

L E T T E R
OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 14th ultimo, information in relation to the late battle of the Washita river.

JANUARY 7, 1869.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 6, 1869.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Senate resolution of the 14th ultimo, "that the Secretary of the Interior be requested to communicate to the Senate all reports, papers, and other information in the department connected with the late battle of the Washita river," and in reply thereto herewith enclose a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 5th instant, with accompanying papers, which embrace all the information in possession of the department called for by said Senate resolution.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary.

Hon. B. F. WADE,
President pro tempore U. S. Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 5, 1869.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from your department, of Senate resolution of 14th ultimo, requesting the Secretary of the Interior "to communicate to the Senate all reports, papers, and other information in the department connected with the late battle of the Washita river."

Said resolution having been referred to this office for report, I have the honor to state in reply that the only information this office has upon the subject, or of the causes leading to the battle of "Washita river," is contained in the several letters (copies herewith) received at this office from Superintendent Thomas Murphy and Agents Wynkoop and Boone, and, through your department, from Lieutenant General Sherman. No

official reports have been received from any officer or officers of the department respecting the battle itself; but I enclose herewith copies of all communications received at or sent from this office in regard to the existing troubles with the Arapahoes and Cheyennes, and the Kiowas and Comanches, showing the causes leading to said battle and the action had in the premises by the department and its officers.

I return herewith the resolution of the Senate referred from your department on the 14th ultimo.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

UPPER ARKANSAS AGENCY,
Fort Larned, Kansas, February 1, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to report, with reference to Indian affairs for the past month, that the Indians of my agency have been very tranquil. They are mostly congregated in the neighborhood of a point sixty miles south of Fort Dodge. The only complaints that I hear from them are that the commissioners promised them a large quantity of arms and ammunition, whereas the amount purchased for them is comparatively a trifle taking into consideration their numbers. They were evidently led to believe by the interpreters that an immense quantity of arms and ammunition would be issued to them, hence their dissatisfaction. They also express themselves as aggrieved by the presence of a surveying party south of the Arkansas river, whom they imagine are there for the purpose of laying out roads. I have endeavored to make the necessary explanations, and presume I will be able to satisfy them.

I am in receipt of your instructions with reference to the issuing of subsistence, and will act in accordance with the same to the best of my ability. I have not yet seen Mr. Banks or the contractor.

The interpreters employed to remain with the different tribes have so far been of no service to me whatever, they being, with the exception of George Bent, employed by different trading establishments, and consequently attending more to the private interests of the traders than looking out for the interest of the government. I never receive any reports from any of them; the only way in which I am able to gain any information in regard to the Indians, is in person or keeping a scout constantly running between them and the agency. I start on the 4th of this month for the purpose of meeting the Indians and turning over to them the property captured by General Hancock, and also some few arms I have still in my possession. Immediately on my return will communicate with your office.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,

E. W. WYNKOOP,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 20, 1868*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit Agent Wynkoop's monthly report of the condition of affairs among the Indians of the upper Arkansas agency, for January, ultimo, and would respectfully call your attention to some portions of the same. And first, to that which says his Indians complain that they have not been furnished with the amount of arms and ammunition which was promised them by the Indian peace commissioners. To remedy this, I recommend that in the purchasing of annuity goods for these Indians, a sufficient quantity of arms and ammunition be bought for them and sent out with their other annuity goods. In relation to their complaints of a surveying party being in their country, I have to state that the party referred to is Colonel Smoot's party of surveyors, who have been, as you know, surveying the Osage reservation. They have completed their labors and left that country. I recommend that instructions be issued to the interpreters in Colonel Wynkoop's agency to report fully the movements of the respective tribes with whom they are stationed; that they are required to obey all instructions given them by Agent Wynkoop; and that, as they are paid liberally by the government for their services, they will be expected to devote their whole time in the performance of the duties appertaining to the office they hold.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

UPPER ARKANSAS INDIAN AGENCY,
Fort Larned, Kansas, April 10, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to state that I have lately returned from the Indian camps of the Indians of my agency, and find them all in a very happy and quiet state. I issued their subsistence to them, and they appear well contented in consequence. I found them, previous to the provisions being issued, in a very destitute condition—almost starving—the buffalo having left the country in which they were ranging. They appeared well pleased with their treatment by the government in supplying them with provisions; the effect has been exceedingly good, and it is to be sincerely hoped that this policy will be continued. It will do more towards keeping them in a state of quiescence, make them contented with their lot, and tend toward civilizing them by weaning them from their old habits, than any plan that could be adopted.

Most of the Indians of my agency are coming north on the Pawnee Fork and Walnut creek, and will be in the neighborhood of Fort Dodge and Fort Larned this spring and summer.

There are various rumors went east lately in regard to the Indians showing evidence of hostility in this neighborhood; all of which, I beg to inform the department, are absolutely false.

In a council I held with the chiefs of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, I stated to them what the desire of the government was in regard to their making peace with the Kaws and Osages, and what my instructions were with reference to holding a council for that purpose with delegations from the antagonistic tribes. They stated they did not want to make peace at present, as they were the aggrieved parties, and it was neces

sary for them, as they termed it, to *strike* their enemies once before they could think of it; and I am afraid that before they make their *strike*, such a thing will be impossible. They are very anxious to have their annuity goods, and I would advise that as much expedition be used as possible in forwarding the same.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,
E. W. WYNKOOP,
Indian Agent.

Hon. THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, April 20, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit a letter from Agent Wynkoop, of the 10th instant, reporting the condition of affairs among the Cheyennes and Arapahoes of his agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

COMMISSIONER,
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, June 24, 1868.

SIR: Referring to office reports of the 16th and 23d of April last, and of the 28th ultimo, (see Ex. Doc. Nos. 255, 263, and 264, H. R.,) also to your communication to Congress of the 23d of April, transmitting a copy of a letter from Special Agent Banks, (see Ex. Doc. No. 263, H. R.,) all relative to the destitution of various Indian tribes east of the Rocky mountains, and to the urgent necessity of supplying them with subsistence, I now have the honor of enclosing herewith a copy of a letter from Superintendent Murphy, dated the 23d instant, relative to the condition of affairs in his superintendency; the feelings of the Indians in regard to the non-ratification of their treaties lately made with the government, and their demoralization by reason of the encroachment of the white settlers upon their reservations; also to the great amount of suffering among the Indians caused by discontinuing the supplies of subsistence furnished them last winter and spring.

The fact that there are thousands of Indians in the northern, central, and southern superintendencies, and also in the other superintendencies east of the Rocky mountains, who are suffering and starving from the want of food, has been so often represented to Congress, and must be so well known to that body, that it would almost seem to be presumptuous on my part to request that the attention of that body be again called to the urgent necessity of immediate action in the premises; but having recently been among the Osages in person, I am cognizant of the facts stated by Superintendent Murphy in regard to that tribe. They are, indeed, in a miserable condition since the issue of subsistence to them has been stopped. There are over 3,000 souls in the tribe. They have nothing upon which to rely to prevent starvation, except such assistance as the government may render. Owing to the difficulties between

them and the Arapahoes and Cheyennes, and acting upon the advice and under the directions of your department, they have been unable to help themselves by hunting. If they are not assisted they certainly must steal or starve; and it can easily be seen what will transpire if they are forced to either alternative.

The Kaws are in an equally destitute condition; so also are the Wichitas, Caddoes, and other tribes not necessary to name.

Knowing the facts in regard to the condition of the Osages, and being satisfied that the reports of the condition of other tribes made by the agents of the department are also true, I deem it my duty to ask that the attention of Congress be again invited to the subject. I deem this my duty, not only to show the country that this bureau has used every effort to prevent an Indian war, which is imminent, and which, if it actually does occur, will be brought on by reason of the sufferings and starving condition of the Indians, but also in the hope that Congress will take speedy action in the premises, with a view to relieve the present wants of the most destitute, and to prevent another Indian war, which will, before it can possibly be ended, cost the government millions of dollars, to say nothing of the many valuable lives that will be sacrificed.

There is another subject connected with this matter to which I desire to refer. The Indian peace commission, acting under authority of the act of Congress creating it, has negotiated a treaty with several bands of Sioux at Fort Laramie. This treaty will in a few days be transmitted to the United States Senate for its action. From 2,000 to 3,000 of the Indians, parties to such treaty, are now being removed to Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, at or near which place the reservation selected for them by the commission is located. No provisions have been made at the latter place with the view to carry out the terms of the treaty, for the reason that no funds for the purpose have been appropriated. Estimates of the amount required are now in possession of Senator Henderson, who is a member of the commission. Until these estimates have been acted upon, subsistence will have to be furnished to these Indians also. If upon their arrival they find that no preparations have been made for them in the way of subsistence and no prospects of any being made, they will doubtless scatter through that section of the country and commence depredating upon the whites, eventually returning to their old haunts in the Powder River country, there to renew former acts of hostility.

The condition of Indian affairs east of the Rocky mountains has become of such grave importance—brought about in a great measure by the scarcity of game, the rapid decrease of the buffalo, (the Indians' principal means of support,) and the large immigration of whites into the country heretofore roamed over and claimed to be owned by the Indians as their hunting grounds—that speedy action in appropriating the funds necessary to care for and feed the most destitute is absolutely necessary if peace is to be preserved; and I respectfully suggest that, in inviting the attention of Congress to the subject, the honorable Secretary of the Interior also submit his views in the premises.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, June 25, 1868.

SIR: Referring to the matter of the issue of arms and ammunition to the Arapahoe and Cheyenne Indians, I have to say that the honorable Secretary of the Interior directs that, on account of their recent raid into the white settlements, no arms nor ammunition be given them at present, but that if they remain at peace with the whites and Indians, and satisfy the government that they intend to keep their treaty pledges in good faith, the promised arms and ammunition will be given to them.

You will therefore please cause the necessary instructions to be given to Agent Wynkoop, with an explanation of the reason why the arms, &c., will not be issued at the present time.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

THOMAS MURPHY, Esq.,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, present.

