

LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,
RETURNING

The Senate resolution of January 29, 1873, in relation to enlisting a company of Indian scouts to serve in prosecuting the Modoc Indian war.

FEBRUARY 10, 1873.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
February 6, 1873.

The Secretary of War has the honor to return to the Senate of the United States the resolution of the 29th ultimo, instructing him "to inquire into the expediency of enlisting a company of Indian scouts to serve in prosecuting the Modoc Indian war in Oregon," and to invite attention to the views of the General of the Army indorsed thereon, in which he concurs.

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
January 29, 1873.

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be, and hereby is, instructed to inquire into the expediency of enlisting a company of Indian scouts to serve in prosecuting the Modoc Indian war in Oregon.

Attest:

GEO. C. GORHAM,
Secretary.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., February 3, 1873.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War.

General Canby already has the authority to employ all the scouts and Indians that are deemed necessary in existing circumstances in his

department. I do not advise any further action, as experience demonstrates that Indian scouts ought not to be organized into companies, but used in small irregular bodies.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

[Second indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 3, 1873.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

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