}
 of them as a matter of fact ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Indians~~ ^{Indians} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~most~~ ^{most}
 of them at least, had been paid; but not
 by the agent; the Indian traders ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~paid~~ ^{paid} ~~them~~ ^{them}

(perhaps all)
 a large number of
 Later I ascertained that ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Indians~~ ^{Indians} ~~freighters~~ ^{freighters} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Indians~~ ^{Indians} ~~traders~~ ^{traders} ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~carried~~ ^{carried} ~~freight~~ ^{freight}
 during the month of September had ~~immediately~~ ^{immediately} ~~paid~~ ^{paid} ~~their~~ ^{their} ~~certificates~~ ^{certificates} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Indians~~ ^{Indians} ~~traders~~ ^{traders} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~that~~ ^{that}
 as had ~~thus~~ ^{thus} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~paid~~ ^{paid} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~traders~~ ^{traders} ~~but~~ ^{but} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~by~~ ^{by}
 the agent. The Pay - Roll of Ind. Freighters for
 the quarter ended September 30, 1866, which I
 saw ~~represented~~ ^{represented} ~~fiction's~~ ^{fiction's} ~~transactions~~ ^{transactions} as
 a matter of fact instead of paying the Ind. the
 agent ~~who~~ ^{who} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~paying~~ ^{paying} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Indians~~ ^{Indians} ~~traders~~ ^{traders} ~~by~~ ^{by}
 cashing the certificates which they purchased for the
 Ind. for one-half cash or one-half goods.

(If the agent pays the traders with coin brought
 to the agent for the U.S. depositing at Omaha at
 considerable cost for expressage the matter is ^{still} worse.)

a filled and more absolutely
 false.

had

were

over

stores

or represented.

*1 I then told Agent Spencer that ~~they may be inter-~~
~~med~~ the correctness of these vouchers depended altogether
on the point ^{as to} whether they were true or not. The first
element in account making I insisted, was that
each statement must be true. If he had paid
the money during the first quarter the vouchers belonged
to the first quarter's account but if he paid it
in the future ~~also~~ before the close of business hours
on December 31st they must go into the second quarter
account. ~~He insisted that they belonged to his~~
~~first quarter's account~~ ^{since the freight was done for his quarter, and he} ~~retorted~~ his statement
that he had not received ~~any~~ notice for the
depositing of funds being placed to his credit
& that he had had no money since Dec 30th,
although he had notice from the Indian Office that a
warrant had been drawn ^{in his favor} on September 8th.

I then told him that the vouchers must not be
placed in his first quarter's account, & that I would
request the Secretary of the Interior to instruct him to
pay the freights on the ~~same~~ day on which they
completed their work.
The regulations contemplated that the agent should pay the
Indian freights on the completion of their work, ~~and that~~
~~he should do so in future~~. I instructed him to do so in
future whenever he had funds available for that purpose.

had been
I ~~was~~ informed that the agent had a considerable quantity of coin at the express office in Valentine, ^{Nebr.} which he had ordered from the U. S. depositary at Omaha, but the agent positively when I asked ~~the~~ ^{him} ~~agent~~ about this, on the evening of October 7, he positively affirmed that he did not have a dollar of public funds at his command.

that it was
found true
of this

As regards the Indians' complaint that the employes around the agents office were getting more than their share of the freighting I found this to be true. ~~.....~~ I ^{formally} investigated this matter, Agents Spencer, Clerk Porter, Engineer Helzer, Interpreter Tom Flood, ~~and~~ Assistant Clerk Wm Smith & Watchman Louis Rouhidoux having been ~~summoned~~ ~~to testify in the case.~~ being present at my request at the inquiry.

I had previously obtained from Tom Flood, Louis Rouhidoux, and Wm. Smith, respectively, statements that they had been paid, by the traders, two, three and three amounts, respectively, for freighting done during the quarter ended September 30, 1888, and ~~having read the amounts from my memorandum and obtained from the three Indian employes, that my memorandum was substantially correct I requested evidence of~~ ~~I called~~ I asked for proof of that the ~~same~~ had been performed in their cases. Mr. Helzer failed to find ~~any evidence~~ ~~in~~ his records & Mr. Porter could not find the names in the pay-roll.

this

~~notwithstanding the fact that Agent Spencer,

^{insisted upon}
~~to me that he had no money to pay

 the freighters - some of whom were at that time

 trying to sell their certificates at a discount of

 thirty odd dollars for twenty ^{dollars} in cash.

