

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING.

*In response to a resolution of the United States Senate, a letter from the Major-General commanding the Army, relative to implements of warfare supposed to be in the possession of the Indians in certain States.*

DECEMBER 6, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY;  
Washington, December 6, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate of the United States, as follows:

That the Secretary of War be directed to inform the Senate as to the possession of arms, ammunition, and implements of warfare by the Indians occupying the reservation in the States of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and also what steps, if any, are being taken for the disarmament of such Indians,

In response thereto, I respectfully transmit to the Senate a letter from the Major-General commanding the Army, dated the 3d inst., and copies of the official correspondence therein referred to and other communications.

There are much correspondence and many reports received since the disaffection among the Sioux which I have not inclosed, because so voluminous, but I have aimed to transmit not only everything directly relating to the subject of the resolution, but such other reports as had collateral bearing and would give the best information in the possession of this Department upon the situation up to the present time. It will be seen that the efforts of the military authorities have been exerted to divide and bring within the power of the troops by peaceable means as many of the disaffected as possible, and at the same time to make the best possible preparation to suppress an outbreak promptly if it should occur. It was plainly better policy to take steps that would make it possible to disarm the Indians at the proper time than to attempt this prematurely, when it could be only partially successful and would doubtless precipitate a serious outbreak.

Very respectfully,

REDFIELD PROCTOR,  
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, D C., December 3, 1890.*

SIR: In reply to the Senate resolution calling for information respecting the possession of arms, ammunition, and implements of warfare by the Sioux Indians, I have the honor to report that, from the concurrent testimony of Army officers and others familiar with the condition of the Sioux Indians, a considerable proportion of them are well armed and well supplied with ammunition.

The inclosed copies of official correspondence will show in general the measures that have been taken under the President's direction to prevent, if possible, an outbreak of the disaffected Indians, to protect the lives and property of the people in the surrounding country, and to be prepared to execute such measures as may hereafter be decided upon, with a view to security for the future against the recurrence of dangers like that now existing.

The forces quickly concentrated for that purpose proved sufficient to restore order in the vicinity of the Indian agencies and to reassure those who desired to remain at peace; while those apparently bent on hostilities, or at least in a state of rebellious defiance of the orders of the Government, have been separated from those more peaceably inclined.

A further concentration of troops, necessarily brought from distant stations and considered necessary to prepare for the execution of such measures as may be adopted for the final settlement of this trouble, will be completed within the next few days, and the necessary equipment, with transportation for service in the field, including the mounting of some of the regiments of infantry, will occupy not many days more.

In the mean time the subject is under consideration as to what measures should then be adopted to accomplish the important end in view, and the determination of that question must depend very largely upon the condition which may then exist.

It does not appear from all that has heretofore occurred that the Indians have had any deliberate purpose to commence hostilities against the whites. They have, so far as known, simply placed themselves in an attitude of defiance and determination not to submit to the requirements of the Government. Should they commence hostilities, there will be no room for doubt about the course to be pursued. If, on the contrary, they maintain their present attitude, and it remains for the War Department to determine the initial action, the question will not be so easy of solution.

Without attempting to suggest what action the President may finally consider it wise to take or what instructions he may give for the government of the troops, it may not be amiss to present for the consideration of the committee of the Senate, in answer to the present resolution, some points worthy of consideration in connection with the question of disarming the Indians.

The Indians do not, as a rule, keep in their personal possession the arms and ammunition designed for war service. These are concealed or "cached" in places which no white men have yet been able to find. To disarm them might, therefore, mean simply to deprive them of the few comparatively worthless arms found in their possession, leaving the others where the Indians can take possession of them at any time when they wish to use them.

It is also important to observe that there has never been much, if any, practical difficulty experienced by the Indians in purchasing from

traders in or near their own country all the arms and ammunition which they could by any means pay for, and that the Indian will make any sacrifice, however great, to procure such arms and ammunition when he desires them, giving, for example, a horse worth \$50 for a rifle worth \$5 or less.

These facts, it is suggested, make it manifest that there can be no practical disarmament of the Indians, except by making them actually prisoners of war and holding them under such restraint that it will be impossible for them to procure arms or ammunition. This would seem to require such change in the general policy heretofore followed in the treatment of the warlike tribes of Indians as would continue military control over those who may have been subdued until such control becomes manifestly no longer necessary; and this, it is suggested, may possibly be done by joint action between the War and Interior Departments in such manner as not to interfere with the measures of the Interior Department deemed best for the civilization and material welfare of the Indians.

In the measures heretofore adopted the duty of the Government to protect the friendly Indians, no less than the white settlers in their vicinity, has by no means been overlooked. Up to this time that has not been possible, because it would have so scattered the troops in guarding the various Indian villages as to have left them in an inefficient condition for operations against the hostile band, in case such action should become necessary. As soon as sufficient force is concentrated the friendly Indians can be fully protected. In the meantime they are properly cared for in the vicinity of the camps now occupied by the troops.

Major-General Miles, commanding the Division of the Missouri, is in immediate command of all the troops designated for service in that part of the country in the present emergency. This force will consist of thirteen regiments of infantry, four of which will be mounted; nearly five regiments of cavalry, and two batteries of artillery. Additional troops, though not very many, can be sent him, if the emergency should justify it, but it is hoped the present force will be sufficient to execute such orders as the President may give.

