

## THE INDIAN AGENCIES.

### REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION—EXONERATION OF AGENTS HOWARD AND SAVILLE.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—It will be recollected that serious charges were, some time ago, made against Dr. J. J. Saville, Agent for the Sioux at the Red Cloud Agency, and E. A. Howard, Agent at the Whetstone Agency, the person preferring them being Mr. Samuel Walker, of the Board of Indian Commissioners. The Commissioners appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to investigate these charges, which consisted of Right Rev. Bishop W. H. Hare, Missionary Bishop of Niobrara; Rev. S. J. Hinman, Missionary to the Santee Sioux; Dr. J. D. Bevier, one of the five Indian Inspectors, and F. H. Zraith, a member of the Board of Indian Commissioners, have made their report, and the result of it is that these charges, like those that preceded them, are proved to be frivolous and groundless. The Commissioners report that the Red Cloud and Whetstone Agencies of the Sioux are the resorts of multitudes of Northern Indians, variously estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000 in number, who come there in the Winter to avail themselves of the Government rations dispensed at those agencies. These Indians are turbulent and unruly, and combined with 11,000 to 12,000 Indians who properly belong to these agencies, give a vast amount of trouble to the agents, and utterly defy all attempts to count them, with a view of issuing only the lawful number of rations. The impossibility of ascertaining the real number of Indians at these agencies accounts, in the opinion of the Commissioners, for the over-issues of beef, but they could not find that more beef had been issued than was used, and they believe that none has been wasted. They also think that the substitution of corn for flour is very acceptable to the Indians, and meets with their own approval. In conclusion the Commissioners sum up the results of their inquiry as follows: The late disturbances are not indicative of preparations for war. The present policy is accomplishing the results desired. Guns were not promised to these Indians. The removal of the Upper Brules to the Missouri is of doubtful wisdom. Ammunition has not been hoarded for war. Agents Saville and Howard are exonerated, and it is declared deserve confidence and commendation. Beef has been over-issued, but the agents could not avoid it. Flour has been wasted, but the agents were not blamable therefor. Spotted Tail's complaints at Cheyenne were not justifiable. Supplies of all kinds are wholesome, and of at least fair quality.

They also recommend that the agents at these points, and among all of the wilder Sioux, be supported by a military force, which should be located at a short distance from the agencies; that an agency be provided for the Northern Sioux, and that no rations be issued to them elsewhere, and that a delegation of them be induced to visit Washington; that agents be instructed to carry out article 1 of the treaty of 1868; that the northern line of Nebraska be run this Summer; that a liberal present of clothing material be made the Upper Brules and Ogallallas for surrendering their right to hunt on the Republican and the neutral ground; that the agent at Whetstone be instructed to issue rations to no band which refuses to be counted, and that the commission be authorized to select a place for an agency, both to have military protection; that all provisions be issued only on orders to be recorded in books, which shall be the property of the Government, and not of the agent; that all packages consigned to agents under contract have the Indian Bureau brand, and that the Sioux should be removed as soon as practicable to a soil and climate less discouraging to their efforts at husbandry.