~~Some of the employees were asking of his office ^{for}
~~for the employees, Mr. Porter, agency clerk,

 to me that he had received the agent's check

 for a part of his salary ~~was~~ previous to Septe-

 ber 30. I saw the stub of the check referred

 to, ~~which~~ which corroborated his statement.~~~~~~~~

miller

As regards the Indian's complaint that the employees around the agent's office were getting more than their share of the freight, I found that to be true. I ^{formally} investigated this matter, Agent Spencer, Clerk Porter, Engineer Helzer, Interpreter Tom Flood, ~~and~~ Assistant Clerk Wm Smith and Watchman Louis Raulidoux having been summoned to testify in the case. (being present at my request at the inquiry).

~~The names of Tom Flood appeared twice and Louis Raulidoux appeared twice at three times, respectively, on the Pay-roll of Indian Agents for the quarter ended June 30, 1888. Engineer Helzer, who acts as master of transportation, at my request produced the documentary evidence of the service responding with the amounts charged. I then took the verbal testimony of Tom Flood, who confessed having received two amounts for freight, ~~in~~ ^{on} a note dated September 30, 1888, of Wm Smith for two amounts, and of Louis Raulidoux to three~~

It follows from the above that the Pay Roll
of ^{the} Freighters is fictitious. ~~in the date on which~~

~~amounts, and then requested Mr. Dodge to produce the evidence of service at Mr. Porter to ~~produce~~ their charges in the Pay Rolls of Indi Bright. ^{for the month ending September 30 1888.} No evidence ~~could~~ of service could be found ^{in the bills of lading nor could} ~~in the names side out of~~~~

be found

been on the rolls. I then pointed out the fact that Flood, Smith & Roubidoux, all three employees in the agents office had been freighty ^{by the goods} under fictitious names, (the name assumed by Roubidoux being Yellow Eyes) and requested the agent to explain these fictitious transactions. No satisfactory explanation could be given by either the agent or the clerk, to whom these matters are delegated, and a promise was given me that they should not be repeated. ~~In this connection~~ Agent Spencer claimed that men like these employees, who took good care of their draft animals, should be encouraged, and he ^{explained} that his policy was to ~~distribute~~ ^{give} the privilege of freighty to the Inds of the several camps, orders for freight being distributed by the assistant farmers or school teachers ~~in distant camps~~. This I ^{knew} ~~found~~ to be true and gave ^{is} my commendation to the practice so far as it ~~is~~ observed.

To conclude with this subject I will say that ~~50 cents~~ ^{a hundred pounds} is allowed for freighty the Inds for freighty, when the same service could be ~~be~~ performed by responsible contractors for twenty f

cents. The excess of twenty-five cents is evidently allowed to encourage the Ind's to work. But if the amount allowed goes to the Ind's traders or to agency employes the object of the Government in paying so liberal a sum is defeated. If the Ind's were paid ~~is~~ promptly ^{in cash} the traders would reduce their prices as they would then have to compete with the merchants of ~~the~~ ^{white settlements} where they ^{Ind's} go after the freight. ~~It is this~~ ^{if} ~~the~~ ^{employees} ^{did not} receive an undue share of the freight the poorer Ind's ~~would not be~~ discriminated against. In view

Valentine, mgt.
~~the~~
 would not be

In view of the above facts I recommend that Agent Spencer be instructed (1) to pay his Ind's freight ^{promptly, in cash,} ~~freights~~ ^{on the termination of their service,} (2) to carry out his policy of distributing the freight privileges to all his Ind's more strictly; (3) ~~to not~~ ^{to} allow freight to be done under fictitious names, and (4) to require the signature of persons able to write, instead of accepting their marks. I would further recommend that a Department Circular be issued with the view to ~~enforcing~~ ^{the same} establishing the ^{substance of the} above ~~instructions~~ ^{at} all agencies where ~~of~~ Ind's carry freight. ~~I~~ I was not able to ~~establish~~ obtain any evidence ^{to} connect ~~with~~ the interests of the agent with those of either of the Ind's traders.

general regulations

2. ~~the~~ ~~Polos~~ On account of my inability to obtain a list of the agency employes, I was unable

as already explained, per. 5? I could not ascertain the truth or falsity of the lad's charges that there were too many white employees, as to the chief herder, Mr. Robert Emery, the agent claimed that some half-breeds wanted his place as ~~the~~ were plotting against him, to the extent of making him drunk to procure his removal. He considered him a good reliable man for his ~~position~~ position. I examined into charges that he was speculating in horses as compelled the herders which he nominated to purchase horses from him as a condition of securing employment, as I had ~~two~~ ^{of the} herders told me that they had been obliged to purchase horses from him, but they afterwards came out with drew their statements, saying that they had not fully understood my questions. As too the herder Jim _____, I learned that he was the best man for the position that had been employed for several years past. I was warned, however, that he was trying to have his assistant, a young Indian as a worthy man, removed, to have a young ~~man~~ ^{half-breed} named Lee Soup, his prospective brother-in-law, appointed in his place.