Very respectfully,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
*Major-General Commanding.*

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, October 31, 1890.*

COMMANDING GENERAL, DIVISION MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, Ill. :*

In view of the unsettled condition of the Sioux, as made known to the Interior Department, particularly at Fort Yates (Standing Rock), the President is desirous that either Major-General Miles or Brigadier-General Ruger should go to that region to personally gain information. Therefore the major-general commanding desires to ascertain the movements of General Miles and the date he will likely be through with his Indian Commission duties; also if he will return by the Northern Pacific so that he can go to Fort Yates. If not at an early date, then General Ruger should be informed to hold himself in readiness.

Upon receipt of this information instructions will be issued.

SAML. BECK,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
*Rosebud Agency, S. Dak., November 2, 1890.*

SIR: I deem it my duty to call the attention of the Department to the extremely disaffected and troublesome state of a portion of the Indians on this and other Sioux agencies.

The coming new order of things, as preached to this people during the past seven months, is the return to earth of their forefathers, the buffalo, elk, and all other game, the complete restoration of their ancient habits, customs, and power, and the annihilation of the white man. The movement, which some three weeks ago it was supposed had been completely abandoned, while not so openly indulged in, is continually gaining new adherents, and they are daily becoming more threatening and defiant of the authorities.

This latter phase of the case may in a measure be attributed to the scant supply of rations, to which my attention has been almost daily called by the Indians, and especially to the reduction in the quantity of beef, as compared to the issues of former years. They kill cows and oxen issued to them for breeding and working purposes, make no secret of doing so and openly defy arrest; they say that the cattle were issued to them by the "Great Father" and that it is their right to do as they please with them. This evil is increasing daily and if not checked there will be but very few of this class of stock left on the reservation by spring. During the past week it was reported to me that two Indians in the Red Leaf Camp on Black Pipe Creek had killed their cows for a feast at the "Ghost Dance." I sent a policeman to bring them in; they refused to come. The following day I sent two officers and eight policemen and they returned without the men, reporting that after they arrived at the camp they were surrounded by 75 or more Indians well armed and with plenty of ammunition, and they unanimously agree that an attempt to arrest the offenders would have resulted in death to the entire posse. On Friday I sent the chief of police with an interpreter to explain matters and endeavor to bring the men in. They positively refused to come, and the chief of police reports that the matter is beyond the control of the police. This is one case, which could be repeated indefinitely, by attempting the arrest of parties guilty of the same offense.

The religious excitement, aggravated by almost starvation, is bearing fruits, in this state of insubordination; Indians say they had better die fighting than to die a slow death of starvation, and as the new religion promises their return to earth at the coming of the millennium they have no great fear of death. To one not accustomed to Indians it is a hard matter to believe the confident assurance with which they look forward to the fulfillment of their prophet's promises. The time first set for the inauguration of the new era was next spring, but I am reliably informed that it has since and only lately been advanced to the new moon after the next one, or about December 11. The indications are unmistakable; these Indians have within the past three weeks traded horses and everything else they could trade for arms and ammunition, and all the cash they become possessed of is spent in the same way. One of the traders here reports that Indians within the last two days have come into his store and offered to sell receipts for wood delivered at the agency, and for which no funds are on hand to pay them, for one-third of their value *in cash*. When asked what urgent necessity there was for such sacrifice of receipts for less than their face value, they answered that they wanted the cash to buy ammunition. These are some of the signs of the times and strongly indicate the working of the Indian mind. To me there appears to be but one remedy (and all here agree with me), unless the old order of things (the Indians controlling the agency) is to be reestablished, and that is a sufficient force of troops to prevent the outbreak, which is imminent and which any one of a dozen unforeseen causes may precipitate.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. B. REYNOLDS,  
*Special United States Indian Agent,*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
*Washington, November 13, 1890.*

SIR: I transmit herewith communications of date November 7, 10, and 13 from the Secretary of the Interior accompanied by copies of letters from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and from the agents of the Indian Bureau at Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Cheyenne River Agencies, all relating to the disturbed conditions of the Indians at these stations, and relating incidents in which the authority and power of the agents and of the Indian police have been violently defied and set at naught. The situation seems to me to be serious. The authority and discipline of the agents must be maintained, and adequate and early steps taken to prevent any outbreak

may put in peril the lives and homes of the settlers in the adjacent States. You will therefore, assume the direction and responsibility for such steps as may be necessary to these ends. You will see that the troops whose services will be in requisition in case of an outbreak are in a state of quick readiness to take and remain in the field, and that any movement is supported by a body of troops sufficiently large to be impressive, and, in case of resistance, quickly and thoroughly efficient. I have directed the Secretary of the Interior to advise his agents to use their influence to separate the well-disposed from the ill-disposed Indians, and while using their best endeavors to preserve discipline, to avoid an outbreak until the War Department had made its necessary preparations.

Very respectfully, yours,

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

BENJ. HARRISON.

[First indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, November 14, 1890.

Respectfully referred, with the accompanying papers, to the Major-General Commanding the Army, who will take cognizance of the situation and see that the will of the President is carried out. He will please to keep this office informed concerning the situation and movements.

L. A. GRANT,  
*Acting Secretary of War.*

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, November 15, 1890.

By the Major-General Commanding to the Adjutant-General for the files of his office.

Copies of these papers were sent by the mail of last evening (14th) to the major-general commanding Division of the Missouri, with instructions as per copy of indorsement herewith.

