

PAPERS  
ACCOMPANYING  
The REPORT of the GENERAL-IN-CHIEF.

REPORT of LIEUTENANT GENERAL W. T. SHERMAN.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION of the MISSOURI  
St. Louis, Missouri, November 1, 1868.

GENERAL: The military division, of the Missouri is still composed of the departments of Missouri, Platte and Dakota, embracing substantially the country west of the Mississippi river to the Rocky mountains including New Mexico, Utah and Montana.

These departments are commanded by Generals Sheridan, Augur and Terry, whose annual reports are transmitted herewith, and to them I refer you for more detailed statements of the progress made and of the events of the past year.

You will observe that whilst the country generally has been at peace, the people on the plains and the troops of my command have been constantly at war, enduring all its dangers and hardships, with none of its honors or rewards.

In former reports I endeavored to describe the reasons and causes which made a state of war the normal condition of things on the plains, and have since studied to find some lasting remedy, but thus far without success.

Our people continue as heretofore to settle on the exposed points of the frontier, to travel without the precaution which a well known danger would suggest, and to run after every wild report of the discovery of gold or other precious metal; thus coming into daily contact and necessary conflict with discontented and hostile Indians.

The co-ordinate departments of our government likewise continue to extend the surveys of public land westward, and grant patents to occupants; to locate and build railroads; to establish mail routes, with the necessary stations and relays of horses, as though that region of country were in profound peace, and all danger of occupation and transit had passed away. Over all these matters the military authorities have no control, yet their public nature implies public protection, and we are daily and hourly called on for guards and escorts, and are left in the breach to catch all the kicks and cuffs of a war of races; without the privilege of advising or being consulted beforehand.

The reports of Generals Sheridan, Augur and Terry contain abundant evidence on these points, and I refer to them here merely to demonstrate the fact that as long as these things continue from necessity and public policy, we cannot reduce our military forces on the frontier; and should not even allow their strength to fall away by the rapid causes of death, discharge and desertion, but should keep the ranks continually replenished with fresh recruits.

At the time of my last annual report, October 1, 1867, I was a member of the peace commission, on which the Congress of the United States had devolved the whole Indian question for a practical, and, if possible, peaceable solution. At the same time, by an executive order, it was made my military duty to subordinate the acts of all the troops subject

to my command, to whatever plan of action the peace commission might adopt. The commission, in its annual report last December to the President of the United States, bears full testimony on this point, to the effect that all the officers of the army, and all the troops with whom they came in contact, had fully and cheerfully co-operated with them in their efforts to bring this difficult business to a peaceful conclusion.

I need not here refer to the deliberations and acts of that commission, further than to state that its members were unanimous in the conclusion that to maintain a permanent peace with the Indians east of the Rocky mountains, they should all at the earliest practical moment be collected on reservations as far removed as possible from the white settlements and lines of travel, and that there they should be maintained at the cost of the United States until they could wholly or partially provide for themselves. The two principal reservations indicated by the commission were north of the State of Nebraska and west of the Missouri river, and south of the State of Kansas and west of Arkansas. These districts are the only parts of our vast national domain at all adapted to the purpose not already appropriated.

The commission further recommended that for each of these reservations a sort of government should be provided by law, looking to a time in the future when all the Indians would be reduced to the peaceful condition of shepherds, herders, and farmers.

This general plan was justified by the then state of facts; and its wisdom has been demonstrated by more recent events. A sense of national justice dictates that in taking from these savages the lands whose wild game has hitherto fed, clothed and sheltered them, we should, in restricting them to the exclusive use of a part, make them compensation of some sort for the remainder, and if possible procure their consent. Influenced by this consideration, the peace commission, during the fall and winter of 1867 and the spring and summer of 1868, held councils with all or nearly all the tribes and parts of tribes east of the Rocky mountains, making liberal provision for and presents to all who came to the appointed places of council, according to the forms and ceremonies to which they were long accustomed. Formal written treaties were made with each separate tribe, signed with all formality, and transmitted to the Senate of the United States for ratification.

The treaties with the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches, Navajoes, and Crows, were duly confirmed; but those with the various bands of Sioux, Snakes, &c., were not confirmed, simply, it is inferred because they were not complete when the Senate adjourned. But for some reason Congress did not take any action on the chief proposition of the peace commission, which was embraced in their report of last December, viz: that which related to the setting apart [of] the two reservations hereinbefore referred to, and providing governments therefore, which was designed to precede the confirmation of any of the treaties and was the only vital principle of them all.

I regret that I feel compelled to refer to this fact, because many persons attribute to it the reason why we failed to secure a lasting peace and why we are at this moment engaged in a costly war with four of the principal tribes with which the commission had to deal, viz: the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Comanches.

It has always been most difficult to discover the exact truth concerning the cause of a rupture with any Indians. They never give notice beforehand of a warlike intention, and the first notice comes after their rifles and lances have done much bloody work. All intercourse then necessarily ceases, and the original cause soon becomes buried in after events. The

present Indian war in General Sheridan's department is no exception, and, as near as I can gather it, the truth is about this:

Last, year, in the several councils held at North Platte and Fort Laramie by the peace commission with fragmentary bands of Sioux, the Indians asserted that they were then, and had been always, anxious to live at peace with their white neighbors, provided we kept faith with them. They claimed that the building of the Powder River road, and the establishment of military posts along it, drove away the game from the only hunting grounds they had left, after our occupation of Montana and Nebraska; that this road had been built in the face of their protest and in violation of some old treaty which guaranteed them that country forever. That road and the posts along it had been constructed in 1865 and 1866, for the benefit of the people of Montana, but had almost ceased to be of any practical use to them by reason of the building of the Union Pacific railroad, whose terminus west, of the Black Hills made it easier for the wagons to travel by an older and better road west of the mountains.

For this reason, and because the further extension of this railroad, under rapid progress, would each year make the Powder River road less and less used, the commission yielded to the earnest entreaty of the Sioux, and recommended the abandonment for the time of this road. On the 2d of last March, General Grant gave the necessary orders for breaking up the posts Forts Reno, Philip Kearney, and C. F. Smith; but it was well towards August before the stores and material could all be hauled away. As we had reason to apprehend, some of the Sioux attributing our action to fear, followed up our withdrawal by raids to the line of the Pacific road, and to the south of it into Colorado. Others of them doubtless reached the camps of the Arapahoes on Beaver creek and the Cheyenne camps on Pawnee Fork, near Fort Larned, and told them what had occurred, and made them believe that by war, or threats of war they too could compel us to abandon the Smoky Hill line, which passes through the very heart of the buffalo region, the best hunting grounds of America.

About this time, viz., August 3d or 4th, a party of Indians, composed of 200 Cheyennes, 4 Arapahoes and 20 Sioux, are known to have started from their camp on Pawnee Fork, on a war expedition, nominally to fight the Pawnees. On the 10th, they appeared on the Saline, north of Fort Harker, where the settlers received them kindly; they were given food and coffee, but pretending to be offended because it was in "tin cups" they threw it back in the faces of the women and began at once to break up furniture and set fire to the houses. They seized the women and ravished them, perpetrating atrocities which could only have been the result of premeditated crime. Here they killed two men. Thence they crossed over to the settlements on the Solomon, where they continued to destroy houses and property, to ravish all females, and killed thirteen men. Going on to the Republican, they killed two more men and committed other acts of similar brutal atrocity. As soon as intelligence of this could be carried to Fort Harker, troops were sent in pursuit, who succeeded in driving them away, rescuing some captive children, and killing but few Indians, by reason of their fast ponies and familiarity with the country.

I recite these facts with some precision, because they are proven beyond dispute, and up to the very moment of their departure from Pawnee Fork, no Indian alleges any but the kindest treatment on the parts of the agents of the general government, of our soldiers, or of the frontier people, with one exception, Agent Leavenworth.

The soldiers, not only from a natural aversion to an Indian war, which is all work and no glory, but under positive orders from me, had borne with all manner of insult and

provocation, in hopes that very soon the measures of the peace commission would culminate in the withdrawal of these savages from the neighborhood of our posts, roads and settlements and thereby end all further trouble.

I was present at Fort Leavenworth when General Sheridan received notice of the attacks on the settlers of the Saline, Solomon, and Republican. He started at once up the road, made every inquiry, and was satisfied our people had given no provocation at all for these wanton acts of barbarity, which were in flagrant violation of their recent treaties. Yet he delayed striking their camps till he had made formal demand through the agent, according to the terms of the treaty, for the actual perpetrators of these very acts. Colonel Wynkoop, agent of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, sent a messenger out and made every exertion to procure their surrender, but utterly failed of success, for it seems the older and more cautious chiefs, though claiming to desire peace could not give up so considerable a body of their best young warriors, and of course they all became responsible. All of the Cheyennes at once began a general war along the Smoky Hill and Arkansas roads, and simultaneously attacked every party of white men, who had received no notice, of The change in their peaceful relations and who were therefore unprepared for attack, the aggregate murders amounting to seventy-nine in August and September.

General Sheridan, seeing that war with the Cheyennes was inevitable, then endeavored to keep the Arapahoes out of it. This tribe had been camped for the summer on Beaver creek, and he invited their chiefs into Fort Dodge, where, on the 3d of September, he met Little Beaver, Spotted Wolf, Bull Bear, and other Arapaho chiefs well known to our officers, and in full council these agreed to keep out of the war and to move down to the reservation below the Kansas line, to which they had assented at the Medicine Lodge council. When the time appointed by themselves to come in and to start for Fort Cobb had transpired they not only did not come in, but were known to be at open war, all the way from Fort Wallace to Denver in Colorado, the very opposite direction.

In like manner, General W. B. Hazen, whom I had appointed to take charge of the lower or southern reservation, met the Kiowas and Comanches at Fort Zarah, on the 22d of September, and agreed to feed and maintain them en-route and after they had reached their reservation near Fort Cobb; but when the time came for them to move, they did not go, but were also known to be engaged with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes in the common war. Nevertheless, by my orders. General Hazen has gone to Fort Cobb prepared to fulfil our treaty stipulations with them; and I can imagine no other reason for this conduct than their supposed belief that by war they can force us to abandon their favorite buffalo range, as we have already abandoned to the Sioux the Powder river country.

To show the concurrence of action and simultaneity of hostile acts on the part of these tribes of Indians, in addition to the reports of Generals Sheridan and Augur herewith, I transcribe in this report extracts of telegraph messages from the governors of Colorado and Kansas.

Acting Governor Hall telegraphed me from Denver, under date of August 27th: "We are completely surrounded by hostile Indians extending from Cheyenne Wells and South Park, south, to Julesburg, north; estimated at six hundred warriors. From reliable information twelve people have been killed thus far." On the 4th of September, Governor Hunt telegraphed me from Denver: "Just returned. Fearful condition of things here. Nine persons murdered by Indians yesterday, within a radius of sixty miles." &c. And on the 24th

of September, Acting Governor Hall again telegraphed from Denver: "The Indians have again attacked our settlements in strong force, obtaining possession of the country to within twelve miles of Denver. They are more bold, fierce and desperate in their assaults than ever before. It is impossible to drive them out and protect the families at the same time, for they are better armed, mounted, disciplined, and better officered than our men. Each hour brings intelligence of fresh barbarities, and more extensive robberies," &c.

