

Denver C.S.

Dec. 19, 1861

To His Excellency William Gilpin Esq. Chief
Superintendent of Indian Affairs in and
for the Territory of Colorado -

Sir;

As required by
the regulations of the Indian department, I have
the honor to submit this my first report as agent
for the various tribes of Indians inhabiting the
district of Country known as the "Upper Arkansas
Agency."

On the 26th day of August last, I was
notified of my appointment, and on the 28th
day of the same month by order of your Excellency
I left this City in company with Mr John Thomas,
as a guide, for Fort Wise and its vicinity arriving
there on the 2^d day of Sept. last. From the Indians
there assembled, consisting of a delegation from the Arapahos
Cheyennes, & Kiowas. I soon learned they were waiting
and anxiously expecting a distribution of their annu-
-ities which had then arrived at Fort Wise - All
the delegations from the aforesaid tribes there assem-
-bled, seemed to manifest a spirit of peace and
friendship - I learned with pleasure from the
Arapahos and Cheyennes that the recent
treaty made with them by my predecessor,
Col. Brooke was entirely satisfactory -

I found the Kiowas exceedingly friendly
& very anxious to enter into a treaty of peace
but not then having the authority to treat
with them, as I had not received my Com-
-mission from the Indian Department I ~~was~~
- assured them ~~of~~ that my earnest endeavours
would be exerted to bring about a speedy
treaty & of the regard in which they were
held by the President. - I then returned to this
City, & on the 20th day of Oct. I received my
Commission, which had been delayed through
a mistake. I immediately perfected the necessary
bond to the Department & returned to Fort Wise
on my arrival there. I found that Col. Brown
my predecessor had distributed all the presents
& likewise had entered into a stipulation with
the Kiowas that they would live peaceably with
the other tribes in their vicinity & with the soldiers
& that they would assemble next September for
the purpose of entering into a treaty. -

As is stipulated in the recent treaty made
with the Arapahos & Cheyennes a very large
tract of valuable land is reserved along the
Arkansas River for them - this land is
not surpassed for fertility in the United States

& abounds with the richest Pasturage - evidently the idea is contemplated by reason of such a valuable reserve & owing to the great scarcity of game on it, that the Government will at an early day make the necessary arrangements to commence the improving of a portion of the said reserve - I would particularly call the attention of the Indian Department to the imperative necessity of improving a portion of said lands. If some means are not provided of this character, it will be impossible for the whites to live on favorable terms with the Indians - they have disposed of all the land most valuable to them, by reason of its abounding in game & their hunting must necessarily be circumscribed in a small compass of territorial area, on which game is exceedingly scarce - From what manifestations I have observed from the Chiefs & trading men of the two last named Tribes, I am of the opinion they are anxious to go on to their own lands & commence the cultivating of the soil -

I hope it will not be considered out of place for me to suggest the idea that in my opinion a change of the law & quality

Judging from the habits and antecedents of the above mentioned two tribes, husbandry seems to come natural to them, as each family in the tribes is the possessor of a lot of horses, which they herd & watch with vigilant care. I would therefore recommend that as soon as possible the Department would take the necessary steps to purchase a large amount of Cows for the aforesaid Indians, & let them raise Cattle, as their rivers abound & give pasturage not only in Summer, but during the winter season also, indeed large herds can be wintered successfully during the length of the severest winter without having to feed a particle of hay or any kind of food but the natural pasture - ~~indeed~~, I consider it will be necessary to resort to something of this kind as soon as the Indians are settled on their reserve.

I hope it will not be considered out of place for me to suggest the idea, that, in my opinion, a change of the kind & quality

of some portions of the goods usually furnished to the Indians, would be beneficial - instead of Cheap Calicos, which is nearly entirely useless to them, I would advise the purchasing of Mer-
= any shirts + a larger amount of value goods such as Jeans + linseys - I have also observed that large portions of salt meat is usually provided for the Indians, which is not palatable to them + does them but little good - I would suggest the purchasing of beef instead of salt meat, which is more congenial to their taste, + could also be provided with much less expense -

I would further suggest + earnestly call the attention of the Department to the absolute necessity of the speedy erection of a suitable building for the Agent to reside in, as no thing of the kind has as yet been provided + it is imperative on the Agent to reside on the reserve + it is impossible for the Agent to obtain any kind of quarters there at present,

All of which is respectfully submitted

Yours very Obedt Servt

S. G. Colley

Agent for the Upper Arkansas

by