A copy of the telegram of the 13th, as referred to in the indorsement, is also herewith.

THOMAS M. VINCENT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, November 14, 1890.

Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, commanding Division of the Missouri, for his information, and in connection with the telegram of the 13th instant, calling for his views on this subject.

Pending the receipt of his report and further instructions from these headquarters, General Miles will take such action as, in his judgment, may be necessary in view of the existing situation, the object being first to prevent an outbreak on the part of the Indians which shall endanger the lives and property of the people in the neighboring country, and second to bring to bear upon the disaffected Indians such military force as will compel prompt submission to the authority of the Government; the arrest of such of the leaders as may be necessary to insure peaceful conduct of the tribes, and such other measures as may hereafter be necessary to prevent the occurrence of like difficulties.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
*Major-General, Commanding.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, November 15, 1890.

SIR: For your information and such action as may be deemed proper, I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 14th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying communication from the United States Indian agent at the Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak., stating that the excitement among the Sioux and their indulgence in the "ghost dance" are increasing and that they are selling their cattle and buying Winchester rifles; that the police are powerless and can do nothing, no offenders can be punished, and the Indians do as they please.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

GEO. CHANDLER,  
*Acting Secretary.*



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, November 14, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose, herewith, a copy of a report of the 10th instant from P. P. Palmer, United States Indian agent at the Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak., stating that the excitement among the Sioux Indians and their indulgence in the ghost dance is increasing; that they are selling their cattle and buying Winchester rifles; that the police are powerless and can do nothing, no offenses can be punished, and the Indians do as they please. He also states that he has been reliably informed that Sitting Bull's band on Standing Rock Agency are preparing for an outbreak, and that there is no doubt that all the hostile Indians at all the dancing camps are preparing to defy the authority of the Department.

I respectfully recommend that the information contained in this report be furnished to the War Department to be communicated to the officer who, under the direction of the President, has been directed to examine into the situation among the Sioux Indians, and for such other action as the War Department may deem proper to take upon the information furnished.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. V. BELT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
Cheyenne River Agency, S. Dak., November 10, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to report the ghost dance still in progress, and increasing rather than diminishing. Indians come from other agencies at will and go from this to other agencies. The police have no longer any control of these dancers. There has been hopes of checking a farther spread of the craze by persuasive means and good counsel, but when told that the Department is displeased with their actions, these dancers sullenly answer the Indian is displeased with the Department and will dance. About four hundred Indians were dancing at the camp on Cherry Creek on November 7, and would not allow any of the police to go near them, nor would they allow any whites near the camp.

Rev. Ashley, who has been a missionary among the Sioux Indians for many years, and who speaks the Sioux language well, went out to talk with the dancing Indians on the 7th instant, but was not allowed to go near their camp. He reports quite a number of Christian Indians among the dancers; reports have been received here from what seems to be a reliable source that Sitting Bull's band on Standing Rock Agency are preparing for an outbreak, and there is no doubt now that the hostile Indians at all the dancing camps are preparing to defy the authority of the Department. Captain Hennisee, in command of Eighth Cavalry, in a recent communication stated that the Indians have sold some cattle and attempted to sell more, but were prevented by him from doing so. He reported the name of one white man who had bought cattle from Indians. This man was promptly notified that the Department would hold every person to a strict accountability for any violation of the rules. Reported here that the Indians are using all their available means for the purchase of rifles and ammunition. Now if these rifles could be taken away from these hostile Indians all further trouble would be managed by the Indian police, but as long as Winchesters are among these ghost-excited Indians the police are powerless and can do nothing. No offenses can be punished, and the Indians do as they please.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PERAIN P. PALMER,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

Hon. J. T. MORGAN,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, November 15, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, repeating a telegram from Agent D. F. Royer of the Pine Ridge Agency, S. Dak., of this date, reporting a most threatening condition of affairs at that agency.

In view of the fact that the President has directed you to assume a military responsibility for the suppression of any threatened outbreak among the Sioux Indians, I forward the letter of the Commissioner for such action as you may deem the information it contains requires by your Department and the military authorities.

GEO. CHANDLER,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, November 15, 1890

SIR: I have the honor to inclose you herewith a telegram just received from Agent Boyer, Pine Ridge, S. Dak., Agency, as follows, to wit:

"PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S. DAK., November 15, 1890.  
"COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
"Washington, D. C.:

"Indians are dancing in the snow and are wild and crazy. I have fully informed you that employes and Government property at this agency have no protection and are at the mercy of these dancers. Why delay by further investigation? We need protection and we need it now. The leaders should be arrested and confined in some military post until the matter is quieted, and this should be done at once."

I have the honor to recommend that the War Department be put in possession of this information in order that they may take whatever steps are necessary for the protection of life and property at this agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. V. BELT,  
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
Chicago, Ill., November 17, 1890.

COMMANDING GENERAL, DEPARTMENT DAKOTA, St. Paul, Minn.:

Many reports have been received that the Indians are buying arms and ammunition. Every measure should be taken to suppress this and for the arrest and punishment of the men who are engaged in such business.

By command of Major-General Miles.

R. WILLIAMS,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Similar telegram to commanding general Department of Platte.)

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, D. C., November 19, 1890.