On the 4th of September Governor Crawford, of Kansas, telegraphed from Topeka: "Have just received a despatch from Hays, stating that Indians attacked, captured and burned a train at Pawnee fork, killed, scalped and burned sixteen men; also attacked another train at Cimarron crossing, which was defended until ammunition, was exhausted, when the men abandoned the train, saving what stock they could. Similar attacks are of almost daily occurrence. These things must cease. I cannot disregard constant and persistent appeals for help. Can furnish you all the troops necessary. I cannot sit idly by and see our people butchered, but as a last resort will be obliged to call upon the State forces to take the field and end these outrages. I will at once organize two cavalry regiments of picked men, well mounted for volunteer service. Will you accept them?"

All this time General Sheridan in person was laboring with every soldier of his command to give all possible protection to the scattered people in that wide range of country from Kansas to Colorado and New Mexico. But the very necessity of guarding interests so widely scattered made it impossible to spare enough troops to go in search of the Indians in their remote camps. On his requisition I applied to General Grant for more cavalry, and by his orders seven companies of the 5th cavalry, under Major Royall, were collected from Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee, and despatched to Kansas. On a further call, the Secretary of War, General Schofield, on the 6th of October authorized the acceptance of one mounted regiment of Kansas volunteers for six months. These latter troops are got yet mustered in, but General Sheridan expects to have them in the field in November. With these troops he expects, during this winter, to punish the hostile Indians in his department so that they will not again resort to war, and such as are not killed will be collected by force upon their reservations, and he made to remain there. I will not attempt to describe the many expeditions that have already been made, but for details refer you to General Sheridan's report. They have necessarily been of a desultory and somewhat unsatisfactory character, because the Indians can scatter so long as their ponies can get grass anywhere; but as soon as the winter compels them to collect together in villages, I believe that General Sheridan's troops will be able to find them and to destroy all that offer resistance. It is idle for us longer to attempt to occupy the plains in common with these Indians, for the country is not susceptible of close settlement with farms like Missouri and Iowa, and is solely adapted to grazing. All of our people there are necessarily scattered, and have more or less cattle and horses, which tempt the Indian, hungry, and it may be starving for want of his accustomed game and he will steal rather than starve, and to steal he will not hesitate to kill. Therefore, a joint occupation of that district of country by these two classes of people, with such opposing interests, is a simple impossibility, and the Indians must yield.

The peace commission has assigned them a reservation, which if held for 50 years will make their descendants rich; and in the mean time they are promised food, while they are learning to cultivate the earth and to rear tame stock. To labor with their own hands, or even to remain in one place, militates with all the hereditary pride of the Indian, and *force* must be

used to accomplish this result. It was for this reason that the peace commission, at its Chicago session in October, after the events before described had occurred, and were known to them, was forced to the conclusion that the management of Indian affairs should be transferred back to the War Department, where it belonged prior to 1849. That department of our government is the only one that can use force promptly without the circumlocution now necessary, and no other department of the government can act with promptness and vigor enough to give any hope that the plans and purposes of the peace commission will be carried out. Even then there is doubt that the Indians themselves will make the necessary personal efforts to succeed, and I fear that they will at last fall back upon our hands, a mere mass of helpless paupers.

I am fully aware that many of our good people, far removed from contact with these Indians, and dwelling with a painful interest on past events such as are described to have occurred in Minnesota in 1863 and at the Chivington massacre of 1864, believe that the whites are always in the wrong, and that the Indians have been forced to resort to war in self-defence, by actual want or by reason of our selfishness.

I am more than convinced, that such is not the case in the present instance, and I hope I have made it plain. I further believe that the only hope of saving any part of these Indians from utter annihilation is by a fair and prompt execution of the scheme suggested by the peace commission, which can alone be done by the Congress, with the concurrence of the Indians themselves. Even then it will require much patience and hard labor on the part of the officers who execute the plan, which I do not wish to assume myself or impose, on other army officers, but it is certain that the only hope to find any end of this eternal Indian war is in the transfer of the entire business to the War Department, and for Congress to enact the laws and provide the necessary money at least a year before it is required to be expended. This is especially necessary in the case of the Sioux, because the Missouri river is only navigable in early summer.

It is true that in the annual appropriation bill, approved July 27, 1868, and which did not become public till the Cheyennes had actually started on the war path, viz., August 3, there was a clause giving half a million of dollars, to be disbursed under my direction as a member of the peace commission, "for carrying out the treaty stipulations, making and preparing homes, furnishing provisions, tools and farming utensils, and furnishing food for such bands of Indians with which treaties had been made and not yet ratified, and in defraying the expenses of the commission in making such treaties and carrying their provisions into effect."

As soon as I got a copy of this bill, viz., August 10, I issued my General Orders No. 4, (a copy of which is herewith enclosed,) in hopes that by its provisions I could prevent the difficulties already begun in Kansas from spreading to the powerful and dangerous tribe of Sioux at the north. This clause in the appropriation bill made no change whatever in the general management of Indians with whom treaties had been made and confirmed, which, as before, remained wholly with the Interior Department.

Upon application to General John B. Sanborn, the member of the peace commission who had been its disbursing agent, I received a list of the outstanding accounts against that commission, amounting to about \$150,000. I therefore retained that sum of money, and have disbursed thereof the sum of \$141,750.19, leaving in my hands at this date a balance of \$8,249.81, applicable to the items of account still outstanding.

The balance of the appropriation, viz., \$350,000, was distributed as follows:

To General W. S. Harney, for the Sioux .....	\$200,000
To General W. B. Hazen, for the Cheyennes, &c.....	50,000
To General C. C. Augur, for the Snakes. &c.. .....	50,000
To Major R. S. La Motte, for the Crows.....	50,000
Total.....	350,000

That the Indians will receive the benefit of every cent of this money I know, and the high character of those officers and their peculiar fitness to the trust named will, I feel assured, carry conviction to all that the disbursement of this money will be in full harmony with the designs and purposes of the peace commission and of Congress.

In the same appropriation bill were two other items of expenditure intrusted to my official supervision, viz: \$200,000 for "seeds, farming implements, work cattle, and other stock provided for in article seven of the treaty" with the Navajo Indians of New Mexico: \$12,500 for constructing warehouse, agency building, blacksmith and carpenter shop and school-house for. the same tribe, (Navajoes.)

The whole of this appropriation, viz., \$212,500, has been transferred to General George W. Getty, commanding in New Mexico, who will see that it is properly applied.

There was another item of appropriation in the same bill, viz:, \$150,000 for the removal of the Navahoes from their old reservation at Bosque Redondo to their present reservation near old Fort Defiance, which was subject to the control of the Interior Department, but before the appropriation bill passed these Indians had actually been removed by my military orders given on the spot, at a cost to the army of less than \$50,000; and I am now at a loss to know if this money can be refunded to the army out of the, appropriation referred to.

I expect to receive from the several officers named in my General Orders No. 4, and to lay before the War Department before the close of this year, a full census of all the Indians for whom they are required to provide, with carefully prepared estimates of funds needed to protect the system thus begun by them ; after which they can be transferred back to their civil agents, or retained, according to whatever action Congress may take this winter on the several recommendations of the Indian peace commission; but, knowing the pressing necessities of some of these Indians at the moment, I would ask an early appropriation of \$300,000 for General Harney, and \$200,000 for General Hazen.

I deem these sums indispensable to provide for the peaceful Indians this winter, and to enable them to make a fair beginning next spring in their farming operations on the reservations to which, they have been or may be removed.

In conclusion, I will remark that I propose to continue as now to have Generals Terry and Augur protect the Missouri river traffic and the Union Pacific railroad with jealous care, and to gather in all the wandering bands of Sioux to the reservation north of Nebraska, where General W. S. Harney is prepared to feed and protect them to the extent of

the means placed at his disposal; and to afford General Sheridan every means subject to my control to destroy, or punish the hostile Indians of his department till they, of their own volition, will go to Fort Cobb and remain there on the reservation assigned them, under the care of General W . B. Hazen, who is also prepared, to a limited extent, to provide for their necessities.

This double process of peace within their reservations and war with-out must soon bring this matter to a conclusion.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,  
Lieutenant General.

Brevet Major General E. D. TOWNSEND,  
Assistant Adjutant General, Washington D. C.

**[General Orders, No. 4.]**

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION of the MISSOURI  
St. Louis, Mo., August 10, 1868.

Certain duties connected with Indian disbursements having been devolved upon the Lieutenant General commanding, by law, in connection with his military command, and in order that the same may be conducted in full harmony with the military interests of the frontier, the following orders are made:

1. Commanders of departments, districts, and posts charged with the peace and police of the frontier, will construe themselves so far the agents of the "plains Indians" as to afford them temporary support to conduct them to their reservations, hereinafter named, and to report to their immediate superiors all matters requiring their notice. No supplies or presents of any sort will be made by military commanders to Indians outside of their reservations, except for special services rendered, unless the Indians be actually in distress and en route to their proper homes.

When Indians are on reservations, with civilian agents actually present with them, no interferences will be made; but military commanders may note any neglects or irregularities on the part of said Indians or their agents, and will report the same for the information of the government.

2. The following district of country is set aside for the exclusive use of the Sioux nation of Indians, viz: bounded east by the Missouri river, south by the State of Nebraska, west by the one hundred and fourth meridian of longitude west from Greenwich, and north by the forty-sixth parallel of latitude, and will constitute a district under the command of Brevet Major General W. S. Harney, United States army, who will have the supervision and control of the Sioux and of all issues and disbursements to them, subject only to the authority of the Lieutenant General commanding, but in matters affecting the United States troops



stationed in said district they will be subject to the department commander, Brevet Major General A. H. Terry.

3. In like manner the country bounded east by the State of Arkansas, south by Texas, north by Kansas, and west by the one hundredth meridian of longitude west from Greenwich, is set apart for the exclusive use of the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Comanches, and other such bands as are now or may hereafter be therein located by proper authority, and will constitute a district, under command of Brevet Major General W. B. Hazen, United States army, who will have the supervision and control of all issues and disbursements to said Indians, subject only to the authority of the Lieutenant General commanding, but in matters affecting the troops stationed in said district subject to the department commander, Major General P. H. Sheridan.

4. Brevet Major General George W. Getty, commanding district of New Mexico, in addition to his proper military duties, is charged with all disbursements affecting the Navajoes.

5. Brevet Major R. S. La Motte, 13th United States infantry, commanding Fort Ellis, in addition to his proper military duties, is charged with making disbursements affecting the Crows.

6. Brevet Major General C. C. Augur, commanding department of the Platte, is charged with making all disbursements affecting the Shoshones, Snakes, and other kindred tribes.

7. Each of said officers may select, and, with the consent of the department commander, may detail an officer to act under him as a disbursing officer, who shall receive the extra compensation due an acting commissary of subsistence, and hire such clerical force as is absolutely necessary, to be paid out of the Indian appropriation fund, which officer shall have charge of all moneys, property, stores &c., for the use of the Indians, and shall make the same reports and returns to these headquarters as are prescribed by army regulations for the subsistence department.