Mr. Whitfield, assistant farmer, came to see me as I questioned him on his altercation with an Indian at his camp. His statement of the facts showed strong provocation but I was unable to agree with him that he was perfectly justifiable in striking the Indian.

On the representation of the chief herders that it was desirable to allow them to supply good well-trained horses to the Indian herders I advised them that it was not permissible for them to become horse dealers but that I saw no objection to their selling their surplus horses to the Indian herders provided that the sale was made in the presence of the agent and a written minute of the transaction was made and kept in the agent's office.

3 The complaint of the Ind's that the mill
 are not running is well ground. The ^{portable} ~~mill~~
 heretofore purchased, the agent & the employes
 explained is too large to be transported from
 place to place, ^{where timber can be found} & a smaller portable mill
 is much needed to produce lumber for repairing
 the bridges, the carrols, the school houses &
 the Ind' dwellings. So scarce is lumber at
 the agency ~~needed~~ that the ceiling of the carpenter's
 shop had to be taken to make coffins
 for ^{Christi} Ind's. The Ind' houses are
 much in need of floors, & doors & other
^{supplies. Humanity tempts at poor little child, - its agon-}
~~alterations. As proven to. There is~~ the lumber
 purchase is very expensive, & the purchase of a
~~medium sized~~ portable mill would pay for
 itself in a year or two, besides giving em-
 ployes to a number of worthy Ind's.
 I strongly recommend that the agent be
 authorized to purchase such a mill. There is
^{is now an} ~~another~~ great want at this agency is a
^{grain} mill for the production of flour &
 meal, & for the benefit of the Ind's in
 agriculture. There is now on the reservation
 a first class engine & boiler suitable for
 a stationary mill which could be utilized.
 The blacksmith Mr. Charbonneau, who is also
 a capable wheelwright, assured me that much
 at this agency could be expedited of \$500.
 be so well applied as in such a mill. I earnestly
 recommend ~~that~~ this matter to the favorable consideration

saw mill

the agency

seems

reg. in the st. other to no be reflected

light

transportation.

(acts or assist clerk.

of the Department. There is a miller now employed who
 4 The Indian's ~~is~~ complaint that the chutes
 through which the issue clerks issued rations
 to the Indian women were imperfect I found
 to be true, especially the one through which bacon
 was given out, and on my calling the agents
 attention to it, he promptly had the carpenter
 remedy the evil.

5. (I) could not fully examine into these questions
 during the short time I had to consult with
 the agent. It is true that at Rowland, as at
 the other places that I have visited, the
 agent has a terrible weapon of tyranny in
 exercising ~~his~~ unlimited ~~power~~ his power to deprive
 families of their rations for all kinds of
 offenses. I am of the opinion that here, as
~~well~~ as elsewhere, ~~the~~ a circular of inquiry
 should be addressed to the agent, requiring a
 statement of his exercise of this power, with the
 view to formulating Department regulations thereon.
 In most places this power could be more properly
 delegated to the courts of Indian offenses. Agent
 Spencer stated to me that he exercised ^{it} under the
treaty: against those who will not work or against
 those who will not send their children to school.
 and ~~agent~~ under his under his own policy: against
 those who leave the reservation without a pass. I
 am sure that it cannot be exercised impartially against
 all offenders for the reasons stated.

8, ^{among others,} An Indian named Red Bonnet, complained that his child who was one year old last July was not borne on the family ration - ticket, as he argued that its mother need additional food to nourish it. The agent stated to me that children were entitled to rations only on attaining the age of four years. I would recommend that ^{the age of the child} a register ^{to keep} of births, ^{and} ^{marriges} deaths ~~be kept~~ ^{at the agency} ~~at that~~ in his office, & that he ^{be required to} reverse the number of each family from said register at the time of preparing the rations tickets, ~~is~~ quarterly.

which is done

9, ~~the agent~~ ^{claims} that complaint that supplies appropriated for a given fiscal year are never consumed, ^{with other things} is based on the presumption that the Ind's have not ~~got~~ issued to them all that is destined for their support, & that the quantity ~~on hand~~ at the close of the year is used to cover up deficiencies year ^{after} ~~by~~ years. The agent considered this an absurd complaint & stated that the supplies ~~issued~~ ^{issued} to him were for one year & that there must always be a surplus. I confess that I do not well understand this matter, & I stated ^{only} it ^{for the information} of the Department. I arrived at the agency just as the new supplies were ^{being} received & I must express the opinion that if an inventory of the supplies ^{had been} ~~were~~ taken by experts ^{at that time} that ^{it} might ^{have} been found that the Indians' ^{views of the matter} ~~are~~ not altogether erroneous, considering the immense quantities of supplies ^{than} in the warehouses.