[By telegraph.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, June 15, 1868.

THOMAS MURPHY, Esq., Superintendent Indian Affairs, Atchison, Kansas:

Your action in directing Agent Wynkoop to deliver no arms nor ammunition to his Indians, on account of their recent raid on Kaws by Cheyennes, is approved.

C. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, July 23, 1868.

SIR: Information, deemed reliable, has been received at this office, to the effect that the Arapahoe and Cheyenne Indians are very much dissatisfied with the order recently given to Agent Wynkoop to withhold the arms and ammunition purchased for them last spring, and that the Kiowas and Comanches are also dissatisfied because their annuity goods have not been issued to them. It is feared that these Indians, by reason of such non-delivery of arms, ammunition, and goods, will commence hostilities against the whites in their vicinity, and in order to prevent this, if possible, and to preserve the peace in the Indian country, it has been determined to modify the previous order given by this office respecting the delivery of said articles.

Agent Wynkoop has this day been telegraphed in regard to the matter, and, by direction of the honorable Secretary of the Interior, has been instructed to exercise his discretion about issuing to the Indians of his agency all their annuity goods, including the arms and ammunition which were promised and provided; that if he is satisfied the issue of such articles is necessary to preserve the peace, and that no evil will result from their delivery, to let the Indians have them, and that you would leave this evening for Fort Larned.

You will, therefore, proceed without delay to Fort Larned, and consult with Agent Wynkoop in regard to the proper course to be pursued

to preserve the peace on the frontiers and if you are satisfied, after such consultation, and after looking at the matter in all its bearing, that it will be necessary to deliver said arms and ammunition to the Arapahoes and Cheyennes in order to keep them peaceable, and that no evil will result from such delivery, you will give Agent Wynkoop such other or further instructions in the premises as may be necessary.

You will also inquire into the matter of the delivery of the annuity goods purchased for the Kiowas and Comanches, and if you are satisfied, after such inquiry, that it will be good policy to issue such goods, and necessary to preserve the peace and keep the Indians quiet, you will take the necessary steps to have the goods which were purchased for said Indians, and which are now at Lawrence, Kansas, transported—by the contractor for transporting Indian annuity goods to the different points in your superintendency—to such point, or points, as, in your opinion, will be most suitable for distributing them to the Indians, and see that the same are properly distributed.

It is expected that you will use your best judgment in connection with this business. You will be obliged, from the nature of the case, to use your own discretion in carrying out the views and wishes of the department respecting the delivery of the arms, ammunition and goods to the Indians hereinbefore named—bearing in mind that the great and principal object to be attained is the preservation of peace, not only between the Indians and whites, but, if possible, between the Indians themselves. In regard to the latter point, you will, in conjunction with Agents Wynkoop, Stover and Snow, and Special Agent Boon, and acting under and governing yourselves by the instructions heretofore given, adopt such measures as will tend to bring about the desired result.

Immediately upon the completion of the duties herein assigned you, you will submit to this office a full and explicit report of your action in the premises, and will also, at any time previous to the completion of such duties, advise the office of anything connected with this matter which, in your opinion, will be of interest, or furnish information to the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

THOS. MURPHY, Esq.,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, present.

[By Telegraph.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, July 23, 1868.

The Secretary of the Interior directs that you exercise your own discretion about issuing to the Indians all their annuity goods, including the arms and ammunition which were promised and provided.

If you are satisfied that the issue of the arms and ammunition is necessary to preserve the peace, and that no evil will result from their delivery, let the Indians have them. Superintendent Murphy leaves this evening for Fort Larned.

N. G. TAYLOR, *Commissioner.*

E. W. WYNKOOP, Esq.,
United States Agent, Fort Larned.

Care post commander, Fort Harker, Kansas, who is requested to forward to destination.

UPPER ARKANSAS AGENCY, FORT LARNED, KANSAS,
July 20, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have issued the annuity goods to the Arapahoes and Apaches of my agency, but when the Cheyennes found that they were not to receive their arms and ammunition they desired me to retain their goods until the government saw fit to let them have their arms and ammunition. I have, therefore, their goods stored at this post. They felt much disappointed, but gave no evidence of being angry; but on the contrary expressed themselves to the effect that, although they thought that their white brothers were pulling away from them the hand they had given to them at Medicine Lodge creek, nevertheless they would try to hold on to it, and would wait with patience for the Great Father to take pity upon them, and let them have the arms and ammunition which had been promised them, and which they considered they had not forfeited by any direct violation of treaty pledges, such as should affect the whole nation. They referred to numerous instances of which I was cognizant of their having been treated badly by the whites since the treaty, having been fired upon, &c., in no instance of which they had retaliated. I cannot urge too strongly upon the department the policy of issuing the arms and ammunition as soon as possible, and am in hopes daily of receiving an order to that effect.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,
 E. W. WYNKOOP,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, August 5, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter of the 20th ultimo, from Agent Wynkoop, reporting his action in issuing annuity goods to Indians of his agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, September 7, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from Superintendent Murphy of August 22, of the central superintendency, enclosing one from E. W. Wynkoop, United States agent for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, relative to recent Indian outrages at Solomons and Saline, and respectfully suggest that, if it meets your approval, a copy thereof be sent to the Secretary of War for transmission to General Sherman.

In this connection I also enclose a copy of the treaty with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes of October 28, 1867, the eleventh article of which shows the promises made by said Indians in regard to remaining at peace.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 C. E. MIX, *Acting Commissioner.*

Hon. W. T. OTTO,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, August 24, 1868.

SIR: Referring to my letter to you of this date relating to the Indian outrages at Saline and Solomons, I have now the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the reply of Superintendent Murphy to my telegram of this date, calling for the substance of the report made to him by Agent Wynkoop.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. E. MIX, *Acting Commissioner.*

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, August 22, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit a letter of the 10th instant from Agent Wynkoop, reporting his action in delivering the annuity goods to the Cheyenne Indians, stating that they expressed themselves as being well satisfied with the same, and that in his opinion no trouble need be apprehended from them this season.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

FORT LARNED, KANSAS, *August 10, 1868.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I yesterday made the whole issue of annuity goods, arms, and ammunition to the Cheyenne chiefs and people of their nation; they were delighted at receiving the goods, particularly the arms and ammunition, and never before have I known them to be better satisfied and express themselves as being so well contented previous to the issue. I made them a long speech, following your late instructions with reference to what I said to them. They have now left for their hunting grounds, and I am perfectly satisfied that there will be no trouble with them this season, and consequently with no Indians of my agency.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,

Hon. THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, August 22, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from your department, of a telegram from Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman, dated the 21st instant, relative to murders committed by Indians at Solomons and Saline, stating that he had ordered General Sheridan to compel their removal south of the Kansas line, and in pursuing to kill, if necessary, and requesting, if the President does not approve, to be notified at once.

This telegram having been referred to this office for a report, I would say that no report has been received from any office of the bureau touching the murders and depredations referred to. Superintendent Murphy, who has recently been at Forts Larned and Harker and their vicinity, reports under date of August 5, 1868, that he apprehends no trouble, but if it does come it will result from the sole cause that sooner than starve the Indians will steal. General Sherman does not state what Indians are engaged in these acts of hostility. I am, therefore, unable to determine whether they are a portion of those seen by Mr. Murphy or not. I will telegraph to the superintendent, also to Agent Wynkoop, and endeavor to get what information they may have regarding the matter.

If General Sherman's orders to General Sheridan would not result in the killing of Indians who had nothing to do with the depredations in question, it would be perfectly right to carry them out to the letter. Those who were engaged in the murders should be punished, and be taught a lesson not to be forgotten; but it would not be right to punish the innocent for acts not committed by them.

In my opinion the agents of the department, Superintendent Murphy, and Agents Wynkoop and Boone, should be consulted in regard to this matter, and that steps should be taken to first determine with certainty the particular band or bands engaged in these murders, then to visit them with a speedy punishment for their crimes.

I will advise you immediately on receipt of the replies to the telegrams to Superintendent Murphy and Agent Wynkoop.

The despatch of General Sherman is herewith returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, August 24, 1868.

SIR: Referring to my letter to you of the 22d instant, relative to Indian outrages at Solomon's and Saline, I have now the honor to enclose herewith copies of the replies of Superintendent Murphy and Agent Wynkoop to my telegrams of same date, which is all the information as yet received at this office in regard to said outrages.

I have this morning telegraphed to Superintendent Murphy to send at once the substance of the report made to him by Agent Wynkoop.

In this connection I beg leave to refer you to report of this office of 15th instant, enclosing letters of Superintendent Denman and Interpreter Randall relative to the movements of certain Ogallalla and Brulé Sioux Indians with whom treaties have been recently made by the Indian peace commission.

In view of the information contained in said letters, and the probable failure of said Indians to obtain the supplies needed by them, I would not be surprised if they are the parties who have committed the outrages referred to.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, September 25, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from your department, of a communication from the honorable Secretary of War, dated the 21st instant, transmitting a copy of a letter from Lieutenant General Sherman relative to Indian affairs, and requesting the removal of the agencies in charge of Agents Wynkoop and Leavenworth; also asking for the views of your department on the subject of the Lieutenant General's letter.

The letter of the honorable Secretary of War and its enclosures having been referred to this office for report, I have to say that the subject of the Lieutenant General's letter has been fully considered, and that the views therein expressed and the policy proposed to be adopted and pursued in regard to the hostile tribes and bands referred to coincide, in a great measure, with those of this office.