When these officers are named the Lieutenant General will cause to be placed to their credit, at some convenient public depository, the proportion of the appropriation allotted to their agency, and in no event, or under no circumstances, will any purchases, contracts, or engagements be made in excess of the actual money thus subject to their credit. All checks, accounts, and vouchers must have the signature of the disbursing officer, countersigned by his principal.

8. Purchases will consist chiefly of beef cattle, meat, grain, and bread, (sugar and coffee only in exceptional cases,) clothing for the old and young, of material suited to their condition, and of seed and agricultural tools for cultivation. The chief quartermasters and commissaries at Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha, and Leavenworth will purchase, on the requisition of the officers charged with these issues, on being supplied with the necessary funds or credits. As far as possible consistent with due economy, purchases by the disbursing officer will be made at the place of consumption, and commanding officers of departments may allow the officers charged with these duties to purchase of their depot and post commissaries and quartermasters any article of food and corn, clothing, harness, condemned wagons, horses, mules, and oxen, that may be on hand in excess, or which may

have been condemned by a board of survey or an inspector, at the cost to the government at the place of delivery, or at a valuation fixed by the board of survey or by the inspector.

9. Issues to Indians will be made when practicable only to those actually present or certified as present at the camp, but always must be witnessed by some army officer of rank not below captain, according to section (2) two, act of Congress approved July 27, 1868, and all issues will conform as near as possible with the terms of the treaties made by the Indian peace commission, whether confirmed or not, copies of which will be furnished.

10. When points arise not covered by these orders, all officers will be governed by army regulations, and these orders will expire with the existing appropriation bill, viz. June 30, 1869, when, if not otherwise ordered, all accounts will be closed, and the officers herein named will resume their proper army duties and stations.

By order of Lieutenant General Sherman:

W. A. NICHOLS,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

## REPORT of MAJOR GENERAL P. H. SHERIDAN.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT of the MISSOURI,  
In the Field, Fort Hays, September 26, 1868.

GENERAL: In reply to your letter of September 17, 1868, asking for a report of the facts touching the beginning the present Indian troubles, I have the honor to respectfully submit the following:

Early in the spring after assuming command of the department of the Missouri, I visited the line of military posts on the Arkansas. About Fort Dodge, Kansas, I found many Indians there encamped, embracing Kiowas, Comanches, Arapahoes, and Cheyennes. They asked me to have an interview with them, which I declined, stating to them that I was simply visiting the military posts to learn their condition and that of the soldiers, and that I was not authorized to talk with them.

From all I could learn at Dodge there appeared to be outspoken dissatisfaction on the part of all those Indians to removing to the reservations assigned to them by the treaty of Medicine Lodge creek of the previous fall. I learned from officers and others that all the tribes considered the treaty of no importance, save to get the annuities promised them in it, and that they did not intend to remove to their reservations.

The manner of the Indians, so far as I saw, was insolent and overbearing, and so manifest as to cause me to take all the precautions in my power to protect railroad and other lines of travel in the district of the upper Arkansas.

The difficulty of maintaining peace for the summer was then so apparent, and my desire to maintain friendly relations so great, that I thought I would engage three good men familiar with Indian language and well known in the tribes, so that any misunderstanding or accidental circumstance might be explained at once and under my own immediate directions. In carrying out this intention I employed Mr. William Comstock, Mr. Grover, and Mr. Parr, giving to Comstock and Grover all Indians west of Wallace and on the head-waters of Walnut and Pawnee creeks, and to Mr. Parr all Indians on the Solomon and Saline, placing in charge of these scouts Lieutenant F. H. Beecher, 3d infantry, a very intelligent and trustworthy officer, with directions to communicate to me every week, or oftener, and to use every effort to maintain peace. Much good was accomplished by Beecher and his three men, who travelled constantly and kept me well posted on the location of the Indians and their movements. Lieutenant Beecher and these scouts were under my own especial orders.

Matters went on pretty well until the arrival of the Kiowas and Comanches at Fort Larned, about the 4th of July, except occasionally trains would be stopped on the roads, and coffee, sugar, and food demanded and obtained before they were allowed to go on. Previous to their arrival the most threatening reports reached me of their intentions, and General Sully deemed it best to move six (6) companies of the 7th cavalry from Ellis Station, west of Hays, to Larned, at the same time moving there himself with two (2) more companies of cavalry from Harker. General Sully notified me after his arrival at Larned that these Indians would require rations, or we would have war. I permitted him to issue to them in small quantities, having the consent of the Lieutenant General, and they were thus and by the presence of a large force of cavalry kept quiet.

Some time before the arrival of the Kiowas and Comanches at Larned the Cheyennes made a raid against the Kaw Indians, located within the settlements at Council Grove, alarming the people and doing some insignificant damage to the settlers and robbing about seven houses. This I believe caused the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to suspend the issue of arms and ammunition, but authorizing the agent at Fort Larned to give to them their annuities; so the agent sent to the tribe their annuities, withholding their guns, pistols, and ammunition. This incensed the Indians, who told the agent in a very insolent manner, while the teams were hauling the goods to their camp, that he could haul them back again, as they would have nothing unless they were given their fire-arms and ammunition. The agent sent for the wagons and brought them back to Larned. I think this was about the 1st of August. I am not positive as to the date.

On the 3d or 4th of August a party of about two hundred Cheyennes, four Arapahoes, and twenty Siouxs [sic], then visiting the Cheyennes, organized and left their camps on Pawnee creek and proceeded first to the Saline valley, north of Fort Harker. They were kindly received by two farmers living in the advanced settlements, and given coffee, &c. After throwing the coffee in the faces of the women serving it to them, because it was given to them in tin cups, they then commenced the robbery of the houses, and violated the women until they were insensible from brutal treatment. This was on the 10th of August. They then crossed to the settlements on the Solomon, approaching them on the 12th, where they were again kindly received and served with coffee; after which they commenced robbing the house, taking the stock, ravishing the women, and murdered thirteen (13) men. Two of the women outraged were also shot and badly wounded. A small party then crossed to the Republican and killed two persons there; but the main party returned to the Saline, carrying with them as captives two children named Bell. After arriving at the Saline they commenced attacking the settlers, evidently with the intention of cleaning out the whole valley; but while Mr. Seliermerhorn was defending his house, Colonel Benteen, with his company of the 7th cavalry, which had marched swiftly from Zarah, arrived, and hearing the firing, went to the relief of the house which was being attacked, and ran the Indians about ten (10) miles. Lieutenant Beecher, who was with his scouts on Walnut creek, hearing there was trouble on the Solomon and Saline, but without knowing its nature, despatched Comstock and Grover to the camp of Turkey Leg, on the Solomon, to be ready to explain in case the white people were at fault. They were ordered out of Turkey Leg camp, and were followed by a party of seven Indians, professing friendship; and while, conversing with them were both shot in the back - Comstock killed instantly and Grover badly wounded; but by lying on the ground, making a defence of Comstock's body, he kept the Indians off and made his escape in the darkness of the night. From this time out, and almost before information could be communicated by Indian runners, people were killed and scalped from the Cimarron river, south of the Arkansas, to the Republican, and from the settlements on the Solomon and Saline west to the Rocky mountains; stock run off, trains burned, and those accompanying them, in some cases, thrown into the flames and consumed. The most horrible barbarities were perpetrated on the dead bodies of these victims of savage ferocity.

There was no provocation on the part of the white people during the whole summer, although some of them had to abandon their ranches. Friendly issues were made at the military posts to the Indians visiting them and large issues made by the Indian department of rations and goods.

I should have said that after the agent, Mr. Wynkoop, had brought the wagons containing the Cheyenne annuities back to Larned, that he had subsequently issued the annuities and arms, and ammunition, but without knowing that the Indians had commenced hostilities. There was not the slightest provocation offered by the soldiers or citizens for the commencement of this war by the Indians.

After the adjournment of the commission ordered to meet at Leavenworth to pass on Indian contract claims, I proceeded to Harker, arriving there on the 20th of August; and in an interview with Colonel Wynkoop, the agent of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, he stated that he knew of no cause unless it was the refusal of the Indian department to issue them arms and ammunition at the time above named; but was of the opinion that a medicine man of the Sioux, who had great influence, might have succeeded in making them believe that they could compel the white people to abandon the Smoky Hill country as they, the Sioux, had compelled the abandonment of the Powder River country.

Mr. Wynkoop urged on me that many of the Indians were not guilty, especially the band of "Little Rock," (Cheyenne,) and that he ought to be protected. This I agreed to, and gave my consent to his being brought into Lamed and taken care of. He did not come in, however.

It was also alleged that but few of the Arapahoes were guilty; and General Sully having invited Little Raven and other head chiefs of the Arapahoes to come into Fort Dodge under a flag. I had an interview with them personally, and agreed to provide for them for the winter if they would surrender, which they agreed to do, but violated their agreement, and were the first to attack General Sully's column, sent south of the Arkansas on the 7th of September.

I am of the belief that these Indians require to be soundly whipped, and the ringleaders in the present trouble hung, their ponies killed, and such destruction of their property as will make them very poor.

These Indians are now rich in houses, stock, and other property suitable for their comfort in their manner of life. From my best information the Cheyennes and Arapahoes will average from twenty (20) to two hundred (200) horses to a lodge of six (6) persons. Most of this stock has been accumulated in their periodic wars. Before wars became a source of profit to them they had to pack their dogs in moving from place to place. They are now so independent that whether we shall have our people murdered, our mail lines and lines of communication interrupted, our soldiers living in dug-outs from Hays to Denver and from the mouth of the Little Arkansas to Pueblo, and large expense periodically incurred by the government, without any adequate chastisement, seems to depend on the mere whim of the savages.

I respectfully append a list of casualties and depredations reported to me from the 10th of August to 17th of September. This report does not cover all the murders or the amount of damage done. The total number murdered on this list is sixty-four, (64.)

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
Major General U. S. A.

Lieutenant General W. T. SHERMAN,

Commanding Military Division of the Missouri, St. Louis, Mo.

A true copy: J. SCHULYLER CROSBY  
Brevet Lieutenant General, A.D.C., A.A.A.G.

*List of murders, outrages, and depredations committed by Indians from 3d August to 24th October, 1868, officially reported to headquarters department of the Missouri, in the field.*

August 10.—A band of 200 Cheyennes, 4 Arapahoes, and 20 Sioux, then visiting the Cheyennes in the settlements in the Saline valley robbed several houses and ravished women till insensible. They then went to the settlements on Solomon about 12th August, and robbed houses, run [sic] off stock, ravished women, and murdered 13 men. Two of the women outraged were also shot and badly wounded; a small party then crossed to the Republican, and killed two men there.

August 12.—Major Douglas, commanding Fort Dodge, reports that a band of Cheyennes robbed camp of E. M. Wright, lime contractor of 3 revolvers, 2 horses, &c., and also that 129 mules and 3 horses were run off from a Mexican train at Pawnee fork, above Cimarron crossing.

August 22.—Thomas Moses, captain home guard, Sheridan City, says Indians run off a quantity of stock from that town at 3 p. m., and are still in sight.

