
Original Text

“I have thought and observed much on this subject, and have no hesitation in saying, that an intermixture with the Anglo-Saxon race is the only means by which the Indians of this continent can be partially civilized. In order to carry out this plan, I beg leave to suggest, for the consideration of the department, the following measures, viz: the laying off of Nebraska Territory...thence along our established boundaries to the western of the State of Missouri, to the place of beginning. This will give the United States all the agricultural lands south of the Missouri river that are considered exclusively Indian territory. . . In obedience to the instructions of the department, I commenced, early in the spring ... to assemble the various tribes at Fort Laramie ... to counsel and treat . . . The result of the council was a confederated treaty among themselves as well as with the Government of the United States.”

Commissioner David D. Mitchell, quoted from the 1851 Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior, December 2, 1851

Following the Horse Creek Treaty negotiations, David D. Mitchell submitted his findings to be included in the annual report of the Secretary of the Interior. In this section, he reflects on the Horse Creek Treaty and its implications on the U.S. government’s policies towards Native Nations.