

Editorial Note 7

Journal, Omaha Indian Agency, September-October 1866

This journal consists of correspondence pertaining to the administrative duties of Furnas as agent at the Omaha Indian Agency. There are letters regarding the procurement of supplies for the reservation; purchase of agricultural equipment; funds for subsistence of tenant Indians; hostilities between Omaha and Winnebago Indians and the appointment of a new agent for the agency.

Omaha Indian Agency
Sept 15th 1866

Sir

Permit me to call your attention to the necessity of immediately rebuilding the Bridge across the Black-Bird, on this Reservation near this Agency. I have written the Department in detail in regard to this matter. But as the crossing is utterly impossible, I hope you will find it consistent with your duties to authorize the rebuilding of the Bridge immediately. The cost will not exceed \$1200; will probably fall short of that.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. Servant

W. H. Sumner
U.S. Ind. Agt

Carl E. J. Taylor

Capt Ind. Affs

Omaha Neb.

Omaha Indian Agency
Sept 28th 1866

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of 27th Sept. enclosing a copy of letter from the Hon. Commissioner of Ind. Affairs, of date Sept 13th 1866 in regard to the expenditure of the \$67,000 due the Omahas for lands sold for use of Minneapapies in which he says "The Agent will be required to state to this office the particular objects for which he proposes to expend said sum, stating the amount necessary for each object."

The provisions of the Treaty I presume will be the guide in that matter, It provides that the money referred to "shall be spent in the purchase of provisions agricultural implements, stock cattle, medicine of houses &c."

Land "No. Exercising my own judgment in the case and after consultation with the Chiefs and head men I respectfully suggest that the fund be spent as nearly as may be as follows viz:

50	Yoke of Oxen	\$100	\$8000.00
50	Wagons	\$175	\$8750.00
50	Plows	17	\$850.00
50	Cow Jokes & Rockers	8	\$400.00
50	Log Chais	8	\$420.00
100	Mitch Cows	45	\$4500.00
575	Head Young Stock Cattle	\$20 -	\$7500.00
150	Horses	300.	\$15000.00
500.	Acres land broken up	\$4 ⁰⁰	\$2000.00
	Provisions		7000.00
	To pay La Fleche		2500.00
			\$57000.00

The prices above are necessarily estimated, may fall short or over-run. From my own knowledge of the wants and desires of the Omahas, an appropriation to the above would be most beneficial to the Tribe I therefore recommend the same and respectfully ask for instructions.

Allow me to say at the request of the Tribe, in regard to the \$2500 provided in the Treaty for La Fleche, that the Omahas do not desire any sum of money to be paid him, "They claim that he abdicated his portion and left the Tribe, and that the legitimate 'Value Received' or Consideration has not been received. I presume however, that as the Treaty expressly provides that that sum shall be paid La Fleche that it cannot be avoided.

Col: E B Taylor
U. S. Supt Ind Affs
Omaha Neb.

Very Respectfully
Jr. Asst Supt
R. M. Sherman
U. S. Supt

Quaha Indian Agency
Sept 30th 1866

Sir

The Office of Asst. Engineer and Asst. Miller being made vacant by the resignation of Simon L. E. Drift and White Breast, I have filled the same by appointing Ralph Goodwin Asst. Engineer and Matthew No-Kuife Asst. Miller.

Also being Authorized by the Department to renew the Office of Blacksmiths Asst. Blacksmith and Farmer I have appointed James Ashley Blacksmiths Edward Loring Asst. Blacksmith and John C. Ramseyer Farmer.

Resignations took place Sept 30th 1866 and Appointments Oct 1st 1866, and subject to approval.

Very Respectfully
Yours obt. Asst
R. D. Furman
W. S. Ind Asst

Col. E. B. Taylor
Supt. Ind Affairs
Quaha Neb.

Quaha Indian Agency
Sept 30th 1866

Sir

I beg respectfully get urgently to call attention to my letter of May 1st 1866 estimating for funds actually paid out by me by reason of additional labor incurred by having in charge and issuing rations to Ominabago Indians, while temporarily upon this Reservation. The facts and circumstances are all therein stated.