August 23.—Stage to Cheyenne Wells had to return, and was chased by 30 Indians for four miles. Lieutenant Granville Lewis, 5th infantry reports a party of wood-choppers on Twin Butte creek attacked by about 30 Indians on the 10th, and 3 killed and 9 cut off. At 6 o'clock next morning found the bodies of John McNeil, Andrew Pratt, and Isaac Burwick, being those killed on the 19th. All the animals had been driven off, and Mr. Jones, the contractor, chased and obliged to abandon his horse and seek concealment in a small growth of plum trees growing in a ravine, [from] whence he made his way to camp in the darkness of night.

August 23.—Colonel H. C. Bankhead reports Denver stage coach attacked by Indians between Pond creek and Lake station. Coaches need guards. Also that Comstock's ranch was attacked on night of the 20th, the men living there driven into Pond creek, one being mortally wounded, who was brought into Fort Wallace, and died the night of the 21st.

August 25.—Acting Governor Hall, of Colorado, reports a party of 200 Indians devastating southern Colorado.

August 27.—Colonel Bankhead reports a citizen named Woodworth killed between Fort Lyon and Sheridan by a band of Indians numbering 13.

Mr. Parker, keeper of Lake station, reports Indians killed a citizen named William McCarty, about two miles from Lake station, Colorado Territory, on 23d instant. Thirty Indians attacked the stage near Cheyenne Wells, and but for stout resistance of escort it would have been captured. A party of about 250 Indians threatened the train of Captain Butler, 5th infantry, and caused him to return to Big Springs.

Acting Governor Hall, of Colorado, again telegraphs as follows: "The Arapahoes are killing settlers, destroying ranches in all directions. For God's sake give me authority to take soldiers from Fort Reynolds. The people are arming, and will not be restrained."

Acting Governor Hall, of Colorado, reports that they are surrounded by hostile Indians, stages stopped, stock taken, and Wells, Fargo & Co. obliged to fight their way through. Is organizing volunteer companies, as the people are excited over the Indian atrocities.

Lieutenant F. H. Beecher, 3d infantry, reports the killing of Mr. William Comstock and the wounding of Mr. Grover, scouts.

August 28.—Mr. D. B. Powers, wood and hay contractor, reports attack by body of Indians. Three men killed, and stock driven off.

Mr. Stickney, station keeper at Kiowa Springs, travelling with one in a wagon, about dark, was attacked by 15 or 20 Indians, and the wagon and five mules captured. Mr. Stickney was wounded. The mules were wild and ran away. Night coming on they made their escape.

The sergeant at Lake station reports two employés driven in, and also station keeper and stock tender at Reed's Spring driven off from station, and 40 head of stock run off from Kiowa station.

August 29.—General Penrose, commanding Fort Lyon, reports on the 23d, at mid-day, a band of Cheyennes at Bent's Fort, 20 miles distant from Fort Lyon, drove off 15 head of horses and mules and 4 head of beef cattle. On the 24th Indians chased the stage from the east back. He also states from reports that the Denver stage line, the Smoky Hill, and between Forts Lyon and Dodge, are overrun by hostile Indians. On 22d August a train of 13 wagons, belonging to Señor Don Ramirez, was attacked by 75 or 100 Indians, 18 miles from the Arkansas river, the oxen killed, and the train destroyed, the men in charge, 21 in number, escaping to Fort Lyon in the darkness of night.

August 31.—Lieutenant T. A. Riley, 5th infantry, reports that Indians ran off 200 horses belonging to the Kansas Stage Company and United States Express Company, and that the stage line is interrupted.

September 1.—J. H. Jones, agent stage line, reports one woman and a child killed and scalped, and 30 head of stock run off by a body of Indians west of Lake station.

September 2.—A wagon guarded by four men of the 7th cavalry was attacked by a large body of Indians near Little Coon creek. Three of the men were badly wounded. One of their number bravely volunteered to go to Fort Dodge for aid, giving his arms to his comrades, saying, a "Here boys, you want them more than I do." They were finally relieved by a party from Fort Dodge under Lieutenant Wallace, 3d infantry.

September 1,—Brevet Lieutenant Colonel J. G. Tilford, commanding Fort Reynolds, reports four persons killed yesterday near Colorado City. Is in great need of cavalry to pursue hostile Indians. A large body of Indians attacked the station at Hugo Springs, firing on the guards and circling round, but were repulsed.

September 5.—A body of Indians drove off five head of stock from the station at Hugo Springs, and then went off and burned Willow Springs. The commanding officer of Fort Reynolds urges, in consequence of Indian depredations and outrages, that the troops and especially the cavalry at that post, be not reduced. The settlers are clamorous and excited, and ask for arms and ammunition, but he has none to give them. Believes that if the troops were withdrawn the settlements would be devastated.

September 7.—The Hon. Schuyler Colfax telegraphs from Denver: "Hostile Indians have been striking simultaneously at isolated settlements of Colorado for a circuit of over 200 miles. Men, women, and children have been killed and scalped daily, and hundreds of

thousands of dollars of property stolen. These atrocities have been mainly near the three great lines of travel from this focal point. \* \* \* The Territory has no means to put volunteers in the field, and is literally defenceless," and suggests that a strong cavalry force be sent there, and that a supply of arms and ammunition be sent the territorial authorities.

September 8.—Colonel H. C. Bankhead, commanding, Fort Wallace, reports that a body of Indians, 25 in number, killed and scalped two citizens one and a half miles west of Sheridan, at about 11 a. m. yesterday. Same party drove off between 70 and 80 head of mules from Clark & Co.'s train at the hay camp on Turkey creek.

Major Douglas forwards report of Lieutenant D. W. Wallingford, 7th cavalry, sent out to assist a wood train of 35 wagons, said to be attacked at Cimarron crossing, 28 miles west, 50 men with it. Had been fighting Indians for four days. Had two men and two horses killed, and 75 head of cattle run off, and a great many mules wounded. Five and a half miles further west the remains of a train of 10 wagons that had been captured and burned were found. Nothing but the iron work remained. There were 15 persons with it, supposed to have been killed, and their bodies burned with the train, as the peculiar stench and large quantity old bones found among the debris indicated.

September 9.—Mr. C. W. M. Ruggles, of Sheridan, reports Indians burned a ranch and killed its occupants six miles from Sheridan, on road to Wallace. Same ranch was also burned two weeks before and had been rebuilt.

September 10.—General Penrose reports two men killed and one wounded of L troop, 7th cavalry, in a fight with hostile Indians.

September 10.—Captain Butler, commanding Fort Wallace, reports stage fired into by Indians four miles east of Lake station. On 1st September three men were killed by a band of Indians four miles east of Reed's Spring station.

September 11.—Clark & Co., hay contractors, telegraph that they have lost 81 head of stock, and will have to give up contract unless protected.

September 12.—General Nichols, travelling to Fort Reynolds, was attacked by Indians, but they drew off when they saw the arms of the guard. They then ran off the stock of Thompson and McGee, opposite Bent's Old Fort, then made a raid on a house at Point of Rocks, and ran off four head of stock.

September 17.—Ellis station was burned and one citizen killed. General Sully reports two killed and one wounded of his command.

September 19.—Colonel Bankhead reports that a body of 15 Indians fired into the Mexican ranch, four miles east of Big Timbers station.

September 24.—Acting Governor Hall, of Colorado, telegraphs: "Indians more numerous and bold than ever before. It is impossible to protect the families and property of the people and fight them at the same time. We now find ourselves helpless, exposed daily to assaults, accompanied by horrid butcheries."

October 2.—General Hazen reports attack on Fort Zarah by about 100 Indians, who were driven off. They then attacked a provision train, killed one teamster and secured the mules from four teams at daylight this morning; then attacked the ranch eight miles below, and drove away all stock.

General Sully reports attack by Indians on train between Larned and Dodge. Three citizens were killed and three wounded, and over fifty mules run off.



October 4.—Major Douglas reports: On Thursday Indians appeared under cover of a thick fog, wounded a Mexican at Lime Kiln, three miles off; then attacked a train about 10 miles down the road, killed two men and wounded two; destroyed stores and ran off stock.

October 11.—General Penrose reports 300 Indians on Purgatory, on 7th instant. They killed one Mexican and ran off a quantity of stock.

October 12.—Brevet Major E. A. Belger reports a party of Indians near Ellsworth City. They killed one man and several are missing.

Lieutenant Kaiser, 3d infantry, reports at 4 p. m., on 10th instant, a party of Indians surrounded and drove off six horses and two mules from citizens near Zarah.

October 4.—General Penrose reports a train attacked by Indians at Sand creek on 6th instant, who ran off the cattle and captured Mrs. Blinn and her child. These Indians were led by Satanta, chief of the Kiowas.

October 21.—Major Royall reports attack by Indians on his camp on Prairie Dog creek, on 14th, at 4 p. m., killing one man, wounding one, and running off 26 horses.

October 21.—Colonel Bankhead reports Colonel Carpenter's command of 10th cavalry attacked by 400 Indians on 18th, on Beaver creek. Three men wounded and two horses killed.

Official:

J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,  
Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, A. D. C., A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT of the MISSOURI,  
In the Field, Fort Hays, Kansas, October 15, 1868.

GENERAL: In reply to your letter of October 1, calling for an annual report, I regret to state that I will be compelled, in consequence of my presence in the field being necessary, to make a much more incomplete report than I had desired.

I assumed the permanent command of the department of the Missouri March 2, 1868, relieving Brevet Major General A. J. Smith, colonel 7th cavalry, temporarily in command. The department comprises the districts of New Mexico, the Indian territory, Kansas, Upper Arkansas, and the State of Missouri.

The district of New Mexico, commanded by Brevet Major General G. W. Getty, is an old and established command. It has within its limits the Navajo Nation of Indians, the Utes, and wandering bands of Apaches, together with a few small bands of semi-civilized Indians. The district has been, with the exception of an occasional depredation on the part of the Apache bands, comparatively quiet. During the past year the Navajo Indians were successfully moved, under authority of the Lieutenant General, from their temporary

reservation, near Fort Sumner, to their permanent reservation, in the northwestern portion of the territory. The Utes have remained friendly, although more neglected by the government than any other Indian tribe within my command; in fact the suffering from hunger and want, in some of the smaller bands, has been very great. This district has been ably and economically administered by its distinguished commander, General Getty.

The district of the Indian territory is also an old district, having in it the posts of Forts Gibson and Arbuckle, and has been under the command of Brevet Major General Grierson, colonel 10th cavalry, since May, 1868. It had previously been commanded by Brevet Major Montgomery Bryant, captain 6th infantry. This district has in it all the semi-civilized bands of Indians, the principal tribes being the Cherokees, Chickasaws Choctaws, and Osages. It also contains the new reservations of the Kiowas, Comanches, Arapahoes, and Cheyennes, as fixed by the treaty with the Indian peace commission of last fall. Of these bands a portion of the Kiowas and Comanches visited Fort Cobb early last spring, the point designated for their agent to reside, apparently for the purpose of obtaining their annuities and other supplies. The Indian department having failed to furnish them, they fell out with the agent, drove him out, destroyed the agency building, and came up to their old haunts on the Arkansas, threatening war if their demands were not complied with. No other events of importance occurred in this district during the past year. The district was fairly and economically managed by both its commanders. Troops were sent twice or three times to Cobb, on requisition of the agent, who appeared to be constantly in trouble, either through his own fault or that of the Indians, most probably the latter, as they did not like him, but wanted Mr. Tappan, the Indian trader at Larned, to be their agent, and that they put a halter about his neck and had him led out on the prairie, and that if they had any more bad agents they would hang them.