As regards the distribution of goods, clothing, &c., to the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and also to the Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches, I would say that prior to the receipt of your reference, instructions were sent to Superintendent Murphy to arrange for the storage and insurance at Lawrence, Kansas, of all the goods recently purchased by Commissioner Taylor for said tribes, until they can be forwarded to their destination or some other disposition made of them. This was done for the reason that, in the opinion of this office, no goods of any kind should be issued to those Indians who are committing depredations, and are in open hostility to the government, nor to those, even, who have remained peaceable, unless they give up any and all white captives they may have, and promise to faithfully abstain in the future from making raids into Texas and committing depredations upon the inhabitants of that State, or any other State or Territory. It may cause great suffering among those members of the different tribes now at war that have not been engaged in murdering and depredating upon the white settlers in western Kansas. This, however, cannot be avoided unless the innocent parties withdraw from the guilty and go to and remain at the reservations provided for them, in which case those upon the reservations should be supplied with a sufficient quantity of clothing and other goods, and also with food to prevent suffering among them. The goods, clothing, &c., already purchased can be used for such purpose whenever required and it is deemed advisable to issue them, but there are no funds at the disposal of the department that can be used to purchase food for them; and in connection herewith I would respectfully refer you to office report of the 12th instant, in response to your communication of the 8th, transmitting one from the honorable Secretary of War of same date.

The Lieutenant General, in his letter, urges the removal of the agencies of Agents Wynkoop and Leavenworth (now Boone) to such points on the Canadian as may by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior be deemed most eligible for the tribes hereinbefore named. By reference to the map enclosed herewith, on which the reservations set apart for said tribes by the treaties made with them by the Indian peace commission are shown, it will be seen that the Canadian river does not run through either of said reservations, nor does it touch the same at any point. I do not understand, therefore, why the Lieutenant General urges the removal of said agencies to that particular place; besides, it cannot be expected, even if it were determined to locate these agencies on said river, that your department could designate the most eligible points for the location without being first advised respecting the advantages, resources, and general fitness for such purpose of the different points on said river suit-

able for an agency. The agencies should, if possible, be located within the limits of the respective reservations; and, as at present advised, and inasmuch as there are no troops now stationed at any point in said reservations, I know of no other way to determine where the agencies should be located than to have the agents explore the reservations for that purpose, or in some other way ascertain the most suitable place for their respective agencies.

The remarks of the Lieutenant General relative to destroying or humbling those bands that have violated their treaties are in accordance with the views of this office, provided, however, that due notice be given to the Indians who have remained peaceable of the intention of the government, and the course that will be pursued towards them if they do not withdraw from the bands that have been and now are engaged in hostilities, and go to their reservations and remain there.

The communication of the honorable Secretary of War of the 23d instant, enclosing a letter from Lieutenant General Sherman, referred to this office by your department on the 24th, has also been received.

The Lieutenant General, in his letter, says he prefers that the agent for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes should collect all the well-disposed of said tribes and conduct them to their reservation within the Indian territory south of Kansas, "there to be provided for under their treaty—say about old Fort Cobb." By reference to the map enclosed herewith, which I respectfully suggest be transmitted to the Lieutenant General, it will be seen that old Fort Cobb is a long distance from the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservation, and is, in fact, in the reservation set apart for the Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches. I do not think, therefore, that Fort Cobb is the proper place to locate the agency for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes.

I return herewith the communications of the honorable Secretary of War referred to this office by your department on the 22d and 24th instant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. W. T. OTTO,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, September 26, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith, for your information and consideration in connection with office report of the 25th instant, a copy of a letter from Superintendent Murphy, dated the 19th instant, relative to the propriety of forwarding to the agents for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and the Kiowas, Comanches and Apaches, certain goods recently purchased by Commissioner Taylor for said Indians, and now being stored at Lawrence, Kansas.

It will be noticed that the superintendent does not believe that the Kiowas, Comanches and Apaches have been engaged in any of the outrages that have been, and are now being, committed by Indians in western Kansas and Colorado, and therefore recommends that the annuity goods due those Indians be sent to Fort Cobb, in care of a discreet man, to remain with the Indians until Agent Boone's recovery; that not less than two companies of cavalry should accompany him and the goods;

and that before any goods are issued, the surrender of all captives held by the Indians should be demanded, and they should also be required to promise not to make any more raids into Texas, and to remain on their reservation except while hunting.

The general views of the superintendent, as expressed in his letter, coincide with those of this office; but, as matters now stand in the Indian country, I am of the opinion that two companies of cavalry cannot well be spared to accompany the goods as an escort, and I also think it proper and due to Lieutenant General Sherman, under existing circumstances, that he should be consulted as to the propriety of issuing annuity goods to the Kiowas, Comanches and Apaches, before any steps are taken with that view.

Agent Boone, I am informed, is convalescent, and will probably be able to travel in a couple of weeks, and believing that the goods in question should not, as at present advised, be issued to the Indians at this time, I am of the opinion that it is not necessary to appoint a special agent to go to Fort Cobb to attend to the duties of Agent Boone until such time as he may be able to attend to them himself.

In the mean time I would respectfully suggest that Lieutenant General Sherman be consulted as to the propriety of issuing goods to such of the Indians—not only of the Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches, but also of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes—as may go to their reservations in the Indian territory; and if, in his opinion, the distribution should be made, how large an escort would be necessary to accompany the train transporting the goods, and whether the same could be furnished by him.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. W. T. OTTO,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY,
September 8, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to send the following extract from a telegram dated September 8, received from Lieutenant General Sherman, and to request from you the necessary information to enable me to answer the question put by him:

I want to know officially if the Indian department is prepared to receive and care for the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Comanches, when they reach the reservation agreed on in their treaty of Medicine Lodge. Is the appropriation for them for the year ending June 30, 1869, on hand, or has it been anticipated as reported to me? On the supposition that the Indian department can take care of these Indians this winter, I have not reserved much money for their use, only enough to provide for them *en route*.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, September 12, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from your department of the 8th instant, of a communication from the honora-

ble Secretary of War of the same date, asking for information on the subject of a telegram that day received from Lieutenant General Sherman, as follows:

I want to know officially if the Indian department is prepared to receive and care for the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, and Comanches, when they reach the reservation agreed on in their treaty of Medicine Lodge. Is the appropriation for them for the year ending June 30, 1869, on hand, or has it been anticipated as reported to me? On the supposition that the Indian department can take care of these Indians this winter, I have not reserved much money for their use, only enough to provide for them *en route*.

In reply to the above I regret to say that, so far as relates to subsistence, the Indian Bureau is not prepared to care for these Indians for the simple reason that no funds applicable thereto have been placed at the disposal of the department. The urgent necessity for an appropriation to meet the exigency of the case was fully stated in a report to the Secretary of the Interior from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the 16th April last, in which he expresses the opinion that the sum of \$1,000,000 should be appropriated and placed at the disposal of your department, to be used so far as the same may be necessary in affording relief to the destitute Indians of the plains, estimating their number at 20,000, and the cost at \$3,500 per day, or about 17½ cents for each person; copies of which report were promptly transmitted by you to both houses of Congress, the department concurring in the views of the Commissioner, and requesting that favorable action be had on the subject.

Time passed, but no action was taken by Congress in the premises. In the mean time numerous communications were received at this office from the agents of the government, anticipating the deplorable results that would ensue should Congress fail to make provisions for the coming year to relieve the wants of the friendly Indians in the northern, central, and southern superintendencies.

Impressed with the importance of the case, this office again laid the matter before your department in its report of May 28 last, and the honorable Secretary in his communication to Congress the next day again urged upon that body prompt action to avert starvation.

A third communication on the same subject, and of the same urgent nature, was laid before Congress, ultimately resulting in an appropriation of \$500,000 to be expended under the direction of Lieutenant General Sherman in preparing homes, furnishing provisions, &c., to the Indians, with whom treaties were recently made by the peace commission.

The only funds, therefore, at the disposal of the department for the benefit of the Apaches, Kiowas, Comanches, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes are those appropriated by the late Indian appropriation act, in compliance with the terms of the treaty at Medicine Lodge creek, of October 28, 1867, viz: \$96,000 for the purchase of certain specified articles of Indian wearing apparel, \$18,000 for agency buildings and pay of physician, and \$12,000 for transportation of the goods, making a total of \$126,000, which is now on hand. The clothing, a portion of which I am informed has, during the last few days, been purchased by Commissioner Taylor in New York city, will be forwarded to the Indians at the earliest day practicable, and arrangements will be made for the erection of agency buildings in accordance with the terms of the late treaty, and, if necessary, to the full extent of the appropriation made for that purpose.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. W. T. OTTO,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, September 19, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 18th instant, stating that Commissioner Taylor recently ordered goods to Lawrence, Kansas, for the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Apaches, Kiowas and Comanches, and asking, "is it advisable to forward them to the respective agents of those Indians?" To this despatch I replied by telegram last evening, and I now propose to give more fully, so far as I am advised, the present status of the Indians above named, and what, in my opinion, would be the proper policy to pursue towards them at the present time.

A large number of the Kiowas, and about one-third of the Comanches, have remained, since I saw them, on the 1st of August last, on the Arkansas river, in the vicinity of Fort Zarah; the largest portion of the Apaches were with Little Raven, and the Arapahoes south of Fort Dodge. So far as I can learn, these Indians have committed no depredations since they signed their treaty at Medicine Lodge creek, excepting a few raids made into Texas.

The Apaches, by the treaty of Medicine Lodge creek, being confederated with the Comanches and Kiowas, I have directed Agent Wynkoop to advise that portion of the three last-named tribes who were then on the Arkansas river to go south and remain in the vicinity of Fort Cobb until their agent got there; that by doing this they would avoid trouble with the military and the Cheyennes. I have also understood, unofficially, that General Sheridan left Fort Harker last week for the Kiowa camps on the Arkansas, for the purpose of driving them south. Believing, then, that the Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches have not been engaged with the Cheyennes in their recent troubles, I recommend that the annuity goods due these Indians be sent by rail to Lawrence, Kansas, and be transported from that place by wagons to Fort Cobb, and that a discreet man be detailed to go out with them, and remain with the Indians until Agent Boone's recovery. This special agent should have with him not less than two companies of cavalry; and before delivering any goods to the Indians he should demand from them the surrender of all captives held by them, and should take from them a written obligation or promise to abandon raiding into Texas, and to remain, except while hunting, within the limits of their new reservation, and to remain at peace, not only with the whites, but with Indian tribes generally. If they do this, I would give them their goods; if they did not, I would bring them back and give them to understand that they would henceforth be regarded as enemies of the government. These things cannot be done without a sufficient escort, and I doubt the propriety of sending any goods until this escort can be obtained. I am clearly of the opinion that by pursuing this policy more good will result from it, and at a smaller expense, than any other that can be adopted, and that the present time for accomplishing the same would be the most opportune.