Major-General MILES,

Commanding Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.:

Your two telegrams to the Adjutant-General, of November 17 and 18, are now before me. I approve of the measures you have taken in sending troops to the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Agencies, and also of your proposed efforts while giving necessary protection to the agencies and restraining, as far as possible, the turbulent Indians, to avoid, if possible, an outbreak or any active hostilities for the present, until the advancing season and further preparations shall make the operation of the troops more surely effective, with less danger to surrounding settlements.

The cavalry and artillery at Fort Riley and all other available troops will be placed under your orders, if the emergency seems to require it.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
Major-General, Commanding.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
Fort Peck Agency, Mont., November 21, 1890.

SIR: In regard to the "Messiah craze" that is exciting the Indians on the various reservations, I have the honor to make the following observations in regard to the matter at this agency.

The Indians here have a strong and abiding faith in this scheme as it is propounded at other agencies, to wit: The coming of a Messiah in the spring, the resurrection of their dead brethren, the return of buffalo and other game, and the destruction of the whites. The belief has as yet produced no special excitement, and there will not be

trouble here unless the Indians at other places should first begin it. In that case it is difficult to say what might happen here. The number of fighting men here is about 600 as near as I can find out.

It has been said that these people have only a few guns and but little ammunition, that game has disappeared, and therefore they could not go to war. This is not true, as I have investigated the arms and ammunition question very carefully in the last few days and find they are better armed, have more ammunition and better equipments than they ever had before. The disappearance of game cuts no figure in case they should become hostile, as the country abounds in domestic animals, affording them more certain means of subsistence than the buffalo ever did. Then we are so near the "international boundary line" that in case of defeat they have an almost sure and safe retreat. Camp Poplar River is located one half mile from the agency and consists of two companies of infantry. There are also about fifty civilians here with this force; in any case I think we could protect the agency and Government property here.

In case of continued and further excitement, I would suggest that arms and ammunition be procured from the War Department and sent to the agency, to be used in case of necessity.

The Indians are and have been manifesting a great desire to purchase cartridges from the post trader at Camp Poplar River. He will not sell without an order from me; yet they apply to him and endeavor by all means to obtain the same without an order. They can obtain all they want just off the reserve. While I do not regard the situation as serious yet, I think the case calls for the utmost vigilance and precaution.

Very respectfully,

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

C. R. A. SCOBEE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

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[Telegram.]

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, November 22, 1890.*

COMMANDING GENERAL, DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
*Chicago, Ill.:*

The Secretary of War having approved the recommendation of the Major General Commanding, that authority be given for the enlistment of 500 additional Indian scouts in your division, the Major-General Commanding directs that you cause to be immediately enlisted not to exceed 500 Indian scouts from among loyal and friendly Sioux, this force to be organized as cavalry to act in conjunction with regular cavalry in support of the Indian police for the preservation of order on the Sioux Reservation. Great care should be taken in selecting the Indians; only those known to be loyal and friendly should be enlisted.

Acknowledge receipt.

C. MCKEEVER,  
*Acting Adjutant-General.*

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[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, D. C., November 24, 1890.*

Major-General MILES,  
*Commanding Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.:*

In my judgment the ghost dancers should not be disturbed for the present, nor anything be done to precipitate a conflict. When all your troops are concentrated and ready for action we can judge better of the measures that may be necessary and advisable. The troops should all be prepared for a winter campaign and encamped at convenient points near the scene of action, where they will best serve to deter the disaffected Indians from commencing hostilities.

Troops sent to you from distant stations can not bring with them all the transportation which may be required in the field. You will take the necessary steps through your staff officers to obtain the full equipment needed for your troops, by contract or otherwise.

This in reply to your telegrams of the 22d and 23d.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
*Major-General Commanding.*



[Telegram—Official business.]

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
Chicago, Ill., November 25, 1890.ADJUTANT-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,  
Washington, D. C. :

Colonel Heyl, inspector-general of the division, telegraphs from St. Paul as follows:

"General Ruger has no knowledge of Young Bull's leaving Devil's Lake. Indians at Fort Peck Agency have four hundred Winchester rifles and sixty rounds of ammunition for each buck. Indians have been gathering and selling bones for cartridges. Glasgow, Mont., is the trading point where they can purchase what they want."

MILES,  
Major-General, Commanding.

[Telegram.]

PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S. DAK., via RUSHVILLE, November 26, 1890.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL, DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
Chicago, Ill. :

In reply to your telegram of the 25th instant, I would respectfully state that in my opinion the proper disposition to be made of the disaffected element, in order to prevent an outbreak and prevent a similar condition of affairs in the future, would be to disarm all the Indians and take away of those at this agency some sixty to seventy Indians who are leaders of the disaffected element and generally disturbers. This covers the ground as fully as I can state.

JOHN R. BROOKE,  
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Official:

R. WILLIAMS,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
St. Paul, Minn., November 26, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the letter from the President, dated October 31 last, addressed to the Secretary of War, directing, among other things, that a personal investigation be made by either the division or the department commander into the actual condition of things among the Sioux, and that he make an early report of his observations and any recommendations he may have to submit, which, with other papers, was referred to me for action by indorsement of November 7 instant. All the papers are herewith returned.

I made reports by telegraph November 13 and 16 from Mandan, N. Dak., and from Pierre, S. Dak., of the condition, essentially, of the state of affairs at those dates on the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River reservations respectively, of which copies are forwarded herewith. The state of case as to each reservation has not since essentially changed, but the excitement on the Standing Rock reservation has somewhat abated. The proportion actively affected is about one-fourth—men, women, and children, included by families—nearly all of whom belong to the Uncapapa band. There has not, I think, been a time since the excitement began that the agent could not (certainly with a slight show of military force to support his Indian police) have made arrests by the latter for any disregard of his orders or the regulations by individual Indians.