10. ~~The~~ ~~the~~ ~~complaint~~ that the annuity goods were not issued, ^{to the Indians} until late in the winter, the agent said, was a just cause of complaint, but he ~~said~~ ^{remarked} that they were not sent to him at the time prescribed in the treaty, namely, "when the leaves ~~begin~~ ^{begin} to fall," and he could not issue them before they were all received. He added that last year they had arrived very late, and that some of them, a bale or two of blankets, had never reached the agency. He thought the Government should provide so that they could be issued about November 1st. of each year. ~~He~~ ~~complained~~ He stated that the goods were given to the head-men of the several bands for distribution to their people. The mixed Band composed ~~of~~ mostly of half-breeds had their share issued to them ~~so~~ individually.

11 In regard to the complaint that the agent took away property, (wagons, &c.) from Indians who had given their individual receipts for it at the issue, the agent claimed that that was legitimate, as the property was tribal property, not individual. In answer to my inquiry as to whether in such cases the property was ~~not~~ again taken up on the property returns — again reported on the abstract of issues he replied in the negative, but said that a memorandum was kept in the farmer's book.

~~regulation of property interest~~

12. The agent claims that it was beneficial to the Ind's to charge ~~the~~ for work done for them by the blacksmith wagon maker, ~~the~~. To my observation that such work was done gratis at other agencies he replied that if no charge were made the Ind's would not take proper care of their property. The agent's ~~statement~~ ^{regulations} are no doubt good, since I noticed private blacksmith shops, a pair shop conducted by Ind's on the reservation. As to whether the practice is right ^{or not}, might depend on the terms of the treaty.

13. In regard to the ~~charge~~ ^{company's} that ~~the~~ cattle men were herding stock on the reservation, the agent stated that he had received \$2,500. from this source ^{last year}, but that as the money could not be used for the benefit of the Indians under the law, he had deposited ^{it} to the credit of the Government. He further stated that white ~~the~~ men were ^{now} herding cattle on the reservation ~~the~~ but they paid nothing for the privilege as the Department did not sustain him in his action in imposing a tax on the herd of a Mr. Scuring. ~~I would appear to me~~ I would recommend that the correspondence in this case be examined and the question ~~determine~~ whether the reservation is open to white herders be determined.

14. I gave considerable attention to the complaints against Watchman Lewis Roubidoux and I found that instead of acting as watchman ~~he~~ he was really regard as assistant agent that he acted as a sort of assistant agent instead of as a watchman. There is ^{indeed} no necessity for the services of a watchman, as there are 43 Indian policemen, who do all the watching ~~that is at the agency~~, many of whom are on duty night & day. As a matter of fact Roubidoux's ~~principal duties~~ consist of ~~that Roubidoux acts as interpreter~~ Roubidoux is ^{an alter ego of the} a go-between the Indis & the agent & he disposes of nearly all of the business of the office in which Indis are interested without first consulting the agent. ~~He is~~ He is detested by the Indis & trusted by the agent. The Indis complain that their complaints seldom ~~reach~~ reach the agent as Roubidoux is always in the office to ^{open the lock door} interrogate them on their business & to send them away without ^{their being able to} approaching the rightful authority. Hence he is detested by the Indis. The agent represented to me that his services are indispensable to him as he ~~knows~~ ^{the personal history of each} ~~is the only man who knows~~ all the Indis and is sincerely devoted to the agents interests, two qualifications essential in a large establish- ment such as is the Round Agency. I advised the agent to hold office hours when the

accordy to his own views

Ind's ^{legitimate} business could see ^{personally} ~~him~~ ^{him} not to allow ~~Partridge~~ to determine on the legitimacy of this business.

In an ^{informal} inquiry which I instituted ~~against~~ ^{Match-Lewis} ~~Partridge~~ on the charge of not paying his debts, ~~Partridge~~ claimed to have paid the complainant, Peter Pinault \$11.00 worth of supplies ~~which he had purchased~~ ^{from the Agency} ~~commissionary~~ ^{issue} ~~to~~ ^{storekeeper}. The agent being present, ~~he~~ ^{he} inquired whether ~~the~~ employees could properly ~~sell~~ ^{purchase} supplies for the agency ^{on credit to pay for their personal use.} ~~He~~ ^{he} replied that this ^{was} irregular, ~~and had not received his sanction.~~ ^{that it was done with his knowledge.}

From the above it will be seen that there is need of ~~advice~~ ^{at Partridge's} ~~expense~~ ^{Account}.

Payments to Employees.

The employees are never paid before a week or two after the expiration of each quarter, although the vouchers state that they were paid on the last ^{secular} day of the quarter. In the case of the school teachers they travel ~~two or three days~~ ^{to} ~~four days~~ ^{to} come to the agent's office to ~~draw~~ ^{draw} their salaries. They ~~had~~ ^{had} not been paid for the quarter ended September 30, 1888, on October 8th, when the agent