The district of Kansas has been under the control of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel T. C. English, major 5th infantry, since the departure of General Hoffman about the beginning of May, 1868. It comprises within its limits the posts of Forts Riley and Leavenworth, with one company of soldiers at the Kaw crossing of the Cottonwood, not far from Council Grove, and one company on the Republican, at the Big Bend. The district has been very well commanded.

The district of the Upper Arkansas embraces nearly all the territory of Colorado, and that portion of Kansas west of a north and south line through Fort Harker, and has been commanded by Brevet Brigadier General A. Sully, lieutenant colonel 3d infantry, since May, 1868 previous to which time it was commanded by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel T. C. English, major 5th infantry. This district was by far the most difficult to manage, and the most pregnant with events during this year. It had within its limits the territory of the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Comanches, which they had agreed to give up in their treaty with the peace commission. The two great commercial highways to Colorado and New Mexico, and the lateral roads connecting them from Harker to Larned, Hays to Dodge, and Wallace to Lyon, pass through the district, also the western line of frontier settlements in Kansas, and the eastern line of settlements in Colorado, which, from their scattered and helpless condition, were much exposed, and invited the cupidity of the savages. It is likewise the hunting grounds of Sioux, northern Arapahoes, and northern Cheyennes, and it was the permanent residence of the first-named tribe. These Indians, the Kiowas, Comanches, Arapahoes, and Cheyennes, were able to put into the field about 6,000 well-mounted and

well-armed warriors, with from two to ten spare horses each. To guard the lines of the Union Pacific railroad, and the Denver stage road, and other interests in this district, there had been established in 1867 the posts of Forts Harker, Hays, and Wallace, and the outpost of Cedar Point ; and to guard the line of the Arkansas to New Mexico, there were the posts of Forts Larned, Dodge, Lyon, and Reynolds, and the outposts of Zarah and Camp Beecher, at the mouth of the Little Arkansas. All these posts were, during the summer, garrisoned by eight companies of the 10th cavalry, 7th cavalry, 5th and 3d infantry, and four companies of the 38th infantry, all very much reduced in numbers, which gave me a force of about 1,200 cavalry and about 1,400 infantry.

After distributing this force for the protection of the railroad and the different posts, and along the line of settlements, I had available for the field at the commencement of hostilities only 11 companies of cavalry, seven of the 7th, and four of the 10th cavalry, in all about 800 men.

(For particulars touching the outbreak, I respectfully refer you to my report of September 26, 1868, appended hereto.)

With this small force for offensive operations, it was impossible to accomplish a great deal in so extensive a country. The Indian mounted on his hardy pony, and familiar with the country, was about as hard to find, so long as the grass lasted, as the Alabama on the ocean.

The six companies of the 7th cavalry, joining West's company of same regiment, moved to Fort Dodge, while the four companies of the 10th cavalry moved from the Sabine to the crossing of Walnut creek, on the road from Fort Hays to Fort Dodge, and there awaited information of which direction the families and villages of the Indians had moved; Colonel G. A. Forsyth with a party of 50 scouts moved north of the railroad to Beaver creek, to watch the direction of the trails, all of which he reported as leading to the south of the Arkansas.

On the 7th of September, General Sully, whose command had been increased by a company of the 7th cavalry from Lyon, and Brevet Major Page's company 3d infantry, in all between 500 and 600 men, crossed the Arkansas at Dodge to strike the villages of the Indians reported on the Cimarron, about 40 miles distant. On arriving at the Cimarron it was found that the villages had moved. And the trail was followed with more or less skirmishing until the crossing of the North Fork of the Canadian or Middle river was reached, when the Indians made a brisk attack, but were driven off; after which the command moved north towards Fort Dodge, and went into camp on Chalk Bluffs creek to await a further escort of infantry for the wagon train. The amount of infantry with it not being considered sufficient to guard it successfully, Captain Hale's company from the Solomon, Captain Asbury's from Larned, and Brevet Major Beebe's company of the 38th were sent; but so much time was consumed in getting these companies from remote points, that the rations for the expedition at Dodge and with the command were eaten up, and not much has since been accomplished by this column.

The Indians lost in the series of skirmishes in this movement south of the Arkansas from 17 to 22 killed, and an unknown number wounded; the troops lost 2 killed and 1 wounded.

While General Sully was operating south of the Arkansas, Captain Graham with his company of the 10th cavalry was sent out from Wallace to give as much protection as he could along the stage road to Denver.

On the 15th of September he was attacked on Big Sandy creek by about 100 Indians, defeated them, killed 11 and wounded an unknown number. Meantime, Brevet Colonel C. A. Forsyth, with his company of scouts, took the trail of a party of Indians who had committed depredations near Sheridan City, and followed it to the Arickaree Fork of the Republican, here he was attacked by about 700 Indians, and after a very gallant fight on the 17th of September repulsed the savages, inflicting a loss on them of 35 killed and many wounded. In the engagement Lieutenant F. H. Beecher was killed, Forsyth twice wounded, and 4 of his scouts killed and 15 wounded, the command living on horseflesh for a period of eight days. The gallantry displayed by this brave little command is worthy of the highest commendation, but was only in keeping with the character of the two gallant officers in command of it—Brevet Colonel G. A. Forsyth and Lieutenant Frederick H. Beecher. While the command was beleaguered two scouts stole through the Indian lines and brought word to Fort Wallace of its perilous position, and Brevet Colonel H. C. Bankhead, captain 5th infantry, commanding Fort Wallace, with the most commendable energy started to its relief with 100 men from that point, and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Carpenter's company of the 10th cavalry, then *en marche* protecting the stage line to Denver, reaching Forsyth on the morning of the 25th of September.

About the same time Brevet Brigadier General W. H. Penrose, from Fort Lyon, Colorado Territory, with "L" troops 7th cavalry, pursued a party of Indians, who were driving off stock from the settlers, killing four.

While these operations were in progress the governor of Kansas, knowing how hard we were pressed for troops, proposed to relieve the seven companies I had on the eastern frontier settlements of Kansas, if arms, ammunition, and rations could be issued by the government for 500 militia from the State. This I gladly assented to, and these conditions were carried out by direction of the Lieutenant General.

As soon as the agreement was consummated, I drew the two companies of 7th cavalry at Harker and proceeded to Larned to try to induce the Kiowas and Comanches to return to their reservations at Fort Cobb. I offered to furnish them rations to that post, and Brevet Major General Hazen, sent by General Sherman to conduct the Indians to their reservations, agreed to feed them during the winter, and issue their annuities. This proposition was accepted, but only as a decoy to get their families out of the proximity of the post, and then openly to become hostile. There is no doubt in my mind of the young men having been so previously.

Previous to this interview with the Kiowas, and before General Sully moved south of the Arkansas, in order to keep a portion of the Arapahoes, who were not known to be hostile, out of the war, he invited their principal chiefs to visit me at Fort Dodge. I there offered to provide for them during the winter, which proposition they accepted, but only as a cover to get their stock and families out of the reach of the troops, and when General Sully moved south they were the first to attack him. I mention this circumstance to show that we exhausted every alternative to be friendly with Indians not known to be fully engaged in the strife, as we had exhausted every means during the summer to preserve the peace with all the tribes.

During the period embraced in the foregoing events, the Lieutenant General ordered Brevet Major General C. C. Augur, commanding department of the Platte, to send from Fort Sedgwick to the forks of the Republican river six companies of the 27th infantry and two

companies of the 2d cavalry, under command of Brevet Brigadier General L. P. Bradley, lieutenant colonel 27th infantry, and at the same time notified me that the seven companies of the 5th cavalry would report to me at Fort Harker.

General Bradley arrived on the Republican on the 25th September, in time to be of material assistance to Colonel Forsyth by the approach of his command, since which time he has been operating east and west on the head-waters of the Republican, but his command being principally infantry, it cannot do much more than cover the country.

After it became fully known that the Kiowas and Comanches were engaged in hostilities, we had against us the full number of 6,000 warriors, well mounted and armed, and I deemed it necessary to say our force was too small, and orders were received to call on the governor of Kansas for one regiment of cavalry, 1,200 strong. This regiment will soon be organized and ready for the field.

On September 29th, seven companies of the 5th cavalry arrived at Fort Harker. They were at once equipped and sent north of the railroad from here, on Beaver creek, under command of Brevet Colonel W. B. Royall, major 5th cavalry, but as yet have not succeeded in finding the Indians.

On the 12th October, General Sully ordered Custer's command from Chalk Bluff creek to scour the country on Medicine Lodge creek and the Big Bend of the Arkansas, pending the accumulation of supplies at Dodge for an expedition to the Canadian river and Wachita [Wichita?] mountains. Only small parties of Indians who had been depredating on the line from Harker to Dodge were found, and drew south to watch the movements of Custer. Two Indians were reported as probably killed in some small dashes made by them at sundry times, but no families or villages were found.

On October 5th General Bradley notified me that the trail of the Indians Colonel Royall was sent after had crossed Beaver creek in a southwesterly direction. Brevet Major General E. A. Carr who arrived soon after the detachment of his regiment had taken the field, was at once ordered to join his command and take the trail reported by General Bradley with directions to Colonel Bankhead, at Fort Wallace, to furnish him with Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Carpenter's and Captain Graham's companies of the 10th cavalry, numbering about 120 men, as an escort. General Carr, while carrying out these instructions, was, with his party, attacked on the 18th instant by about 400 of these Indians on Beaver creek, and, after an engagement of six hours, repulsed the Indians, killing nine and wounding an unknown number. Three of the escort were wounded.

The above gives you an account of the principal movements of troops and principal combats since the 25th August; but in addition there were a number of movements from posts, especially from Forts Wallace, Dodge, Lyon, and Hays, in which some Indians were killed. In all contests and skirmishes which have taken place up to this time, about 92 Indians have been killed and an unknown number wounded.

No villages have as yet been destroyed, and no large amount of stock captured. The above number of Indians killed, I think, can be safely relied upon as correct.

The number of soldiers killed in this period has been 6 and of scouts in the government service 5, of soldiers wounded 10, and of scouts 16.

The number of citizens killed and officially reported is as set forth in the accompanying list of "Indian outrages and murders," and will number 79 killed and nine wounded.

In nearly all cases the most horrible and savage butcheries were perpetrated on the bodies of the victims.

The amount of stock run off in Colorado and Kansas, and from the large freight trains to New Mexico and Colorado, is very large, probably in excess of 5,000 head. The settlements have been driven in, and ranches abandoned, making the damage done to all interests very large. In fact, unless the Indians are crushed out, and made to obey the authority of the government, there will be total paralysis of some of the best interests of this section of country. All confidence is destroyed.

The people have felt some degree of security from the assurances of the peace commission; but many of them have met a horrible fate in consequence. No peace which will give confidence can be hereafter made by paying "tribute" to these savage bands of cruel marauders.

I am exceedingly glad that the peace commission resolved at their late meeting that Indian tribes should not be dealt with as independent nations. They are wards of the government, and should be made to respect the laws and the lives and property of citizens.