On the Cheyenne River Reservation there appears, by the latest report, to be somewhat less excitement relative to the ghost dances; the number affected by the excitement remains about the same as at the date of my telegram, November 16, comprising in all, by families, about one-third of the Indians on the reservation, nearly all of whom belong to the Minneconjou band. The Indian agent would not, I think, by means of his Indian police alone, be able to arrest any of those actively engaged in the dances or in sympathy therewith, provided it was supposed the arrests were attempted for reasons relating to the dances or disregard of the agent's orders to individuals prominent in inducing or keeping up the excitement. The most unfavorable condition on this reservation is the inability of the agent to enforce his authority and the disregard of his orders relative to the dancing.

On both reservations, as might be expected, those most affected are the Indians who have been opposed most to the policy of the Government for the settlement of the Indians and the disposing of any part of the reservation—those, in general, who

have been always discontented. There was no evidence direct, nor fact from which inference might be drawn, that there was an intent by the Indians concerned in the dances on either reservation to become "hostile," but the opinion of the best and most intelligent Indians was, if the matter should be allowed to go on without check, that trouble would come; also that those concerned in *originating* the excitement should be arrested.

The view of the better Indians is undoubtedly correct, for although the excitement would probably die down after a time, no outbreak occurring, the disaffected leaders, ambitious to gain following, would revive it from time to time, gain strength, and effect an organization comprising Indians on all of the reservations, which would necessarily lead to hostilities.

With respect to the action required to suppress the present state and prevent a recurrence, reference is necessary to the ground reason of the excitement and the facts of its development.

Within a few years, comparatively, the whole manner of life and surroundings of the Sioux Indians have been changed by a violent wrench of fortune, whereby the individual has been deprived of his former liberty of coming and going at will and subjected to many irksome rules of the reservation, and the leaders have been deprived in great degree of their influence and authority. The greater part have accepted, and some of them in good spirit and purpose, the change, but a part, those now most disaffected, have not farther than they felt compelled. These were exactly in the condition of discontent and lack of hope in the future, from their point of view, although savages; in which, for all time, tribes as well as peoples are ready to welcome, if they do not look for, a Moses or Messiah to bring them to a better state; and the leaders, without whose impulsion to the excitement there would have been no strong resistance to the authority of the Indian agent, took advantage of the condition to try to regain control and influence.

In the development of the "craze," as it has been called, there have been modifications to suit the locality, the temper, and surroundings of Indians immediately concerned, and the objects of the leaders. As originally preached to the western tribes, the coming of this Indian Messiah—doubtful whether white man or Indian—was to be the beginning of a time of peace and good-will between the whites and Indians, and all good men were to be happy; but amongst the Sioux the teaching has been that the whites are to disappear and all good things to the Indians in accord with old ways and wishes are to come.

The proper course to be in the present instance taken, it seems to me, is, after the excitement has somewhat subsided, or at least during the winter after the weather becomes severe and there would be less probability of parties scattering from the reservations, that those Indians prominent on the different reservations who have been using their influence in the past to make trouble on the reservations, and who have been active in promoting the present excitement, shall be arrested and removed to a distance and kept there, at least until they could no longer influence others for harm; that a proper force be kept as long as may be needed near the Sioux agencies, where we have no garrisons, which shall, whenever necessary, support the authority of the agents, and that all Indians belonging to the Sioux reservations who may be found off the reservations without proper authority be arrested by the military and, if armed, their arms taken away and kept.

I think the course indicated, if followed, would restore the authority of the Indian agents, and that, the leaders in creating trouble being removed, there would be little probability of trouble hereafter from any cause similar to the present. Any Indians ambitious to gain following against the authority of the Indian agents could be easily arrested by the Indian police, whose power, under the direction of the agents, would be much strengthened by the removal of the present influential disaffected leaders.

The question occurs, of course, whether the Sioux Indians shall be disarmed, which I shall not be able to consider in the time remaining since receiving the dispatch of this date, saying the division commander desired my report forwarded by this evening's mail, in order that he might receive it before leaving for Washington. Such disarming, if done, could not properly be undertaken for some time, and I will write upon that subject hereafter.

In my telegram of the 16th instant, sent from Pierre, S. Dak., I stated that I would make further report upon my return to St. Paul, but since my return events have somewhat superseded subjects of inquiry, and my time has been necessarily occupied with business requiring immediate attention, connected with Indian matters,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. H. RUGER,  
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL, DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
Chicago, Ill.

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
Chicago, Ill., November 28, 1890.

SIR: In compliance with the letter of instructions of the President of October 31, referred to me with instructions of the Major-General Commanding the Army, I have the honor to report that I have fulfilled both requirements, namely, in making my own personal investigation, and also directing General Ruger, commanding Department of Dakota, to do the same, and forward herewith his report, also General Brooke's telegram on the same subject.

From a personal knowledge of all the principal tribes of Indians in the western country during the last twenty years, my observation and conclusions in brief are as follows:

Nearly all of the tribes have been subjugated at different times by the U. S. Army, and brought under the control of the General Government. They have subsequently been turned over to the charge of the civil agents, who are frequently changed, and often inexperienced, and in many cases some of the tribes have soon become rearmed and remounted, and not unfrequently dissatisfied with their condition, and ready for renewed hostilities.