Also to another letter of the same date estimating for funds, with which to purchase a pair of horses, a light wagon and arrange for use of Agents.

These matters being just reasonable
and needful I trust you will see the necessity of
granting them.

Very Respectfully

Yours obt. Servt
R. W. Thomas
U.S. Ind. Agt.

Col. E. B. Taylor
Supt. Ind. Affairs
Omaha Neb

Omaha Indian Agency
Sept 30th 1866

Sir

The funds with which to pay Harner, Blacksmith, Aft. Blacksmith and for iron and tools for Smith's Shop for 3rd Qr 1866, were received very near the end of the Quarter, and as I was authorized at the commencement of the Quarter to incur those expenditures, and therefore none being incurred I held the funds over for expenditure during the 4th Quarter 1866. See my estimate therefore for the 4th Quarter 1866 the pay for Harner \$225 Blacksmith \$225 Aft. Blacksmith \$75 Iron Tools & for Shop \$150 Total \$675 can be withheld.

Very Respectfully

Yr obt. Servt
R. W. Thomas
U.S. Ind. Agt.

Col. E. B. Taylor
Supt. Ind. Affairs
Omaha Neb -

Omaha Indian Agency
Sept 30th 1866

Sir

I herby estimate for funds already expended for use and benefit of the Oyala
Honor. Roy, ordered by Com. Ind. Affairs

into my care and keeping of date Sept 25th
 1865 by 18 month's board from May 26th 1866 to
 Sept 29th 1866 inclusive at \$2⁰⁰ per week of 36.00
 1 Coat 7.75
 2 prs pants of 3.75 14 25 8.05
 1 pr Boots 4.00 1 pr Shoes 2.25 6.25
 2 pr Socks 75^c 1.50
 1 Hat 2.00
 2 Shirts 1.75 3.50
 \$65.10

Also to call attention to my letter of May
 25th 1866, and estimate therein contained for
 same purpose as above \$122.25

Very Respectfully
 Geo. W. Barnes
 U.S. Ind Agt

Chas E. B. Taylor
 Asst Ind Affairs
 Omaha Neb.

Omaha Indian Agency
 Oct 1st 1866

Sir

I hereby estimate for funds necessary for
 this Agency for this Agency for the 1st of 1867 viz:

For fulfilling Treaty Obligations	
Pay of Engineer	\$300.00
" " Asst do	150.00
" " Miller	150.00
" " Asst do	75.00
Repairs of Steam Mill	75.00
Pay of Blacksmiths	225.00
" " Asst do	75.00
Tools Iron Steel &c	150.00
Pay of Farmer	225.00
Agency Expenses	
Pay of Agent	375.00
" " Interpreter	100.00

* Contingent expenses
 Transmitted for our Community Funds for fiscal
 year ending June 30th 1886 \$ 120.00

In details of last item see my letter of
 date Dec. 15th 1885. This item has always been
 allowed as extra incidental expenses of Agent.

For New fire grate in Steam Saw Mill \$ 113.²⁵
 For particulars of this item see my letter of Aug
 16th 1886.

Balance of Community for the Fiscal Year
 Com'g July 1st 1886 \$ 3012.87

Very Respectfully
 J. W. L. Smith
 R. W. Burns
 U. S. Ind. Agt.

Col E. B. Taylor
 Supt Ind. Affairs
 Omaha Neb

* Allow me to say in all earnestness that
 a life sum will not defray legitimate and indispensable
 expenses of Agent.

Omaha Agency
 Oct 18th 1886

Sir
 The Treaty of March 6th 1885, with the
 Omahas provides that \$50,000 be paid them, to be
 expended for the purchase of Cattle &c as you will see
 by reference to the Treaty.