The Cheyennes and Arapahoes being confederated, each should be held responsible for the acts of the other, and while I am satisfied the Arapahoes, as a tribe, discountenanced the last outbreak, still many of their young warriors are on the war-path with the Cheyennes.

Of all the tribes on the plains these two tribes had the least cause for attacking whites. Since the Medicine Lodge Creek treaty every promise made to them has been fulfilled on the part of the government; their last annuities had scarcely been distributed to them before they go to war, and this, too, after making the most solemn promises of friendship. They have violently broken their treaty pledges, and until they vol-

untarily abandon the war-path, ask for peace, make full reparation, so far as they can, for the gross outrages committed by them, go and live on their reservation, give assurance of keeping in future their treaty pledges, I would send them no annuities whatever; but would leave these Indians where they now are—in the hands of the military. Heretofore the government has begged them to abandon the war-path, and make treaties of peace; this time I would *compel* them to make the request, and when they are driven to do this, I believe that a treaty then made with them will be respected and kept in good faith by them. Experience has shown that treaties made by them when coaxed to make them have been of no avail.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. CHAS. E. MIX,

Acting Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, September 21, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit Agent Wynkoop's annual report of the Upper Arkansas agency for the year 1868.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. CHAS. E. MIX,

Acting Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

UPPER ARKANSAS AGENCY,
Fort Larned, Kansas, September 10, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my second annual report:

Soon after my last annual report a treaty was held with the Indians of my agency, at Medicine Lodge creek, for the reason that some of those Indians had been, to a certain degree, engaged in hostilities against the whites, having been driven to that course by the mistakes and imprudence of General W. S. Hancock. That treaty was made in good faith by the Indians, as well as by the honorable gentlemen who composed the commission. The arduous duties that had been imposed upon the honorable commissioners were well performed, not only to their own satisfaction, but also to the entire satisfaction of the Indians, who were well pleased with the whole proceedings of that peace conference, and perfectly contented with the terms of the treaty, which they then intended to religiously adhere to, and the stipulations of which they never would have violated had it not been for some circumstances, which I will endeavor to explain in this communication, which unfortunately have again placed a portion of the Indians of my agency in a position of hostility.

From the date of the treaty made at Medicine Lodge creek the Indians, including the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, and Apaches, were in perfect friendly relations with the whites up to last June; when, while making

a foray into the Kaw Indian country, in the neighborhood of Council Grove, Kansas, for the purpose of fighting their enemies, the Kaws, there were some slight depredations committed by some of the young men of the Cheyennes, the details of which affair the department is conversant with. At that time the annuity goods, including a large amount of arms and ammunition, were *en route* to my agency, when I became the recipient of an order from yourself not to issue the arms and ammunition, in consequence of their conduct with respect to the whites while making the raid against the Kaws. When the goods arrived, I was obliged to state to the Indians what my instructions were in regard to the arms and ammunition. As I have heretofore stated, they appeared very much disappointed, and could not realize that they had deserved such treatment. Subsequently I received permission from the department to issue to them their arms and ammunition, which I accordingly did. But a short time before the issue was made a war party had started north from the Cheyenne village, on the war path against the Pawnees, and they, not knowing of the issue, and smarting under their *supposed* wrongs, committed the outrages on the Saline river which have led to the present unfortunate aspect of affairs. The United States troops are now south of the Arkansas river, in hot pursuit of the Cheyennes, the effect of which, I think, will be to plunge other tribes into difficulty, and finally culminate in a general Indian war.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,
 E. W. WYNKOOP,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

• OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, September 10, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit a letter of the 3d instant from Agent Wynkoop, relative to the Indian troubles within his agency. I am clearly of the opinion that, if it could be done, the innocent Indians should be protected by the government.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

Hon. CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

UPPER ARKANSAS AGENCY,
Fort Larned, Kansas, September 3, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th of August, and would state in reply that it has been impossible to communicate with any of the Cheyenne Indians except Medicine Arrow, to whom I made the demand referred to in your letter, and he promised to lay the matter before the tribe. I have never heard from Little Rock since I last sent him out, which I mentioned in my last communication. On the 1st of this month a party of Cheyennes attacked a small escort of troops between this post and Fort Dodge, wounding four men and killing two mules. There is a rumor here also to the effect that they have destroyed a train of fifteen wagons, killing

all who were with them, up at the Cimarron crossing. All of the Cheyennes who are not actually on the war-path have fled far south of the Arkansas. The Arapahoes are still within calling distance, being camped on Crooked creek, a short distance south of Fort Dodge, but I am fearful that they cannot help being drawn into the war as they are now situated. If the government had acted promptly on the suggestion that I made in regard to the friendly Indians, I could have had all of them now separated from those who are disposed to be hostile.

General Sheridan is now at Fort Dodge organizing an expedition to go south of the river in pursuit of the Cheyennes, and the probabilities are that if they strike any Indians at all it will be the wrong parties.

I will keep your office advised of all matters of importance that transpire with regard to Indian affairs at the earliest opportunity.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,
 E. W. WYNKOOP,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

FORT LARNED, KANSAS, August 19, 1868.

SIR: Prior to the receipt of this you will have heard rumors of Indian depredations committed on the Saline river. Herewith enclosed you will find a full report of my investigation of the whole affair. By it you will see what I am sorry to admit—that the Cheyennes are guilty. I hope that the department will approve of the course I have taken in this matter by making the demands I have upon the Indians. My object is to benefit them, and save the innocent from being punished for the acts of the guilty. Though many may be inclined to deliver up the guilty parties, I am afraid that it cannot be accomplished; and therefore knowing that the majority of the Cheyennes feel like Little Rock does in this matter—that they deprecate war and would prevent their people from entering into hostilities by every means in their power—yet they will be powerless to restrain their young men when once they fairly enter into it, and unless measures are immediately taken to protect and provide for those Indians who have fulfilled in every respect their treaty stipulations, and are desirous of still remaining at peace, they certainly will be the parties who will suffer in case of a war instead of those who are deserving of punishment.

I have said that immediate action should be taken by the government to provide for and protect the Indians I have referred to. I would now respectfully suggest what those measures should be. Let me take those Indians whom I know to be guiltless and desirous of remaining at peace and locate them with their lodges and families at some good point that I may select in the vicinity of this post; and let those Indians be subsisted entirely by the government until this trouble is over, and be kept within certain bounds; and let me be furnished with a small battalion of United States troops, for the purpose of protecting them from their own people and from being forced by them into war; let those who refuse to respond to my call and come within the bounds prescribed be considered at war, and let them be properly punished. By this means if war takes place—which I consider inevitable—we can be able to discriminate between those who deserve punishment and those who do not; otherwise it will be a matter of impossibility. I earnestly urge upon the department immediate action of some kind of the character I have

proposed. Justice to those Indians who have held to their treaty demands that some measures of the kind be taken. Policy dictates it, and it will be economy in the end.

If the department acts at all it must act *quick*, and in transmitting this letter I would respectfully beg, if you favorably endorse the same, that you will urge *haste*.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,
 E. W. WYNKOOP,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

Report of an interview between Colonel E. W. Wynkoop, United States Indian agent, and Little Rock, a Cheyenne chief, held at Fort Larned, Kansas, August 19, 1868, in the presence of Lieutenant S. M. Robbins, 7th United States cavalry, John S. Smith, United States Indian interpreter, and James Morrison, scout for Indian agency.

Question by Colonel WYNKOOP. Six nights ago I spoke to you in regard to depredations committed on the Saline. I told you to go and find out by whom these depredations were committed, and to bring me straight news. What news do you bring?

LITTLE ROCK. I took your advice and went there. I am now here to tell you all I know. This war party of Cheyennes which left the camps of these tribes above the forks of Walnut creek about the 2d and 3d of August went out against the Pawnees, crossed the Smoky Hill about Fort Hays, and thence proceeded to the Saline, where there were 10 lodges of Sioux in the Cheyenne camp when this war party left, and about 20 men of them, and 4 Arapahoes, accompanied the party. The Cheyennes numbered about 200; nearly all the young men of the village went; Little Raven's son was one of the four Arapahoes. When the party reached the Saline they turned down the stream, with the exception of about 20, who, being fearful of depredations being committed against the whites by the party going in the direction of the settlement, kept on north towards the Pawnees. The main party continued down the Saline until they came in sight of the settlement; they then camped there. A Cheyenne named Oh-e-ah-mohe-a, brother of White Antelope, who was killed at Sand Creek, and another named Red Nose, proceeded to the first house; they afterwards returned to the camp and with them a woman captive.

The main party was surprised at this action, and forcibly took possession of her, and returned her to her house. The two Indians had outraged the woman before they brought her to the camp. After the outrage had been committed, the parties left the Saline and went north, towards the settlements of the south fork of the Solomon, where they were kindly received and fed by the white people. They left the settlements on the south fork, and proceeded towards the settlements on the north forks. When in sight of these settlements they came upon a body of armed settlers, who fired upon them; they avoided the party, went round them, and approached a house some distance off. In the vicinity of the house they came upon a white man alone, upon the prairie; "Big Head's" son rode at him and knocked him down with a club. The Indian who had committed the outrage upon the white woman, known as White Antelope's brother, then fired upon the white man without effect, while the third Indian rode up and killed him. Soon after they killed a white man, and, close by, a woman—all in the same settlement.