The theory that the construction of railways, disappearance of the buffalo, and the scattered settlements over the western country has terminated Indian wars is erroneous and a dangerous delusion. We have had no less than nine Indian wars during the last sixteen years. The Indians can now live better upon domestic stock than they could formerly upon the buffalo, and the many horse ranches scattered over the great western country would furnish them remounts in almost every valley. The Apaches, Bannocks, Nez Percés, and other tribes have raided and subsisted entirely upon the property of the white people.

*There never has been a time when the Indians were as well armed and equipped for war as at present, and in my experience there never has been a time when the equipment of the troops for war was, in comparison to that of the Indians, as limited as at present.* The favorite arm of the Indians is a long-range repeating Winchester rifle. It would not be strange if the Indians, who have contended for every foot of ground from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in more than two hundred years of warfare, should make one final desperate effort in the death struggle of their race.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NELSON A. MILES,  
Major-General Commanding.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,  
Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, November 28, 1890.

COMMANDING GENERAL, DIVISION MISSOURI,  
Chicago:

The following is, by direction of the Major General Commanding, communicated in reply to your suggestions of the 24th instant, as to enlistment of Indians for service in present emergency:

The Secretary of War authorizes the enlistment, in your division, of not to exceed two troops of Indians for each of the cavalry regiments serving therein; also the enlistment of two companies of Indians for each of the infantry regiments serving in the vicinity of the Sioux and Cheyenne Reservations. The whole not to exceed twenty troops and companies of 60 enlisted men each, in all 1,200 men.

J. C. KELTON,  
Adjutant-General.

[Telegram.]

PORT YATES, N. DAK., (Received Washington, Nov. 28, 1890.)

COMMISSIONER INDIAN AFFAIRS:

Wm. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) has arrived here with commission from General Miles to arrest Sitting Bull. Such a step at present is unnecessary and unwise, as it will precipitate a fight which can be avoided. A few Indians still dancing, but does not mean mischief at present. I have matters well in hand; when proper time arrives can arrest Sitting Bull by Indian police without bloodshed. I ask attention to my letter of November 19.

Request General Miles's order to Cody be rescinded, and request immediate answer.  
McLAUGHLIN, Agent.

[Telegram.]

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
Washington, November 28, 1890.Major General MILES,  
Chicago, Ill.:

The President thinks any arrest of Sitting Bull or other Indian leaders should be deferred. If any order for arrests have been made you will suspend them for the present and communicate your views to the Department.

REDFIELD PROCTOR,  
Secretary of War.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, D. C., November 29, 1890.Major General MILES, or ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,  
Headquarters Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.:

Please inform me by telegraph of the facts as to the reported order to arrest Sitting Bull, which was referred to in the telegram to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs from Agent McLaughlin, of Fort Yates, and referred to in dispatch from the Secretary of War to you last evening; also please inform me what action, if any, has been taken respecting the arrest of disaffected Indians recently. It was not the President's intention to interfere with the military policy, but to prevent premature or inharmonious action. Give me any information of the situation received to-day. No dispatches have been received from your headquarters since yesterday.

Has General Miles started from Chicago, and, if so, when does he expect to arrive in Washington?

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
Major General, Commanding.

[Copy of telegram sent by General Miles Saturday, November 30—evening.]

COMMANDING OFFICER,  
Fort Yates, Dak.:

Cody's orders were to quietly carry out the letter of his instructions. If he or you secure the person of S. B. hold him. This will comply with the Secretary's wishes, and he authorizes this construction.

N. A. MILES,  
Major-General.WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington; December 1, 1890.

DEAR GENERAL MILES:

I take this opportunity, before you return to your command, to repeat to you more formally what the President said to you at the conference at the White House, and what has been his mind and his instruction to me from the first, as I said to you in our conference at St. Louis and here, and that is, that he looks to you to take every possible precaution to prevent an Indian outbreak and to suppress it promptly if it comes. He depends upon you for this; and everything in the way of men and material that in the opinion of the Major-General Commanding can be spared from other points will be supplied. He recognizes your success in the past in your dealings with the Indians, and has full confidence that the responsibility is placed in good hands.

In view of the previous correspondence and the reports that have been forwarded through you, all looking to the use of persuasive methods to bring in as many of the Indians as possible and to complete military preparations before any arrests were made, the President, when he learned through the Interior Department of the authority given to Colonel Cody to arrest Sitting Bull, and that the arrest in the opinion of the agent would precipitate hostilities, thought desirable to have you communicate your views as to the probability of an outbreak resulting and as to your preparation to promptly deal with it, before making the arrest. When in your opinion adequate preparations are complete and you think arrests should be made, he will not interfere, feeling that your judgment of these matters would be better than his.

Very truly, yours,

REDFIELD PROCTOR.

General NELSON A. MILES,  
Commanding Division of the Missouri, Ebbitt House, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, December 1, 1890.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in your communication of this date, that you be furnished with any instructions that are given Sioux Indian agents in view of the conversation had, I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication this day addressed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in relation to the matter. I have added my order as to rations.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, December 1, 1890.

SIR: You will convey to the several agents on duty among the Sioux the following order, which is hereby made:

"During the present Indian troubles you are instructed that while you shall continue all the business, and carry into effect the educational and other purposes of your agency, you will, as to all operations intended to suppress any outbreak by force, coöperate with and obey the orders of the military officer commanding on the reservation in your charge."