I desire, at the request of the Indians to
 purchase at least one Hundred ^{more} Cows for them, out of
 this fund, and it is important that if the purchase is
 made this year it should be made at once. I therefore
 request that you contract with some person to deliver
 at this Agency, as soon as possible the Cows referred to
 above, as it will be nearly if not quite impossible
 to procure them if the purchase be delayed ~~the~~ longer
 than Nov 1st besides the price thirty days hence,
 must be much higher than at present.

Hoping that you may feel Authorized to provide the Indians with the stock, in view of the fact that the Appropriation for that purpose has been already made. I am

Very Respectfully

Jr. Asst. Secy

R. W. Furnas

U. S. Asst. Secy

Col. E. B. Taylor
Supt. Ind. Affairs
Omaha Neb

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Omaha Agency
Oct 19th 1866

Sir

Your favor of the 17th with Bills Lading, and duplicate Bills of Lading for Omahas received. The Bills Lading did not correspond with the Goods rec'd.

The Bales and Boxes rec'd correspond with the purchase Bills.

Our Bales of Blankets were badly damaged by being worn through the wrappers.

Very Respectfully

Jr. Asst. Secy

R. W. Furnas

U. S. Asst. Secy

Col. E. B. Taylor
Supt. Ind. Affairs
Omaha Neb

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Omaha Indian Agency
Oct 15th 1866

Sir

I have the honor to herewith transmit duplicate copies of Report of Receipts & disbursements for this Agency for the 3rd Qr 1866.

I have sent one copy direct to the 2nd Auditor U. S.

Treasury Washington

Very Respectfully

Jr. Asst. Secy

R. W. Furnas
U. S. Asst. Secy

Col. E. B. Taylor

Supt. Ind. Affairs
Omaha

Omaha Indian Agency
Oct 26th 1866

Col. Lehast. Mathews

Agt. Minnabago Indians

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of this date relative to bad feeling existing and growing between Omahas and Minnabagoes.

In reply I have to say that I have already done all in my power to reconcile the difficulty in question, and am at a loss to know what further to do. I have consulted and advised, contrary to my convictions of right that the Omahas comply with the demands of the Minnabagoes. And should this be done I am satisfied it will result in establishing a precedent which will result in increased and extravagant demands. A few troublesome Indians are making all this difficulty. I think if they could be promptly and severely punished it would end the matter. I know of no way of disposing of this vexed question, than to lay all the facts before either the Sept. Superintendent, and then be governed by Instructions.

I will either join you in a joint statement of facts, in relation to these difficulties to either the Sept. or Commissioner, or let each as Agent of their respective tribes present the case as you may determine.

The Indians must be made to know that they will not be permitted to violate Gunda Mental Treaty stipulations by resorting to force at pleasure, to redress either real or imaginary wrongs, and even threats of that kind, in my opinion, should meet with prompt punishment.

If you really think there is danger of a conflict, I hope you will immediately communicate with me, and I will at once call upon the Military authority for assistance.

to maintain peace

Very Respectfully
J. Ott Lert
R. N. Lunnas
U. S. Ind. Agt. -

Omaha Indian Agency
Oct 30th 1866

Sir

I accidentally omitted to forward with my report for 3rd of 1866 the Certificate of Balance on hand. I beg to amend the report by now adding the Certificate of U. S. Depository for balance on hand.

Very Respectfully
J. Ott Lert
R. N. Lunnas
U. S. Ind. Agt.

Col. E. B. Taylor
Capt. Ind. Affairs
Omaha Neb.

Omaha Indian Agency.
December 12th 1866.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of Dec 6th 1866, notifying me that Lewis Lowry had been appointed in my place as Agent for the Omahas, and directing me to "turn over to him all the business papers, papers and property of this Agency and take his receipt for the same and forward your final account for settlement." I have complied therewith and that Agent Lowry is now in possession of the Agency. My final accounts will be made out and forwarded in due time.

Very Respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
R. N. Lunnas.
late H. S. Ind. Agt.

Col. E. B. Tammam
Capt. Ind. Affairs
Omaha, Nebraska