At the time these people were killed, the party was divided in feeling, the majority being opposed to any outrages being committed; but finding it useless to contend against these outrages being committed without bringing on a strife among themselves, they gave way, and all went in together. They then went to another house in the same settlement, and there killed two men, and took two little girls prisoners; this on the same day. After committing the last outrage the party turned south, towards the Saline, where they came on a body of mounted troops; the troops immediately charged the Indians, and the pursuit was continued a long time. The Indians having the two children, their horses becoming fatigued, dropped the children without hurting them. Soon after the children were dropped, the pursuit ceased; but the Indians continued on up the Saline. A portion of the Indians afterwards returned to look for the children, but were unable to find them. After they had proceeded some distance up the Saline the party divided, the majority going north, towards the settlements on the Solomon, but 30 of them started towards their village, supposed to be some distance northwest of Fort Larned. Another small party returned to Black Kettle's village, from which party I got this information. I am fearful that, before this time, the party that started north have committed a great many depredations. The other day when I talked with you, you gave me instructions what to do, with a great deal of risk and danger. I have followed out these instructions, and returned to you with what is straight, and which I have just given you. I want you, as my agent, to give me advice as to what to do. I do not wish to be at war with the whites, and there are many of my nation who feel as I do, and who are in no way guilty, and do not wish to be punished for the bad acts of those who are guilty. We are ready and willing to abide by any advice which you may give us.

Question by Colonel WYNKOOP. Before I give you any advice, I want to ask you some questions. Do you know the names of the principal men of this party that committed the depredations besides White Antelope's brother?

A. They were Medicine Arrow's oldest son, named Tall Wolf; Red Nose, who was one of the men who outraged the woman; Big Head's son, named Porcupine Bear; and Sand Hill's brother, known as the Bear That Goes Ahead.

Q. By Col. W. You told me your nation wants peace; will you, in accordance with your treaty stipulations, deliver up the men whom you have named as being the leaders of the party who committed the outrages named?

A. By L. R. I think that the only men who ought to suffer and be responsible for these outrages are White Antelope's brother and Red Nose, the men who ravished the woman, and when I return to the Cheyenne camps and assemble the chiefs and headmen, I think those two men will be delivered up to you.

Q. By Col. W. I consider the whole party guilty; but it being impossible to punish all of them, I hold the principal men whom you mentioned responsible for all. They had no right to be governed and led by two men. If no depredations had been committed after the outrage on the woman, the two men whom you have mentioned alone would have been guilty.

A. By L. R. After your explanation, I think your demand for the men is right. I am willing to deliver them up, and will go back to the tribe and use my best endeavors to have them surrendered. I am but one man and cannot answer for the entire nation.

Q. By Col. W. I want you to return to your tribes and tell the chiefs

and headmen, when assembled, the demand I now make. Tell them that I think complying with my demand is the only thing that will save their entire nation from a long and destructive war. I want you to return as soon as possible with their answer. I will see that you are safe in going and coming, and your services in this respect will be well rewarded.

You will be looked upon by the whites as a good man, and one who is a friend to them as well as to his own people; and as the result of your action in this matter, you will be considered by the government as a "great chief," one in whom in the future they can always put the utmost confidence.

LITTLE ROCK. I am here in your service; at the same time I am a Cheyenne, and want to do all I can for the welfare of my nation. If the chiefs and headmen refuse to comply with your demands, I want to know if I can come with my wife and children, (whom I love,) and place myself and them under your protection, and at the same time act as a runner between you and my people?

Colonel WYNKOOP. Should my demands not be complied with, you can bring your lodge and family here, and I will protect you.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, August 22, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit a letter of the 19th instant, from Agent Wynkoop, enclosing report of a talk which he had with Little Rock, a Cheyenne chief, whom he had sent to ascertain the facts relative to the recent Indian troubles on the Solomon and Saline rivers, in this State. The agent's letter and report are full, and explain themselves. I fully concur in the views expressed by the agent that the innocent Indians, who are trying to keep in good faith their treaty pledges, be protected in the manner indicated by him, while I earnestly recommend that the Indians who have committed these gross outrages be turned over to the military, and that they be severely punished. When I reflect that at the very time these Indians were making such loud professions of friendship at Larned, receiving their annuities, &c., they were then contemplating and planning this campaign, I can no longer have confidence in what they say or promise. War is surely upon us, and in view of the importance of the case, I earnestly recommend that Agent Wynkoop be furnished promptly with the views of the department, and that full instructions be given him for his future action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. C. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, September 23, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to send herewith an extract of a communication of September 19, received at this department from Lieutenant General Sherman, with the hope that the views expressed therein may be concurred in by the Department of the Interior.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
St. Louis, Missouri, September 19, 1868.

I now regard the Cheyennes and Arapahoes at war, and that it will be impossible for our troops to discriminate between the well-disposed and the warlike parts of these bands, unless an absolute separation be made. I prefer that the agents collect all of the former, and conduct them to their reservation within the Indian territory south of Kansas, there to be provided for under their treaty, say about old Fort Cobb.

I cannot consent to their being collected and held near Fort Larned. So long as Agent Wynkoop remains at Fort Larned, the vagabond part of the Indians will cluster about him for support and to beg of the military.

The vital part of their tribes are committing murders and robberies from Kansas to Colorado, and it is an excess of generosity on our part to be feeding and supplying the old, young, and feeble, whilst their young men are at war.

I do not pretend to say what should be done with these, but it will simplify our game of war, already complicated enough, by removing them well away from the field of operations.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Lieutenant General, Commanding.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, September 29, 1868.

SIR: I enclose herewith a copy of a letter from Lieutenant General Sherman relative to Indian affairs, and respectfully request that the wishes and suggestions therein contained may receive the favorable action of your department.

Your communication upon the same subject, received this morning, was referred to General Sherman for his recommendation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
St. Louis, Missouri, September 26, 1868.

GENERAL: I have now full reports from General Sheridan and General Hazen that demonstrate the importance of at once accomplishing certain measures heretofore referred to, which can only be done by the Secretary of the Interior.

General Hazen has arranged for the removal of the Kiowas and Comanches, not as yet involved in the war on the plains, to their reservation on the Canadian, and to provide for them there to the extent of his means, viz., \$50,000. The annuity goods for these Indians, Kiowas and Comanches, should be sent to Fort Cobb, and the Indian agent for these Indians should go there at once. And if the Secretary of the Interior has any contingent fund out of which he could provide food, or if he could use a part of the regular appropriation for food instead of clothing, it may keep these Indians from joining the hostile Cheyennes

and Arapahoes. The latter should receive nothing, and now that they are at open war, I propose to give them enough of it to satisfy them to their hearts' content, and General Sheridan will not relax his efforts till the winter will put them at our mercy. He reports that he can already account for about 70 dead Indians, and his forces are right in among these hostile Indians on the upper Republican, and on the head of the Canadian, south of Fort Dodge.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Lieutenant General.

General J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, September 30, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by reference from your department, of a communication from the honorable Secretary of War, dated the 29th instant, transmitting a copy of a letter from Lieutenant General Sherman relative to Indian affairs, and requesting that the wishes and suggestions therein contained may receive the favorable consideration of your department.

Steps will be taken, so far as this office is concerned, to comply with the suggestions and wishes of the Lieutenant General as regards the Kiowa and Comanche goods. Superintendent Murphy was telegraphed this morning relative to the health of Agent Boone, who has been ill for some time, with the view to ascertain whether he is able to proceed to Fort Cobb and take charge of his agency. If the agent is able to go, he will be instructed at once to do so; but if he is not able to assume the duties of his office, I will so advise your department when Superintendent Murphy's reply is received, with the recommendation that some suitable person be appointed, as special agent, to take charge of the Kiowas and Comanches until such time as the regular agent shall be able to do so.

In this connection, I would say that I am in receipt of a letter (copy enclosed) from M. S. Temple, esq., dated the 26th instant, relative to the route by which the goods in question should be transported. He suggests that they be taken to Fort Cobb *via* Fort Gibson. By reference to the map it will be noticed that this route is much longer than by the direct one, and consequently that the cost of transportation will be largely increased if the goods are taken by the Fort Gibson route. It is the opinion of this office that an escort will be necessary for the safe transportation and delivery of these goods, and that, if an escort can be furnished, they should be taken by the shortest practicable route from Lawrence to Fort Cobb. Another reason why an escort should accompany the goods and the person having charge of their delivery, is to see that the Indians deliver up all prisoners in their hands before the delivery of the goods is made. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that the Secretary of War be requested to telegraph Lieutenant General Sherman in regard to such escort, to ascertain if the same can be furnished.

As regards funds at the disposal of the department applicable to the purchase of food for said Indians, I would say that there is now on hand, as appears from the books of this office, under the head of appropriation "Fulfilling treaty with the Comanches, Kiowas, and Apaches of Arkansas—miscellaneous goods and provisions," a balance of \$21,311 71.

These funds were appropriated under the treaty of July 27, 1853, (Statutes at Large, vol. 10, pp. 10, 13,) with said Indians for purchase of goods, provisions, and agricultural implements. Also a balance of \$161 71, under the head of appropriation "Fulfilling treaty with the Comanches and Kiowas," (annuity,) appropriated to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior according to the terms of the treaty of October 18, 1865, (Statutes at Large, vol. 14, p. 717, &c.,) with said tribes. If in your opinion these balances are applicable to the purchase of provisions, I know of no reason why they cannot, to a certain extent, be used for that purpose. I would also say that there is yet on hand, of the appropriation of \$56,000 for the Apaches, Kiowas, and Comanches, made by Congress, under the treaties made by the Indian peace commission with said Indians, the sum of \$11,173 64. I do not know whether Commissioner Taylor, who has been purchasing goods for these tribes, has or has not made any purchases to be paid out of this balance. If he has not made any I know of no reason why, if the same is, in your opinion, applicable, such sum cannot also be used to purchase food for the Indians in question.