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, D. C., December 1, 1890.

Brigadier-General BROOKE,  
Commanding Department of the Platte,  
Pine Ridge Agency, S. Dak.?

By direction of the Secretary of War you will regard as prisoners of war all Indians you think it necessary under present circumstances to detain under your control, and as such furnish them with necessary food from the Army supplies in addition to that furnished them by the Interior Department.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, D. C., December 1, 1890.

SIR: I respectfully recommend that the Quartermaster-General be authorized and directed to purchase as many horses and mules as the funds at his disposal will enable him to purchase, for service in the Division of the Missouri, and that these horses and mules be purchased in the Sioux country, where they are to be used, and where they can be purchased, it is believed, at a much lower rate than the ordinary price paid for cavalry horses.

I also recommend that General Miles be authorized to employ 1,000 Indians with the same number of ponies for service as packers and teamsters in the Quartermaster's Department. The compensation should be \$13 per month and a ration for an Indian and his pony.

Very respectfully,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,  
Major-General, Commanding.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

[First indorsement.]

Approved:

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
December 1, 1890.

REDFIELD PROCTOR,  
Secretary of War.



[Telegram.]

CHICAGO, December 4, 1890.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL U. S. ARMY,  
Washington, D. C.:

The following received:

"As near as can be ascertained, 40 lodges have left Rosebud camp since they moved across White River to edge of Bad Lands. There are strong signs of disintegration. The Indians in the camps are about evenly divided. From all I can learn I think the majority desire to come in.

"JOHN R. BROOKE,  
"Brigadier-General, Commanding."  
NELSON A. MILES,  
Major-General, Commanding.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
December 4, 1890.

The following troops, in addition to those in the Division of the Missouri, have been ordered by the Major-General Commanding the Army to report to Major-General Miles, commanding Division of the Missouri, for duty:

Eight troops Seventh Cavalry, and two light batteries of artillery from Fort Riley, Kans.

Nine troops Sixth Cavalry, from Forts Wingate, Stanton, and Union, N. Mex., and Fort Lewis, Colo.

Seven companies First Infantry, from Angel Island and Benicia Barracks, Cal.

Four troops cavalry from Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

Eight companies Fifth Infantry, from Forts Bliss, Ringgold, Davis, and Hancock, Tex.; and

Seven companies Seventh Infantry, from Fort Logan, Colo., and Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

J. C. KELTON,  
Adjutant-General.

[Telegram.]

CHICAGO, December 5, 1890.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL U. S. ARMY,  
Washington, D. C.:

General Brooke reports one great cause of complaint on the part of Indians belonging to Rosebud Agency, and who are settled on Pass Creek, is that they were ordered to move east of the boundary, where they were assured they would not have to move. They now wish to be permitted to transfer to the Pine Ridge Agency, and the Indians of that agency have assented to their transfer. General Brooke believes that, if he can be authorized to give them the assurance that they would not be required to move, it would still further weaken and disintegrate the hostile element. I telegraphed him as follows:

"You are in full command there, and authorized to use your discretion to control those Indians to prevent outbreak or suppress one if hostilities should occur. When at Pine Ridge I thought their appeal to be attached to Pine Ridge Agency well founded. To them you will need to make no promises. You can assure the Indians this, that we have secured them increased rations, have secured occupation for a large number, and the military will be their friends as long as they obey orders, but are prepared to be their enemies if they commit crimes or defy the Government."

This dispatch was signed by the division commander as a military measure. General Brooke was authorized to make this transfer, and there will be no difficulty in making it permanent should it be found to be expedient in the future.

MILES,  
Major-General, Commanding.

## NUMBER OF INDIANS AT THE SIOUX AGENCIES.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Ordered to be printed in connection with Senate Ex. Doc. No. 2, Fifty-first Congress, second session.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, December 5, 1890.*

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*U. S. Senate:*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of a communication of this date from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying statement, showing the number of males eighteen years of age and over at the Sioux agencies.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, December 2, 1890.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

SIR: I have the honor to submit for your information the following copy of a letter dated at Pine Ridge Agency, S. Dak., November 28, 1890, addressed to this office and just received, from A. T. Lea, special United States Indian agent:

As there are many stories afloat and being transmitted to the Interior Department from this agency in regard to the present troubles, assigning as a cause the suffering of the Indians for want of food, I thought the Department would not consider it presumptuous upon my part to volunteer a brief statement of the facts as I have found them to exist in regard to their subsistence. In the first place, the Department is fully aware of the nature of my work, which takes me into each house and habitation occupied by the Indians, thus giving me a splendid opportunity to make observations, and I assure you I have not been slow to do so, especially as to how the Indians live and what they live upon. And I say now that I have to see the first family upon Pine Ridge Reservation that showed the least sign of suffering from want of food. In order to ascertain what they subsist upon and what they rely upon for subsistence, I ask the question: "What means of support have you besides your rations?" If the answer should be "None," I then ask: "Are the rations you draw from the Government sufficient for your subsistence?" and I have never had a family to complain and say "No." And not in the first single instance has an Indian, who is reliable and intelligent, complained to me of suffering among their people. It has only been a few weeks since one mixed-blood woman, having six in her family, told me that they had all the provisions that they could use, and that if the people generally would take care of their rations in a careful manner, as she did, they would really have more than they could use.

