

The actual discovery of Astor's fur parties in 1811, and of Capt. Bonneville in 1834, of Harney in 1855, Warren in 1856-7, of Dr. Hayden in 1858-9, and Gen. Sully in 1864, proves conclusively that the Black Hill region abounds not only in the precious metals but in iron, coal, salt and petroleum, aside from its vast forests of pine.

Your memorialists would therefore pray that a scientific investigation be made of that region in early spring under the protection of the military forces under Gen. Sully in this district.

And your memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

INDIAN AGENT

CHAPTER 38.

A Memorial and Joint Resolution Relative to the Appointment of an Indian Agent.

To his Excellency the President of the United States :

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota, feeling a deep interest in the management of Indian affairs in the north-west, and particularly in our own territory, and believing that our difficulties with the various tribes of Indians which have cost the general government millions of treasure, and infused such fear throughout the states as to have prevented thousands from immigrating to the rich and inviting plains of the great north-west, originated from incompetency and avariciousness on the part of the agents appointed to preside over them, more directly than from any other cause. In nearly all instances these agents were men who had no direct interest in common with the people of the west as to whether the Indians occupied a friendly or a hostile position towards the Government; men who had neither property in jeopardy nor loved ones whose lives could be endangered by the hostility of the revengeful and murderous savage; who were

Asking for the appointment of some citizen of Dakota as Indian agent.

rarely at their posts of duty, and who had no knowledge of Indian character, so essential in adapting means to suit their moral, physical and intellectual condition.

Therefore, we, your memorialists, pray your excellency to appoint some citizen of Dakota, who possesses these qualifications, (the want of which constitutes the main objections to the appointment of a citizen of either the states) as shall be designated by the delegate in Congress from this Territory, to the Indian agency formerly under the management of S. N. Latta, Esq., of Kansas.

And as in duty bound, we, your memorialists, will ever pray.

Be it resolved, That a copy of this memorial and joint resolution be forwarded to our delegate in Congress, Walter A. Burleigh, and he be requested to present the same to his excellency the President of the United States.

Copy to be sent
to delegate and
laid before
President.

INDEMNIFICATION

CHAPTER 39.

A Memorial to the Senate of the United States relative to the Treaty between the Ponca Indians and the United States pending before said Honorable Body asking that certain Settlers be Indemnified in case it is Ratified.

Asking Congress
to indemnify
certain settlers
in case the
Ponca Indian
treaty is ratified

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Dakota would respectfully represent, that a treaty formed between the Ponca tribe of Indians and the Government of the United States is pending before the Honorable the Senate of the United States for ratification, providing for an extension of the present boundaries of the Ponca reserve, and including lands now in the occupancy and tillage of white settlers; that these lands are most eligible and adapted for stock farms, abounding in small lakes and streams well supplied with timber, affording a natural shelter, possess an excellent steam boat landing on the Missouri river, and upon a portion of them is erected the county seat of the organized county of Todd, duly incorporated by