I return herewith the communication from the Secretary of War this day referred to this office by your department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. W. T. OTTO,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, September 21, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to send herewith a copy of a communication of September 17, received at this department from Lieutenant General Sherman, relative to Indian affairs, and to request the removal of the agencies of Messrs. Wynkoop and Leavenworth as therein suggested. I will also thank you to communicate to this department your views generally on the subject of the Lieutenant General's letter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
St. Louis, Mo., September 17, 1868.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 15th; and I deem it proper to write by mail, even in advance of the receipt of the letter which your despatch promises.

All the Cheyennes and Arapahoes are now at war. Admitting that some of them have not done acts of murder, rape, &c., still they have not restrained those who have, nor have they on demand given up the criminals as they agreed to do. The treaty made at Medicine Lodge is therefore clearly broken by them, and the War Department should ask the concurrence of the Indian department, or invoke the superior orders of the President, against any goods whatever, even clothing, going to any part of the tribes named until this matter is settled. As military commander I have the right, unless restrained by superior orders, to

prevent the issue of any goods whatever to Indians outside of their reservations; and if the agency for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes be established at or near Old Fort Cobb, the agent should, if possible, be able to provide for and *feed* such as may go there of their own volition, or who may be driven there by our military movements.

I therefore request the Secretary of War to lay this letter before the honorable Secretary of the Interior, and urge on him the removal of the agencies of Colonels Wynkoop and Leavenworth to such points on the Canadian as may by him be deemed most eligible for the tribes named, as well as for the Kiowas and Comanches.

I have despatched General Hazen to the frontier, with a limited amount of money wherewith to aid the said agents to provide for the peaceful parts of those tribes this winter, whilst en route to, and after their arrival at, their new homes.

No better time could possibly be chosen than the present for destroying or humbling those bands that have so outrageously violated their treaties and begun a desolating war without one particle of provocation; and after a reasonable time given for the innocent to withdraw I will solicit an order from the President declaring all Indians who remain outside of their lawful reservations to be declared outlaws, and commanding all people, soldiers and citizens, to proceed against them as such. We have never heretofore been in a condition to adopt this course, because until now we could not clearly point out to these Indians where they may rightfully go to escape the consequences of the hostile acts of their fellows. The right to hunt buffaloes, secured by the treaties, could also be regulated so as to require all parties desiring to hunt to procure from the agent a permit, which permit should be endorsed by the commanding officer of the nearest military post; but I think, the treaty having been clearly violated by the Indians themselves, this hunting right is entirely lost to them, if we so declare it.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Lieutenant General.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, October 8, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that on my return from paying the Kaw Indians their annuity for 1868 I stopped at Lawrence, Kansas, for the purpose of making arrangements to store and insure the annuity goods for the Kiowas, Comanches, Apaches, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes, as directed in your telegram of the 22d ultimo. I found that all the goods for the above-named Indians had arrived at Lawrence, and I contracted for their storage with Rudd & Company at six cents per 100 pounds per month. I could effect only a temporary insurance on the goods for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, for the reason that I knew not their value. Please send me immediately the gross amount of the goods purchased and sent to Lawrence for the last two named tribes, and I will have them insured promptly.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. C. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., October 8, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith for your information a communication received by this office from Agent Wynkoop, of 7th instant, reporting the causes which, in his opinion, have led to the present war with the Indians of his agency, viz: the Cheyennes and Arapahoes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. E. MIX, *Acting Commissioner.*

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., October 7, 1868.

SIR: In accordance with your instructions I would respectfully submit the following report as to the causes which, in my opinion, have led to the present Indian war now existing with the Indians of my agency, viz: the Cheyennes and Arapahoes. The war undoubtedly could have been prevented had the government continued to keep up the supply of subsistence that had been furnished them during the spring and early summer. They had gradually got weaned from their old habits to that degree that they depended upon the provisions that were issued to them to sustain them; and consequently it was not necessary for them to scatter out in little bands all over the country for the purpose of finding game, therefore running a risk of coming into contact with white men, and also being subjected to temptation when hungry. But even after the supplies were stopped, had I been allowed to issue the arms and ammunition to them at the time promised, they still would have been contented, from the fact of their having the means to procure game; but the failure of the government to fulfil its promises in the latter respect naturally incensed some of the wilder spirits among them, and consequently the outrages committed upon the Saline river. Immediately upon hearing of the said outrages I was anxious to have the guilty punished, and by that means save those of the different tribes who did not deserve punishment; saw two of the principal Cheyennes, viz, Medicine Arrows and Little Rock, and demanded that they deliver up the perpetrators of the aforementioned outrages, which they promised positively should be done; but before sufficient time had elapsed for them to fulfil their promises the troops were in the field and the Indians in flight.

Even after the majority of the Cheyennes had been forced to take the war path in consequence of the bad acts of some of their nation, several bands of the Cheyennes and the whole Arapaho tribe could have been kept at peace had proper action been taken at the time; but now all of the Indians of the upper Arkansas are engaged in the struggle.

Undoubtedly this war would have been prevented had Congress made an appropriation for the purpose of continuing the supply of subsistence to these Indians, thus following the dictates of humanity and justice. The expenditure of a few thousands would have saved millions to the country; have saved hundreds of white men's lives; have saved the necessity of hunting down and destroying innocent Indians for the faults of the guilty; of driving into misery and starvation numbers of women and little children, not one of whom but now mourn some relative brutally murdered by *white men* at the horrible massacre of Sand creek, and who still suffer from the *loss* of their habitations and property wantonly

destroyed by Major General Hancock. Had each member of Congress seen what I have of the injustice practiced toward these Indians, they would imagine that there was not sufficient money in the United States treasury to appropriate for their benefit.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

E. W. WYNKOOP,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, November 25, 1868.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 22d ultimo, relative to the transportation of the annuity goods due the Kiowa, Comanche, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Apache Indians from Lawrence, Kansas, to Fort Cobb, I have the honor to inform you that on the 30th ultimo I addressed a letter to Agents Boone and Wynkoop, copy herewith, marked A; and on the same day I addressed a letter to J. H. Rudd, esq., government contractor for the transportation of Indian annuity goods, copy also enclosed, marked B.

The goods were promptly loaded and left Lawrence on the 7th instant, since which time I have received no information in relation to their progress.

On the 11th instant I addressed a letter to Lieutenant General Sherman on the subject of an escort for the goods from Arbuckle to Cobb—copy enclosed, marked C—and on the 23d instant I received a reply thereto, copy of which is also enclosed, marked D.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

A.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, October 30, 1868.

SIR: I herewith transmit for your information and government a copy of a letter of the 22d instant, from Hon. N. G. Taylor, Commissioner, relative to the transportation of the goods intended for the Indians of your agency, and the distribution of the same to them at some point in the vicinity of Fort Cobb.

I have this day, by letter, directed J. H. Rudd, esq., the regular contractor for transporting Indian annuity goods for 1868, to transport without delay to Fort Arbuckle, via Fort Gibson, all the goods intended for your Indians now in store at Lawrence, Kansas, (excepting arms and ammunition,) and on his arrival at Arbuckle to report to you; and that, should you desire to have these goods transported immediately to Fort Cobb, an escort would be furnished by the military to guard his train to the latter place.

I have to call your particular attention to that portion of the honorable Commissioner's letter relative to the conditions upon which these

goods should be distributed to your Indians, and urge upon you the importance of having these points clearly explained to your Indians before any goods are delivered to them; and while much must necessarily be left to your own discretion in the premises, yet it is confidently hoped you will be able to recover from your Indians all white captives held by them, and that such action will be had as to prevent a repetition of their raids into Texas in the future.

You will act in concert with General Hazen and render him all the assistance in your power, as heretofore directed in my letter of the 10th instant.

You will please report to this office, from time to time, all matters relative to Indian affairs that would be of interest to the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

A. G. BOONE, Esq.,
United States Agent, Fort Arbuckle, C. N.

E. W. WYNKOOP, Esq.,
United States Agent, Lawrence, Kansas.

B.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS.

SIR: In a letter of the 22d instant, from Hon. N. G. Taylor, Commissioner, I am directed to notify you, which I hereby do, to transport without delay all the goods belonging to the Kiowas, Comanches and Apaches, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, now in store at Lawrence, Kansas, to Fort Arbuckle via Fort Gibson, when you will report to Agents Wynkoop and Boone; and should either or both of these agents deem it proper to have the goods belonging to their respective Indians transported immediately to Fort Cobb, a military escort will be furnished your train between Arbuckle and Cobb.

In loading these goods into your wagons, you will take great care not to mix the goods marked Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches with those marked Cheyenne and Arapaho, and should there be any arms or ammunition among these goods, you will leave them in store at Lawrence, as it is not deemed advisable to give such articles of annuities to these Indians at the present time.

You will please report to this office from time to time what progress you are making, as well as any other information relative to Indian affairs that might be of interest to the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

J. H. RUDD, Esq.,
Contractor, &c., Lawrence, Kansas.

C.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, November 11, 1868.

GENERAL: I have the honor to inform you that, in a letter of the 22d ultimo from the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I was directed to order the goods for the Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches, and the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, then stored at Lawrence, Kansas, shipped to the vicinity of Fort Cobb, Indian territory, via Forts Gibson and Arbuckle, and that if after reaching Arbuckle an escort should be needed to take the train to Fort Cobb, upon application to you, such escort would be furnished.

Agents Wynkoop and Boone have been ordered to Fort Cobb, (copy of their instructions herewith,) and all the goods for the Indians above named (excepting arms and ammunition) left Lawrence on the 7th instant for Fort Arbuckle. (Copy of the contractor's instructions also herewith.)

In view of the fact that if the goods proceed further than Fort Arbuckle an escort will be required, I have respectfully to request that you issue the necessary order to have the escort furnished for the protection of the train from Arbuckle to its point of destination.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Lieutenant General SHERMAN,
Commanding Mil. Div. of the Missouri, St. Louis, Mo.