The Indian history of this country for the last 300 years shows that of all the great nations of Indians only the remnants have been saved. The same fate awaits those now hostile, and the best way for the government is to now make them poor by the destruction of their stock, and then settle them on the lands allotted to them.

The motive of the peace commission was humane, but there was an error of judgment in making peace with these Indians last fall. They should have been punished and made to give up the plunder captured, and which they now hold, and, after properly submitting to the military, and disgorging their plunder, they could have been turned over to the civil agents. This error has given many more victims to savage ferocity.

The present system of dealing with the Indians, I think, is an error. There are too many fingers in the pie, too many ends to be subserved, and too much money to be made; and it is the interest of the nation, and of humanity, to put an end to this inhuman farce. The peace commission, the Indian department, the military, and the Indians make a "balky [sic] team." The public treasury is depleted, and innocent people murdered in the quadrangular management, in which the public treasury and the unarmed settlers are the greatest sufferers.

There should be only one head in the government of Indians. Now they look to the peace commission, then to the Indian department, both of which are expensive, institutions, without any system or adequate machinery to make good their promises. Then the Indian falls back on the military, which is the only reliable resort in case he becomes pinched from hunger.

I respectfully recommend, in view of what I have seen since I came in command of this department, and from a long experience with Indians heretofore, that the Indian bureau be transferred to the War Department, and that the Lieutenant General, as the common superior, have sole and entire charge of the Indians; that each department commander and the officers under him have the sole and entire charge of the Indians in his department. There will then be no "balky team," no additional expense in salaries, and a just accountability in the disbursement of the Indian appropriations. The machinery necessary to support the army can, without additional expense supply the Indians.

Our success so far in the number of Indians killed is fully as great as could be expected, and arrangements are now being made for active operations against their villages and stock.

As soon as the failure of the grass and the cold weather forces the scattered bands to come together to winter in the milder latitudes south of the Arkansas, a movement of troops will then take place from Bascom, Lyon, Dodge, and Arbuckle, which I hope will be successful in gaining a permanent peace.

I have the honor to be, General, very respectfully your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN,  
Major General United States Army.

Lieutenant General W. T. SHERMAN,  
Commanding Military Division of the Missouri, St. Louis, Mo.

## REPORT of BREVET MAJOR GENERAL C. C. AUGUR.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT of the PLATTE,  
Omaha, October 14, 1868.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report of military operations, within this department for the past year.

There has been no change in the number or character of the troops within the department during this time except the discharge of the Pawnee scouts in November last; and the re-enlistment of a portion of them again this spring.

No recruits except for cavalry have been received by any of the regiments, and the number of discharges has been very great.

The appended table, marked A<sup>o</sup>, will show the extent and character of the losses. The average number of men in the infantry companies is about 65. One hundred and ninety-two recruits have recently been received by the 2d regiment of cavalry, and they were assigned to the six companies now operating in and about "Republican." Additional recruits have been applied for to fill this regiment.

The arrangements for wintering the troops, indicated in my last report, were carried out.

Appended to this report, marked A, is a list of the principal Indian depredations committed since October, 1867. It will be seen that in the Powder river country they seized every possible opportunity to annoy trains and mail parties, and drive off stock. This continued until stopped by the severity of the weather, to be renewed again early in this year.

These latter depredations commencing so early and extending from Plum creek to Fort Fetterman, a distance of near 400 miles, caused an almost universal apprehension of a general Indian war along our frontier and the line of the Union Pacific railroad; but being present at the Indian peace commission at its meeting at Fort Laramie in April, I became satisfied from reports of chiefs present that these depredations were the acts of small parties of the young men of the tribes, and that a general war with the northern bands was not at that time imminent.

It became necessary, however, to take precaution to secure the railroad, and allay if possible all fears of travellers thereon. I had detachments of troops placed at every railroad station between Fort Kearney and Cheyenne, and companies of infantry on Rock creek and Medicine Bow, between Fort Sanders and Fort Steele.

Two companies of Pawnee scouts of 50 men each were organized to patrol along the road between Wood river and North Platte, and the disposable cavalry were also used in scouting along the road as far as Fort Steele.

No attempt at interference with the railroad has occurred since these precautions were adopted. This arrangement of troops along the road is still continued, and will be until it becomes necessary to bring the troops into winter quarters, after which no trouble is anticipated.

Early in June small parties of Indians appeared too on the stage road near Sulphur Springs, and a company of infantry was sent there, and remained until the Indians were



followed north of the Sweetwater. The rapid extension of the railroad toward Salt Lake City rendered it necessary to increase the number of troops in that direction.

I visited Fort Bridger and Camp Douglas, and found sufficient barracks and quarters — very much dilapidated and ill arranged—to accommodate, when put in condition, one regiment. The necessary repairs were ordered, and the 30th infantry sent to occupy them—five companies at each post.

Returning from Fort Bridger I visited the Sweetwater mines, whose population have frequently asked for troops to protect them from the incursions of the northern Indians.

The location of the Shoshone reservation on the Wind river, and its occupation by these friendly Indians, would of itself be ample protection. But as it may be some years before this occupation is effected, it will probably be necessary another year to keep during the summer two or three companies in that vicinity. This I propose to do.

The governor of Nebraska, early in the spring, applied to me personally for protection of the settlement on Little Blue. The previous summer the Indians committed many depredations upon them, killing a number of their inhabitants, and, in fact, causing their abandonment. The settlers are now anxious to return, could they be assured of protection. I ordered a company of cavalry to encamp and scout along this frontier. One has remained there during the entire season, and no attempt has been made by the Indians thus far to interfere with the inhabitants.

The abandonment of Forts C. F. Smith, Phil. Kearney, and Reno ordered early in the spring by the General-in-chief, was commenced as soon as the contractor could furnish the necessary transportation, and was completed in August; the 18th infantry, occupying Forts D. A. Russell and Sedgwick, and points on the railroad, relieved the 30th infantry, which occupied Fort Sanders, and commenced the new post Fort Fred. Steele. Four companies of the 4th infantry were sent to Fort Fetterman, and the 27th brought to the line of the railroad, where part of it now is, the headquarters and six companies being on the Republican.

The abandonment of the Powder river country placed one regiment and a half without quarters. The necessary establishment of Fort Fred. Steele made place for the half regiment, and it became a question, economically, where quarters for the winter should be provided for the remaining regiment. It was found to be much cheaper to build the necessary temporary quarters at Omaha, and bring the troops here for the winter, than to build in the interior and transport supplies to them. This arrangement has been sanctioned by the War Department, and the temporary quarters are now being constructed. In connection with this abandonment of the Powder river country, it may be remarked here that the effect upon the Indians anticipated has been fully realized. They have regarded it as an evidence of weakness on our part, and General Sheridan reports that the recent outbreak in his department was urged by the northern bands with a view of compelling the abandonment by the whites of the Smoky Hill country, as they had compelled as they fancied, the abandonment of their country in the north.

The efforts made to cultivate gardens at the different posts, in compliance with orders from the General-in-chief, have been but partially successful in this department. This failure is due to a variety of causes. Indian depredations compelled the sending of troops into the field at the very time the gardens should have been made. Many changes of stations took place also about the same time. The grasshoppers were very destructive. At Forts Kearney,

McPherson, Bridger, and Camp Douglas they entirely destroyed the gardens, though a subsequent planting at Bridger and Camp Douglas was more successful.

The latter post grew 1,700 bushels of potatoes and 35 bushels peas. Everything else destroyed by grasshoppers.

Fifteen thousand pounds of potatoes were grown at Fort Sanders, 300 pounds each of turnips and beets, and many other vegetables. The garden at this post has been the most successful one in the department.

It is very certain that, as the posts and their garrisons become more permanent, good gardens can be made, and ample for the use of officers and men, unless destroyed by insects. The necessity for the establishment of a small arsenal in this department, capable of making necessary repairs, was indicated in my last report. A bill to effect this was reported in the House of Representatives at its last session, but failed to become a law. I respectfully request that renewed efforts be made at the approaching session of Congress to have such an arsenal authorized.

Appended to this report, and marked B, is a list of ordnance and ordnance stores now in this department useless for want of repairs, and which to transport, to any arsenal for repairs, and back to their present location, would cost about their value.

This arsenal should also have storage capacity sufficient for all arms and munitions likely to become necessary for the troops and States on the line of the Pacific railroad, between the Missouri and California. In the appended table, marked A<sup>o</sup>, is a statement of the number of officers and enlisted men tried by courts-martial in this department during the past year.

I regret to say it is large, but still more that it is a present necessity. It is impossible always to avoid appointing in the army undeserving young men. Their conduct soon renders it necessary for them to leave the service or suffer punishment by sentence of court-martial. The majority of the captains and subalterns are most excellent and capable officers, but they are comparatively young in the service and in years, and have not always the tact and patience and coolness necessary to manage enlisted men, without resort to courts-martial. The nature of the service on the plains—the scattering of regiments by companies and detachments during the whole summer, and many of these commanded by inexperienced subalterns—is most unfavorable both to officers and men. From these different causes arise the necessity for so many courts.

I am happy to report, however, that during the past year there has been in this department a marked improvement in all that pertains to the discipline and morale of both officers and men.

I have visited every post in the department during this summer, except Fort Kearney, and speak from actual observation of the generally good condition of the troops therein.

The two companies of Pawnee scouts, under Major North, have rendered efficient service during the summer. They will be discharged about the first of December, unless some emergency not anticipated intervenes.

I have to express my entire satisfaction with the manner in which the chiefs of the various staff departments at my headquarters have performed their varied and important duties. My personal staff are entitled to the same commendation.

The necessity for any discussion of the Indian question, so intimately connected with the duties of the commander of this department, has been obviated by the results of the

recent deliberations of the Indian peace commission, and their recommendations thereon. But even if the recommendations of the commission receive the sanction of Congress, I do not anticipate an immediate settlement of all difficulties with Indians. The evil results of a mischievous system, so long in operation, cannot be remedied in a day or year. The Indian is unrestrained now by any consideration for the white man. He neither loves nor fears him. Before he can be controlled he must be made to do one or the other. I believe if the management of everything pertaining to his affairs is intrusted to the army that in a few years he will do both.

Appended is a statement of the scouting parties specially ordered during the year, and also a statement of the trains passing the posts.

I also append a sketch giving the location of Fort Fred. Steele, and its relative position to Forts D. A. Russell, Laramie, and Fetterman.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. C. AUGUR,  
Brevet Major General, Commanding Department.

Brevet Major General W. A. NICHOLS,  
Assistant Adjutant General  
Headq'rs Mil. Division of the Missouri, St. Louis, Mo.