D.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
St. Louis, Missouri, November 14, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication addressed November 11, 1868, to Lieutenant General Sherman, requesting that if the annuity goods lately stored at Lawrence, Kansas, proceed further than Fort Arbuckle, an escort may be furnished for the train conveying them to Fort Cobb, the ultimate point of their destination.

In reply I have to state that your letter, with its enclosures, has been referred to General Sheridan, commanding the department of the Missouri, with the following endorsement, viz:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DISTRICT OF THE MISSOURI,
St. Louis, Missouri, November 14, 1868.

Respectfully forwarded to Major General P. H. Sheridan, commanding department of the Missouri, who will give the necessary orders for the proper storage of these goods at Fort Arbuckle, if necessary, and to provide escorts for the protection of the train from Fort Arbuckle to Fort Cobb, the ultimate point of destination, in whole or in detachments, as they may be called for by General Hazen.

By order of Lieutenant General Sherman:

W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

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

W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Colonel THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Atchison, Kansas.

FORT LARNED, KANSAS, *August 1, 1868.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I held a council to-day with the Arapahoes and Apache Indians, at which I explained to them why their arms and ammunition had been withheld; that the white settlers were now well armed and determined that no more raids should be made through their country by large bodies of Indians, and that while the whites were friendly and well-disposed towards the Indians, yet if they, the Indians, attempted another raid such as they recently made on the Kaw reservation, I feared themselves and the whites would have a fight, and that it would bring on war. I explained to them the desire of their Great Father to have his red children live at peace, not only with the whites, but among themselves, and that he had heard of the war now going on between the Osages and Kaws on one side, and the Cheyennes and Arapahoes on the other; and that he told me to say to them it was his desire that they should bury the hatchet and make peace.

Little Raven replied that Colonel Wynkoop and myself were present at Medicine Lodge creek when the Kaws began this trouble, and wished to know if he and his people were to blame; that he would not speak first, that he would leave it to the Cheyennes, and if they said make peace with the Osages and Kaws, he and his people were willing, and would join them in the peace; that he and his people were going up the Arkansas river to the Purgatoire, where he expected to join all the northern Arapahoes, and that no more trips would be made by his people into the settlements; that their hearts were good towards the whites, and they wish to remain at peace with them. He also inquired at what time the annuities due them the coming fall would be distributed among them.

I told him to consider well what I had said to him, and to consult and counsel with the Cheyennes in relation to making peace with the Indians; that their fall annuities would be given to them some time in October or November; that I would now give them their arms and ammunition; that I hoped they would use them for the sole purpose of securing food for themselves and their families, and that in no case would I ever hear of their using these arms against their white brethren.

Raven and the other chiefs then promised that these arms should never be used against the whites, and Agent Wynkoop then delivered to the Arapahoes 160 pistols, 80 Lancaster rifles, 12 kegs of powder, 1½ keg of lead, and 15,000 caps; and to the Apaches he gave 40 pistols, 20 Lancaster rifles, three kegs of powder, one-half keg of lead, and 5,000 caps, for which they seemed much pleased.

I leave to-morrow for Atchison. The Cheyennes are expected at this post in two days to receive their annuities. I have directed Agent Wynkoop to explain to them why their arms were retained; to issue them now, and to counsel with them relative to making peace with the Osages and Kaws, and to report the result of his labors.

I would have remained here to see the Cheyennes, did I deem it important to do so. From what I can learn there will be no trouble whatever with them. They will come here, get their annuities, and leave immediately to hunt buffalo. They are well and peaceably disposed towards the whites, and, unless some unlooked-for event should transpire to change their present feelings, they will keep their treaty pledges.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., November 30, 1868.

SIR: For your information I herewith transmit a copy of the reply of the honorable Secretary of War to department letter of the 23d instant, in relation to the apprehensions expressed of violence toward peaceful Indians by volunteer troops.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, November 25, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that your communication of the 23d instant, asking early and serious attention to copies of papers enclosed relative to Indian affairs on the plains and danger of violence to peaceful Indians by volunteer troops, has been referred to Lieutenant General Sherman, with instructions to take such action thereon as he may deem fit in the premises.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, *November 15, 1868.*

SIR: In view of the fact that Agents Boone and Wynkoop have left for the Indian country under instructions to congregate the Indians of their respective agencies at or in the vicinity of Fort Cobb, and that the annuity goods purchased for these Indians are also en route to the above-named fort, I am of the opinion that all the Kiowas, Comanches, Apaches, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes will quickly assemble at that place, and gladly avail themselves of the opportunity thus offered them to get out of the way of the military and obtain their annuities.

The agents have been instructed to distribute no annuities to any of their Indians unless they give up, without ransom, all white captives now held by them, and give satisfactory assurances that they will forever hereafter abandon their raiding into Texas; that they will agree to live on their reservations and not leave the same unless written permission is given to them by their agents, and to keep in good faith all their treaty pledges; all of which I feel confident they will agree to and promise.

But while these preparations for peace and promises of protection to these Indians are being carried out, a large army has been rapidly formed, and is now marching to and, as I am informed, surrounding Fort Cobb, travelling towards that point from Colorado, Fort Dodge, and New Mexico. Last week the regiment raised in this State left city under command of Governor Crawford, whose point of destination was the mouth of the Little Arkansas. I was informed yesterday that he stated he would march directly south to the Washita mountains.

In all these military movements I fancy I see another Sand Creek massacre. If these Indians are to be congregated at Fort Cobb or else-

where, under promises of protection, and then pounced upon by the military, it were far better that they had never been sent for or any such promises made them. It may be that I am mistaken as to the probable intention of the army now marching towards Fort Cobb, (and I hope I am,) but I deemed it my duty as a precautionary measure to advise you of these facts, and would respectfully request that you promptly call the attention of Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman to this subject, so that he may have time to adopt such measures as he may deem proper and most expedient to protect all Indians that may congregate at Fort Cobb and its vicinity.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, November 21, 1868.

SIR: I submit herewith for your information, and for such action as may seem proper to you, a copy of a letter from Superintendent Thomas Murphy, of date 15th instant, to this office.

In the same connection I would respectfully call your attention to a copy herewith of the first of a series of resolutions adopted at its last meeting at Chicago, by the Indian peace commission.

It is proper also to state that the plan acted upon by this department of inviting all friendly-disposed Indians of the tribes said to be hostile, to wit: Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas and Comanches, to rendezvous at and near old Fort Cobb, in the Indian country, and there to receive their annuities, and to be subsisted and protected pending the war, was presented to the commission at said meeting, and met the hearty approval of every member present.

In presenting this communication I must take occasion to say to you, that while I regard Lieutenant General Sherman and the gallant officers commanding under him utterly incapable of for one moment entertaining the disgraceful idea of perpetrating a massacre upon peaceful Indians invited to our protection, nevertheless, this department, as their lawful guardian, is bound to take every necessary precaution to shield the innocent and helpless against the fearful punishment now pursuing the actual criminals.

It is clear to my mind that comparatively few of the Indians now considered hostile were willing to engage in this war. We have reason to know that only a small number even of the 200, two or three of whom committed the first outrage which led to this war, approved of the atrocities perpetrated by their leaders. We know, moreover, that the chiefs, at the demand of Agent Wynkoop, agreed to deliver up for trial the ring-leaders—and I am satisfied the delivery was not effected on their part only from want of time—and that the larger part of all the tribes regarded and proclaimed hostile are really opposed to the war, and will seize the very first favorable opportunity to avail themselves of the protection we have offered the friendly.

The premises considered, I have to suggest that the honorable Secretary of the Interior take such precautionary measures as the facts may seem to demand to secure protection to such individuals of these tribes as may at any time seek it at the hands of the agents of the said tribes,

and to induce the military authorities to require of all officers and soldiers to be careful in their operations to distinguish between the hostile Indians and the friendly, and in all cases to prevent slaughter or cruel treatment of women and children.

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

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

[Telegram.]

ATCHISON, KANSAS, October 20, 1868.

Hon. CHAS. E. MIX, *Acting Commissioner :*

General Hazen writes, "Important that goods for Boone's Indians be sent out immediately." I request that this be done promptly.

THOS. MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, October 20, 1868.

THOS. MURPHY, Esq., *Superintendent Indian Affairs, Atchison, Kansas :*

Goods for Kiowas and Comanches will be forwarded when an escort can be furnished. The matter is now before the War Department. Can General Hazen furnish such escort?

N. G. TAYLOR, *Commissioner.*

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, October 8, 1868.

E. W. WYNKOOP, Esq., *U. S. Agent, 511 S. Thirteenth st., Philadelphia :*

I am directed by Commissioner Taylor to instruct you and Agent Boone to proceed forthwith to vicinity of Fort Cobb and assemble all the Indians of your agency, to keep them out of the war.

You will, therefore, proceed immediately to Lawrence and report to Superintendent Murphy for further instructions.

C. E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

[Telegram.]

ATCHISON, KANSAS, October 20, 1868.

N. G. TAYLOR, *Commissioner Indian Affairs :*

General Hazen has left for Fort Cobb. He cannot furnish escort.

THOS. MURPHY.

[Telegram.]

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, October 8, 1868.

Hon. CHARLES E. MIX, *Acting Commissioner Indian Affairs*:

Instruct Agent Boone and Agent Wynkoop to proceed forthwith to vicinity of Fort Cobb, Indian Territory, and assemble all the Indians of their charge to keep them out of the war. General Hazen will provide for their subsistence. I have despatched same to Superintendent Murphy.

N. G. TAYLOR, *Commissioner*.

[Telegram.]

ATCHISON, KANSAS, October 8, 1868.

Hon. CHARLES E. MIX, *Acting Commissioner*:

I am directed by Commissioner Taylor to send Agents Wynkoop and Boone immediately to Fort Cobb. Please order Wynkoop to proceed at once to Lawrence, Kansas, and report to me for instructions.

THOMAS MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, October 22, 1868.