*Statement of campaigns, expeditions and scouts made in the Department of the Platte during the year ending September 30, 1868.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT of the PLATTE.  
Omaha, Nebraska, October 17, 1868.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Captain Spaulding, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 45; citizen, 1. Departed April 22, 1868, returned April 24-, 1868. Passed through Big Medicine. Travelled a distance of 108 miles. One Indian wounded. Property captured, one Indian pony. Sent out to protect citizens and property in the vicinity of post, &.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Captain Spaulding, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry: Officers, 2; enlisted men, 48. Departed May 20, 1868, returned June 2, 1868. Passed through Grand island. Travelled a distance of 237 miles. No results. Sent out to patrol the line of railroad between North Platte and Grand island.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Lieutenant J. M. Wheelan, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 53. Departed May 2, 1868, returned May 15, 1868. Passed through Grand island. Travelled a distance of 225 miles. No results. Sent out to patrol the line of railroad between North Platte and Grand island.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Lieutenant J. M. Wheelan, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 48. Departed June 6, 1868, returned June 20, 1868. Passed through Fort Kearney. Travelled a distance of 100 miles, no results. Sent out to scout on the south side of Platte river as far as Fort Kearney.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Captain L. Thompson, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 67. Departed May 14, 1868, returned July 25, 1868. Passed through Fort Kearney, along the Little Blue. Travelled a distance of 210 miles. No results.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Second Lieutenant Hamilton, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 23. Departed July 2, 1868, returned July 14, 1868. Passed through Fort Kearney and back. Travelled a distance of 220 miles. No results.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Second Lieutenant O'Brien, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 23. Departed July 14, 1868, returned September 1, 1868. Passed through Blue river, Rose creek along the Platte valley. Travelled a distance of 415 miles. No results.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by 1st. Lieutenant L. M. Wheelan, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 43. Departed August 2, 1868, returned September 15, 1868. Passed through Fort Kearney, Blue river, Rose creek, along the Platte valley. Travelled a distance of 500 miles. No results.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Captain Spaulding, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 30. Departed August 25, 1868, not returned. Passed Blue river, Rose creek, along the Platte valley to Big Sandy.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska commanded by Captain Noyes, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men 41. Departed September 4, 1868, returned September 6, 1868. Passed through to a point 50 miles west of the post. Travelled a distance of 100 miles. No results.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by 1st Lieutenant L. J. Peale, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 41. Departed September 8, 1868, returned September 12, 1868. Passed through Platte valley as far westward as Alkali station. Travelled a distance, of 120 miles. No results.

A party was sent out from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Captain Noyes, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 35. Departed September 15, 1868, returned September 12, 1868. Passed through to a point 55 miles west of the post. Travelled a distance of 110 miles. No results.

A party was sent put from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, commanded by Captain Mizner, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 4; enlisted men, 93; Indians, 17. Departed September 20, not returned. Passed through to General Brady's camp on the Republican river.

A party was sent out from Fort Sedgwick, Colorado Territory commanded by Captain Mix, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 50. Departed April 9, 1868, returned April 11, 1868. Passed through Ash Hollow. Travelled a distance of 200 miles. No results. Sent out to recapture stock stolen by unknown Indians. Scouted as far as Ash Hollow and in its vicinity. Followed no particular trail.

A party was sent out from Fort Sedgwick, Colorado Territory, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Enlisted men, 10. Departed April 9, 1868, returned April 11, 1868. Passed through Sidney station. Travelled a distance of 60 miles. No results. Set out to recapture stock stolen by unknown Indians. Went along line of railroad as far as Sidney station and vicinity.

A party was sent out from Fort Sedgwick, Colorado Territory, commanded by Lieutenant Norwood, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 37. Departed April 30, 1868, returned May 4, 1868. Passed through Ash Hollow. Travelled a distance of 200 miles. No results. Sent out to recapture stock stolen by Indians. Scouted as far as Ash Hollow and in its vicinity. Followed an unbroken country.

A party was sent out from Fort Sedgwick, Colorado Territory, commanded by Captain Mix, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 43. Departed May 7, 1868, returned May 11, 1868. Passed through Sidney station. Travelled a distance of 80 miles. No results. Sent out to recapture stock stolen by supposed Indians. Scouted in vicinity of Sidney station, taking an unbroken country.

A party was sent out from Fort Sedgwick, Colorado Territory, commanded by Captain Mix, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 34. Departed May 19, 1868, returned May 26, 1868. Passed through Rush creek. Travelled a distance of 200 miles. No results. Sent out to recapture stock stolen by Indians. Scouted in the vicinity of Rush creek, between the north and south forks of the Platte.

A party was sent out from Fort Sedgwick, Colorado Territory, commanded by Captain Hughes, composed of troops of the 18th infantry. Officers, 1; enlisted men, 45; citizens, 5. Departed September 22, 1868, returned September 23, 1868. Passed through bluffs and table-land south of Fort Sedgwick, Colorado Territory. No beaten trail. Travelled a distance of 73

miles. Beef contractor reported part of his herd run off near the post. No Indian signs discovered, or traces of the lost cattle.

Fort Morgan, Colorado Territory, was abandoned May 18, 1868, pursuant to General Orders No. 13, department of the Platte, April 22, 1868.

A party was sent out from Fort D.A. Russell, Wyoming Territory, commanded by Lieutenant McAdams, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 30. Departed August 27, 1868, returned August 27, 1868. Passed through Wyoming Territory. Travelled 40 miles. Operated against the Sioux, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes. No results. Made upon complaints of citizens of Cheyenne City.

A party was sent out from Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming Territory, commanded by Lieutenant Doane, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 25. Departed August 27, 1868, returned August 30, 1868. Passed through Wyoming Territory. Travelled a distance of 60 miles. Operated against the Sioux, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes. No results. Made upon complaint of citizens at Cheyenne City.

A party was sent out from Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming Territory, commanded by Major Brisbin, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 4; enlisted men, 102. Departed September 2, 1868, returned September 6, 1868. Passed through Wyoming Territory. Travelled a distance of 96 miles. Operated against the Sioux, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes. No results. Made upon notice of Governor Hunt, stating that Indians were moving from Latham towards Laramie with a herd of horses, &c.

A party was sent out from Fort Sanders, Wyoming Territory, commanded by 1st Lieutenant Harman, 30th infantry, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 30. Departed August 13, 1868, returned August 22, 1868. Passed through Wyoming Territory. Travelled a distance of 291 miles. Operated against the Sioux. No results. To destroy all hostile Indians found, and give protection to all citizens and their property in the section passed through.

A party was sent out from Fort Sanders, Wyoming Territory, commanded by 2d Lieutenant Pettit, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 35. Departed August 28, 1868, returned September 10, 1868. Passed through Wyoming Territory. Travelled a distance of 272 miles. Operated against the Sioux. No results. To scout in the vicinity of Rock creek, Laramie Peak, to base of Black Hills, La Prele creek, and Fetterman road, and destroy all hostile Indians.

A party was sent out from Fort Sanders, Wyoming Territory, commanded by 1st Lieutenant Norwood, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 24. Departed September 16, 1868, returned September 20, 1868. Passed through Wyoming Territory. Travelled a distance of 95 miles. Operated against the Sioux. No results. To scout after, overtake and destroy all hostile Indians he may find.

A party was sent out from Fort Sanders, Wyoming Territory, commanded by 1st Lieutenant Norwood, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 10; citizen, 1. Departed September 28, 1868, returned September 28, 1868. Passed through Wyoming Territory. Travelled a distance of 65 miles. Operated against horse thieves, (white men.) Prisoners, two. Property captured, 11 mules, marked U. S. The prisoners captured were horse thieves. They were both wounded, and wounded two cavalry horses in their resistance.

A party was sent out from Fort Sanders, Wyoming Territory, commanded by 1st Lieutenant Andrews, composed of troops of the 30th infantry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 28. Departed September 18, 1868, returned September 30, 1868. Passed through Wyoming Territory. Travelled a distance of 68 miles. Operated against the Sioux. No results. To protect citizens, and destroy all hostile Indians found.

A party was sent out from Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, commanded by 1st Lieutenant S. H. Norton, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 20. Departed March 1, 1868, returned March 5, 1868. Travelled a distance of 80 miles. Up the Platte to Horseshoe; thence back to post by the Laramie. Sent out to investigate the alleged killing of a Mexican by Indians, and to learn who were committing depredations.

A party was sent out from Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, commanded by Captain T. B. Dewees, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 47. Departed March 22, 1868, returned March 23, 1868. Travelled a distance of 60 miles. Road to Fort Fetterman as far as Twin Springs and return. Sent out to succor any men attacked by Indians, and learn the cause of depredations said to have been committed by Indians on that road. Found ranches of Horseshoe and Twin Springs burned by Indians, and buried three bodies of white men killed by them.

A party was sent out from Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, commanded by Captain Collier, 4th infantry, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry and 4th infantry. Officers, 3; enlisted men, 103. Departed August 31, 1868, returned September 5, 1868. Passed up the Laramie river to Black Hills across the river on to Laramie plains. Travelled a distance of 78 miles. No results. Expedition ordered in obedience to telegram from Major General Augur, commanding department Platte, dated August 31, 1868.

A party was sent out from Fort Reno, Dakota Territory, commanded by Captain McCleery, composed of troops of the 18th infantry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 40. Departed December 2, 1867, returned December 4, 1867. Travelled a distance of 30 miles. Reconnoissance [sic] up Powder river for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the country, and burning off old grass for meadow next year.

A party was sent out from Fort Phil. Kearney, Dakota Territory, commanded by Brevet Major D. S. Gordon, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2; enlisted men, 62. Departed November 4, 1867, returned November 21, 1867. Passed along the base of the Big Horn mountains to Fort C. F. Smith. Travelled a distance of 180 miles. Tribe operated against not known. Sent to the relief of a train en route to Fort C. F. Smith, Montana Territory.

A party was sent out from Fort Phil. Kearney, Dakota Territory, commanded by Brevet Major D. S. Gordon, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officers, 2, enlisted men, 57. Departed December 3, 1867, returned December 6, 1867. Passed southeast from Fort Phil. Kearney, towards Reno. Travelled a distance of 77 miles.

A party was sent out from Fort C. F. Smith, Montana Territory, commanded by Lieutenant R. N. Fenton, composed of troops of the 27th infantry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 30; citizens, three. Departed September 29, 1867, returned October 4, 1867. Passed through a portion of Montana and Dakota Territories, along the Bozeman road. Travelled a distance of 120 miles. Sent out for the protection of train of Mr. John Pritchard, government contractor, en route from Gallatin valley to this post and threatened by a party of disbanded Montana militia under one Captain Hughes.

A party was sent out from Fort C. F. Smith, Montana Territory, commanded by Lieutenant E. R. P. Shurley, composed of troops of the 27th infantry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 40; citizens, 5. Departed October 28, 1867, returned November 12, 1867. Passed between Forts C. F. Smith and Phil. Kearney. Travelled a distance of 180 miles. Operated against the Sioux Indians. Enlisted men killed, 3; officer wounded, 1; enlisted men wounded, 2; citizens wounded, 1.

A party was sent out from Fort Fred. Steele, Wyoming Territory, commanded by Captain Robinson, composed of troops of the 2d cavalry. Officer, 1; enlisted men, 31. Departed August 27, 1868, returned September 15, 1868. Travelled a distance of 442 miles. Medicine Bow, La Prele cañon, Deer Creek, Fort Fetterman, Fort Laramie.

A party was sent out from Fort Reno, Dakotah [sic] Territory, but was abandoned August 18, 1868, pursuant to Special Orders No. 80, department of the Platte, May 10, 1868.

A party was sent out from Fort Phil. Kearney, Dakotah Territory, but was abandoned July 31, 1868, pursuant to Special Order No. 80, department of the Platte, May 10, 1868.