SIR: I am in receipt of your telegram of the 21st instant, stating that no escort is necessary for the Kiowa and Comanche and the Arapaho and Cheyenne goods, now at Lawrence, until they reach Arbuckle, and wishing to know whether one can be furnished from that place to Fort Cobb.

In reply, I have to advise you that I am just in receipt of a communication from the honorable Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Secretary of War, under date of the 20th instant, together with a copy of a telegram from Lieutenant General Sherman, suggesting that Agents Wynkoop and Boone be sent to Fort Cobb with such articles of clothing as have been purchased and are now stored at Lawrence for the Indians of their respective agencies. The honorable Secretary also directs that the necessary instructions be issued to said agents to enable the department to comply with the suggestions of the Lieutenant General.

Lieutenant General Sherman says in his telegram:

I would like to have both the agents, Wynkoop and Boone, sent to Fort Cobb with such articles of clothing as are already bought and stored at Lawrence, Kansas, and such money as the Secretary of the Interior can spare them, to be used in taking care of all Indians who take refuge there, in good faith, to avoid the war. I would like them to be instructed to act in concert with, if not in subordination to, General Hazen, who is there with sufficient guard and considerable money. These goods should be hauled via Forts Gibson and Arbuckle, where escort is hardly needed, and the goods can be stored at Arbuckle, where there are public buildings, and taken to Fort Cobb, where there are no buildings, only as wanted. General Sheridan has reduced his posts to the minimum, having all his troops out in the field, and could not well spare escort across to Fort Cobb direct, but, on application, I will instruct him to guard and protect these goods from Gibson to Cobb. From Lawrence to Gibson the country is well settled, and no escort is necessary.

You will, therefore, direct the contractor for transporting these goods, J. H. Rudd, esq., to at once take the necessary steps to transport them to Arbuckle *via* Fort Gibson, and if it is deemed advisable and proper,

after arriving at Arbuckle, that the goods should be immediately forwarded to Fort Cobb, and that an escort will be necessary between those two places, you will request the Lieutenant General to order the requisite escort to meet the train at Arbuckle, in order that there may be no detention there, and accompany it to Fort Cobb.

You will also advise Agents Wynkoop and Boone of the action had in regard to these goods, and instruct them how they should be disposed of. It is the opinion of this office that none of the goods should be issued to the Indians until they give up any and all white captives they may have in their possession, and promise faithfully to stop their raids into Texas and remain upon their reservations: It is thought, however, as General Hazen is now in that country that he will compel the delivery of all captives, and it may, therefore, be advisable to allow Agents Wynkoop and Boone proper discretion in the matter.

The agents should be instructed, also, to act in concert with General Hazen, and to afford him all the assistance in their power to keep the Indians under their charge upon reservations and at peace, and to prevent them from raiding into Texas.

You will please report to this office your action in the premises, with such other information in regard to the matter as you may think will be of interest to the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner.

THOMAS MURPHY, Esq.,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Atchison, Kansas.

[Telegram.]

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, *October 21, 1868.*

Hon. CHAS. E. MIX, *Acting Commissioner :*

Wynkoop has not arrived. Boone leaves here to-day. No escort necessary for goods until they reach Arbuckle. Can escort be furnished from there to Cobb? If so, order goods to start promptly.

THOS. MURPHY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., October 21, 1868.

SIR: I transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated the 20th instant, from the Secretary of War, together with a copy of the telegram therein enclosed from Lieutenant General Sherman, suggesting that Indian Agents Wynkoop and Boone be sent to Fort Cobb with such articles of clothing as have been purchased, and are now stored at Lawrence, Kansas, for the Indians of their respective agencies.

You are hereby directed to issue to Agents Wynkoop and Boone the instructions necessary to enable this department to comply with the suggestions of Lieutenant General Sherman.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, October 20, 1868.

SIR: As a reply to your communication of the 19th instant, asking for an escort to accompany Indian Agent Boone to Fort Cobb, I have the honor to send herewith a copy of a telegram on the subject this day received from Lieutenant General Sherman.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

TELEGRAPH OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., October 20, 1868.

[By Telegraph from St. Louis, Missouri, October 20, 1868.]

General J. M. SCHOFIELD, *Secretary of War*:

I would like to have both the agents, Wynkoop and Boone, sent to Fort Cobb with such articles of clothing as are already bought and stored at Lawrence, Kansas, and such money as the Secretary of the Interior can spare them, to be used in taking care of all Indians who take refuge there in good faith to avoid the war. I would like them to be instructed to act in concert with, if not in subordination to, General Hazen, who is there with sufficient guard and considerable money. These goods should be hauled via Forts Gibson and Arbuckle, where escort is hardly needed, and the goods can be stored at Arbuckle, where there are public buildings, and taken to Fort Cobb.

There are no buildings only as wanted. General Sheridan has reduced his posts to a minimum, having all his troops out in the field, and could not well spare escort across to Fort Cobb direct, but on application I will instruct him to guard and protect these goods from Gibson to Cobb. From Lawrence to Gibson the country is well settled, and no escort is necessary.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Lieutenant General.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Atchison, Kansas, December 4, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to report my return, yesterday, from Paola, whither I had been to pay the fall annuities to Indians of the Osage River agency.

I found, in the public journals, General Sheridan's report of what he calls "the opening of the campaign against hostile Indians," the perusal of which made me sick at heart. Had these Indians been hostile, or had they been the warriors who committed the outrages upon the white settlers on the Solomon and Saline rivers in August last, or those who subsequently fought Colonel Forsyth and his 50 scouts, no one would rejoice over this victory more than myself. But who were the parties thus attacked and slaughtered by General Custer and his command? It was Black Kettle's band of Cheyennes. Black Kettle, one of the best and truest friends the whites have ever had among the Indians of the plains; hewho, in 1864, purchased with his own ponies the white women and children captured on the Blue and Platte rivers by the Dog soldiers of

the Cheyennes and by the Sioux, and freely delivered them up at Denver city to Colonel Chivington, who was at the time the military commandant at that place.

After this he was induced, under promises of protection for his people, to bring them into the vicinity of Fort Lyon, where they were soon afterwards pounced upon by the military led by Chivington, and cruelly and indiscriminately murdered.

Black Kettle escaped, but his people, in consequence of the step he had taken to induce them to come to the vicinity of the fort, refused to recognize him as their chief, and he thus remained in disfavor with them up to the time of the treaty of 1865, at which time, after explanations on the part of the commissioners, he was reinstated.

In 1867, when General Hancock burned the villages of peaceful Cheyennes and Sioux, Black Kettle used all his influence to prevent the Cheyennes from going to war to avenge this wrong, and so persistent were his efforts in this behalf that his life was threatened, and he had to steal away from them in the night, with his family and friends, and flee for safety to the lodges of the Arapahoes. In August, 1867, when I was sent out by the Indian peace commission, with instructions to assemble in the vicinity of Fort Larned all the friendly Indians belonging to the Kiowas, Comanches, Apaches, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes, with a view of using them to get into communication with the hostile Indians, Black Kettle was among the first to meet me at Fort Larned, cheerfully proffered me his assistance and protection, and from that day until the conclusion of the treaty of Medicine Lodge creek no man worked more assiduously than did he to bring to a successful termination the business then in hand, and no man, red or white, felt more happy than did he when his people had finally signed the treaty, by which they once more placed themselves upon friendly relations with the government. And when he ascertained that some of the young men of his tribe had committed the atrocities upon the Solomon and Saline in August last, I have been credibly informed that so great was his grief he tore his hair and his clothes, and naturally supposing that the whites would wreak their vengeance upon all Indians that might chance to fall in their way, and remembering the treachery that had once well nigh cost him his life, (I refer to the massacre at Sand creek,) he went south to avoid the impending troubles.

This same report says the family of Little Raven, of the Arapahoes, are among the prisoners, and that he too was engaged in the fight. When I recollect that this chief was one of those who met me at Fort Larned in September, 1867, furnished me with a guard of his young men from that post to Medicine Lodge creek, protected myself and the few white men with me while there, vigilantly watching over us both day and night, continually sending out his warriors as messengers to the hostile Indians, for the purpose of inducing them to abandon the war-path and come in and meet the commissioners; and firmly believing that Little Raven has not been engaged in the recent depredations, nor would have permitted any of his warriors to go upon the war-path could he have prevented it, I cannot but feel that the innocent parties have been made to suffer for the crimes of others.

It is likewise said in the report that Satanta came to the assistance of Black Kettle. I regret that he has been drawn into these difficulties. He is one of the most powerful chiefs among the Kiowas, and his influence for the last three years has been exerted in favor of peace.

Had it not been for him, in August last a desperate fight might have taken place at Fort Zarah between the Kiowas and the soldiers of that

post. (See my letter of the 22d August last, enclosing one from Agent Wynkoop, reporting the affair.)

Knowing these chiefs as I do, I feel satisfied that when all the facts pertaining to the late attack shall become known, it will be found that they, and the few lodges with them, composed that portion of their tribes who desired to remain at peace, and who were endeavoring to make their way to Fort Cobb for the purpose of placing themselves under the care of their agents on their new reservations. Judging from the map of the Indian country, this fight took place within some 60 or 70 miles of the latter post, and being so near it, confirms the fears I entertained, as expressed in my letter to you of the 15th ultimo, and will have the effect, I apprehend, of frightening away all those Indians who were expected to congregate in the vicinity of Fort Cobb, and of starting upon the war path many Indians who have been friendly disposed towards the government, thus costing the nation many valuable lives and millions of treasure.

Had Congress at its last session appropriated sufficient funds to continue the feeding of these Indians last June, I believe we could have kept them at peace, and that by this time they would have been quietly located on their new reservations, where we could control and manage them, gradually wean them from their wild and wandering life, and in doing which it would not have cost the government as much per year as it is now costing per month to fight them, and this course would have been far more humane and becoming a magnanimous and Christian nation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. MURPHY,

Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner, Washington, D. C.