A party was sent out from Fort C. F. Smith, Montana Territory, but was abandoned July 29, 1868, pursuant to Special Order No. 80, department of the Platte, May 10, 1868.

The following remarks appear on the statement of campaigns, expeditions, and scouts, made from Fort C. F. Smith, Montana Territory, during the second quarter of 1868, viz:

April 15, 1868, a party of Indians made a dash for the herd of Mr. Tewkesbury, but were driven off by company D, 27th infantry, with loss of one Indian killed.

April 29, 1868, a party of Indians tried to capture the mounted pickets but failed, being driven off by companies H, D, and E, 27th infantry.

May 5, 1868, a party of Indians charged by the fort without doing any damage, being promptly met and driven off by companies G, I, and H 27th infantry.

To the Brevet Major General United States Army, Commanding.

I certify that the above statement is correct.

GEORGE D. RUGGLES,  
Brevet Brigadier General United States Army, A. A. G.



**A.0—Table of discharges, desertions, trials by courts-martial, and deaths occurring in the department of the Platte for the year ending September 30, 1868.**

Regiments	Trial by court-martial		Discharges				Deaths		Resigned	Deserted
	Officers	Enlisted Men	Expiration of service	Disability	By order	Sentence of G.C.M.	Officers	Enlisted men		
General Staff, U.S.A.	1	1	---	---	3	---	---	---	1	---
Light Battery, C, 3d artillery	1	25	6	2	1	---	---	3	1	61
2d regiment of cavalry	---	121	287	16	9	21	3	8	3	199
4th regiment of infantry	---	171	156	18	11	20	---	13	2	105
18th regiment of infantry	1	111	109	34	6	12	1	6	1	73
27th regiment of infantry	---	79	84	40	4	2	1	3	---	69
30th regiment of infantry	1	85	3	30	15	8	---	6	3	135
36th regiment of infantry	2	169	5	41	16	13	---	12	1	167
Total	6	762	650	181	65	76	5	51	12	809

George D. Ruggles, A. A. G.

**A.**

October 1, 1867.—Brevet Major General John E. Smith reports from Fort Phil. Kearney that Indians made a dash at the mules with the hay party, and succeeded in driving off 14 mules and 7 horses.

Also, that on the 24th instant Indians killed and scalped a herder belonging to a train in camp at Fort Reno.

October 12.—General Smith states that the Indians attempted to capture the mules belonging to the train at the pinery, four and one half miles from the post, but did not succeed.

October 13.—Major Van Voast, commanding Fort Reno, reports the loss of 41 mules, run off by Indians, while out grazing.

October 17.—General Smith reports one man killed and scalped by Indians four and one half miles from the post, at the pinery.

October 20.—Captain H. E. Noyes, commanding detachment 2d cavalry reports from Crazy Woman's Fork, Powder river, his camp attacked by Indians at midnight: one Indian killed and several wounded.

October 25.—Colonel Dye, commanding Fort Fetterman, Dakota Territory, states Indians attempted twice to run off the stock of three trains en route from Reno to his post.

November 6.—General Smith reports from Fort Phil. Kearney that on the night of the 4th instant Indians attacked a government train on Goose creek, en route to Fort C. F. Smith, capturing the mail and contents of several wagons, killing one soldier, wounding Lieutenant E. R. P. Shurley and three enlisted men of the 27th infantry, and one citizen.

December 8.—Major Burt, 27th infantry, reports from Fort C. F. Smith, skirmish had with Indians at Crazy Woman's Fork, Powder river, November 13. Indians attempted to stampede the herd, but were driven off, losing, several ponies.

December 8.—General Smith reports a contractors train had been corralled by Indians at Crazy Woman's Fork, Powder river, capturing part of the cattle, killing one enlisted man, wounding three others, and four citizens.

March 5.—General Slemmer, commanding Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, reports the killing of a ranchman on Bitter Cottonwood creek.

March 12.—General Wessells, commanding Fort Fetterman, states that a mail party from Reno was attacked by Indians on Day [sic] [Dry?] Fork of Cheyenne river. No loss.

March 13.—General Slemmer states that Indians captured a mule team between Fort Fetterman and the sawmill, belonging to that post.

March 14.—General Slemmer reports that Indians captured a mule team between his post and Laramie Peak sawmill.

March 18.—General Wessells, commanding Fort Fetterman, reports that Indians captured 29 mules belonging to the train at the sawmill killing one enlisted man.

March 18.—General Wessells states that Indians attacked Browns camp, on Box Elder, driving off 60 head of cattle.

March 23.—General Slemmer reports that Indians killed three men at Twin Springs.

March 24.—General Slemmer reports the burning of ranches and the killing of ranchmen between Forts Laramie and Fetterman.

April 3.—General Stevenson, Commanding Fort D. A. Russell, reports Indians running off 42 head of mules belonging to Hook and Moone, near Lone Tree creek, and mortally wounding one of the herders.

April 3.—General Gibbon, commanding Fort Sanders, states that Indians attacked a wood party on Rock creek, and ran off some ponies. One Indian was killed in the affair.

April 10.—General Potter, commanding Fort Sedgwick, reports that Indians ran off 40 head of animals from Big Springs.

April 21.—Major Burt, commanding Fort C. F. Smith, states that Indians made an attempt to capture a herd of mules at his post. They were, however, foiled in their attempt.

April 22.—General Palmer, commanding Fort McPherson, reports that Indians drove off a beef herd and killed five citizens near the post.

May 5.—Brevet Major Dallas, Fort Kearney, reports a party of scouts from Fort Hays chased to within six miles of his post.

May 9.—Major Dallas, commanding Fort Kearney, reports stock stampeded from a train encamped on the Platte, two miles west of the post.

June 3.—General Palmer, commanding Fort McPherson, Nebraska, reports that Indians ran off stock from Columbus, Nebraska.

June 7.—General Smith, commanding at Fort Phil. Kearney, reports that on June 3d, 20 mules and 3 horses belonging to a train under charge of Captain E. F. Thompson were run off by Indians at Trout creek, Montana Territory.

July 20.—General Gibbon, Fort Sanders, reports that Indians ran off a lot of mules belonging to Colonel Creighton, but they were recaptured.

July 28.—General Smith, Fort Phil. Kearney, reports Indians attacked an escort returning to the post, but were repulsed. Also, that a train was fired into while in camp at

Fort Reno. Also, that on July 10, while a party from Reno was out hunting cattle, Indians rose from ambush with hostile intent; soldiers opened fire and fell back to the post; were reenforced by a detachment of cavalry under command of Lieutenant E. R. P. Shurley, when the Indians were driven off. One enlisted man killed and one wounded. Several Indians were wounded and ponies killed.

September 6.—General Gibbon, commanding Rocky Mountain district, reports 70 head of mules run off from one of Colonel Carling's trains, on Cooper's creek.

September 9.—General Slemmer reports the loss of 10 mules, run off by Indians, from the government sawmill at Laramie Peak.

September 20.—General Wessells reports that Indians drove off 24 horses and mules from Ecaffey's ranch.

GEO. D. RUGGLES,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

*B.—List of ordnance, and ordnance stores requiring repairs, and for which purpose should be sent to an arsenal.*

1	3-inch wrought iron gun, No. 61	237	Carbine swivels
6	Caissons for 12-pounder field howitzer and 6-pound guns	59	Carbine brush wipers and thongs
2	Caissons for 12-pounder mountain howitzer	139	Pistol belt holsters
2	Limbers for 12-pounder mountain howitzer	172	Pistol belt holsters
2	Carriages for 12-pounder mountain howitzer	270	Sabre belts
2	Gunner's gimlets	200	Sabre belt plates
6	Lanyard	176	Sabre knots
2	Priming wires	673	Bayonet scabbards
2	Sponges and rammers	184	Cartridge boxes, calibre .58
--	Wormers and staves	214	Cartridge box plates
3	Ballard's carbines	24	Cartridge boxes, Howlett's
22	Gallagher's carbines	5	Cartridge boxes, Laidley's
29	Joslyn's carbines	104	Cartridge boxes, Morris's
24	Merrill's carbines	7	Cartridge boxes box belts
365	Spencer's carbines, calibre .50	33	Cartridge boxes box belt plates
139	Spencer's carbines, calibre .52	490	Cap pouches
3	Sharp's carbines	146	Gun slings
102	Stave's carbines	6	Sword frogs
139	Springfield breech-loading muskets, calibre .59 [sic], model of 1866	4	Sword belts and plates, N. C. O.
473	Springfield breech-loading muskets, calibre .58	2	Waist belts and plates, N. C. O.
8	Austrian muskets	10	Spring vices
251	Enfield muskets	13	Ball screws
2	Assorted muskets	4	Tumbler and band spring punches
6	Mississippi rifles	37	Tompions
16	Revolvers, Colt's army, calibre .44	29	Wipers
201	Revolvers, Remington, calibre .44	128	Bridles, curb, cavalry
1	Sabre, artillery	24	Bridles, watering

199	Sabres, light cavalry	71	Curry combs
18	Sabres, heavy cavalry	62	Girths
17	Swords, non-commissioned officers	108	Halters and straps
3	Swords, musicians	33	Horse brushes
223	Carbine cartridge box	28	Lariats
68	Carbine cartridge boxes, Blakely's	171	Picket pins
68	Carbine cartridge box belts and plates, Blakely's	521	Saddles, cavalry, McClellan
268	Carbine cartridge pouches	50	Saddles, Californian
68	Carbine slings and swivels, N. P.	137 1/2	Spurs, pairs
203	Carbine slings	104	Spur straps, pairs
4,050	Carbine cartridges, metallic, cal. .50		
37,504	Carbine cartridges, calibre .52		
1	Jackscrew		
2	Whips, artillery		
32	Arm chests		
148	Packing boxes		

G. B. RUSSELL,  
Brevet Major U. S. A., A. D. C and Acting Chief Ordnance. Officer.

*Consolidated report of trains passing the several posts in the department of the Platte for the year ending September 30, 1868.*

Posts	No. of Wagons	No. of Persons			No. of Animals				No. of Arms		
		Men	Women	Children	Horses	Mules	Oxen	Led Animals	Rifles	Carbines	Pistols
Fort Kearney, Neb.	199	376	108	189	314	355	1,577	2,753	123	90	255
Fort McPherson, Neb.	67	87	36	60	69	90	8	4	40	37	63
Fort Sedgwick, C.T.	567	915	307	684	1,094	870	901	131	103	96	170
Fort D.A. Russell, W.T.	36	24	---	---	3	---	216	---	3	18	20
Fort Sanders, W.T.	789	1,667	101	184	856	950	3,789	36	506	---	410
Fort Fred. Steele, W.T.	---	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fort Bridger, W.T.	861	1,374	91	174	1,125	2,429	1,594	87	---	---	---
Camp Douglas, W.T.	---	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fort Laramie, W.T.	---	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fort Fetterman, W.T.	---	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fort Reno, W.T.	---	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ft. Phil. Kearney, W.T.	377	436	---	---	21	1,336	1,503	---	137	252	---
Fort C. F. Smith, M.T.	---	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>4,279</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>1,291</b>	<b>3,482</b>	<b>6,030</b>	<b>9,588</b>	<b>3,011</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>918</b>