Now as to their habit of cooking and eating. When they get up in the morning, a pot is put over the fire, and filled with meat. As soon as it is cooked enough to eat, all who are present begin eating and never stop until so full that they can eat no longer. When the meat is cleaned out of the pot, it is refilled, and as often as they feel like it they eat. Every neighbor or friend who calls in has a large dish of meat set before he or she, which is invariably eaten. The coffee pot rarely gets cold. With their meat they invariably have bread of some kind. Those who are the most gluttonous in their natures, eat up their rations often a day or two before issue day, but they never go hungry. They know who the most provident are, and live off of them until ration day.

Now, when I know these facts so well, I assert that in my judgment hunger has nothing to do with the present trouble upon Pine Ridge Reservation. It looks to me, viewing the question in an impartial light, that the whole trouble has been brought on by the old bucks, who begin to become restless, partly from idleness, partly from a desire to regain their influence over the people, and partly from undue influence of designing whites, but largely from inexplicable causes (parenthetically, I might add, pure cussedness). The main leaders in the present trouble are men who have been recognized as "big chiefs" in days gone by, but not so recognized now. Yet they think they see in this movement an opportunity to regain their lost titles.

The Indians, half-breeds, and squaw men upon this reservation own many hundred head of cattle, which would be mercilessly slaughtered if hunger were the cause of the trouble. As it is, rarely a cow brute is slaughtered without the consent of the agent, and the animal killed proved to be incapable of reproduction."

Special Agent Lea was appointed for and is engaged under a provision in the act making appropriation for the Indian service, for the year ending June 30, 1890, which provides—

"That the Secretary of the Interior shall cause a census of the Sioux tribe of Indians to be carefully taken by a special agent to be appointed for such purpose, with a view of ascertaining how many of them are able to support themselves, and, in ascertaining this fact, their physical capacity to work the land owned or occupied by them, either individually or collectively, the value of the land, its nearness to market, and general productiveness shall be considered, and such other facts and circumstances as will aid Congress in determining how many of such Indians are capable of self support: *And provided further*, That the expenses incident to the taking of such census shall be paid from the money hereby appropriated." (25 Stats., 992.)

In the performance of the duty required of him under this law he is compelled to visit every habitation of whatever character it may be, occupied by any of the Indian families upon the reservation and to see every Indian. It was in pursuance of this work that the discovery was first made that rations were being issued to over two thousand Indians more than were actually present on the Rosebud Reservation.

Special Agent Lea has been engaged for some months past in the duties assigned him among the Indians of the Pine Ridge Agency. He has had special facilities and opportunities for observing and learning the exact condition of the Pine Ridge Sioux Indians, and I am satisfied that his report has not been made without a full knowledge of the facts stated by him and a clear conviction of duty that the department should be properly informed of their situation. I think he is better informed on this subject than the military officers, who only see the Indians as they are gathered in camps around the agency away from their homes, and his statements are entitled to the fullest weight and credit. They confirm the position that has heretofore been asserted by this office, that these Indians were not in a starving condition, though many of them suffer from hunger more from their improvident habits than from any lack of sufficient food.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. V. BELT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

Article 5 of the act of February 28, 1877 (19 Stats., 254), providing rations for the Sioux Indians, reads as follows:

In consideration of the foregoing cession of territory and rights, and upon full compliance with each and every obligation assumed by the said Indians, the United States does agree to provide all necessary aid to assist the said Indians in the work of civilization; to furnish to them schools and instruction in the mechanical and agricultural arts, as provided for by the treaty of 1868. Also to provide the said Indians with subsistence, consisting of a ration for each individual of a pound and a half of beef (or in lieu thereof one-half pound of bacon), one-half pound of flour, and one-half pound of corn, and for every one hundred rations 4 pounds of coffee, 8 pounds of sugar, and 3 pounds of beans, or in lieu of said articles the equivalent thereof, in the discretion of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Such rations, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be continued until the Indians are able to support themselves. Rations shall in all cases be issued to the head of each separate

amily, and whenever schools shall have been provided by the Government for said Indians, no rations shall be issued for children between the ages of six and fourteen years (the sick and infirm excepted), unless such children shall regularly attend school. Whenever the said Indians shall be located upon lands which are suitable for cultivation, rations shall be issued only to the persons and families of those who labor (the aged, sick, and infirm excepted), and as an incentive to industrious habits, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs may provide that such persons be furnished in payment for their labor such other necessary articles as are requisite for civilized life. The Government will aid said Indians, as far as possible, in finding a market for their surplus productions and in finding employment, and will purchase such surplus, as far as may be required, for supplying food to those Indians, parties to this agreement, who are unable to sustain themselves, and will also employ Indians, so far as practicable, in the performance of Government work upon their reservations.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, December 4, 1890.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 1st instant, in regard to the importance, owing to the recent seasons of drought and from a military point of view especially, that for the present, the Sioux Indians be allowed the rations prescribed in the agreement of February 28, 1877 (U. S. Stats. 19, p. 254), and in compliance with the instructions contained therein, I addressed a telegram to each of the agents of the following named agencies, viz: Cheyenne River, S. Dak.; Standing Rock, N. Dak.; Pine Ridge, S. Dak.; Rosebud, S. Dak.; and Crow Creek and Lower Brulé, S. Dak., of which the following is a copy:

By direction of the Secretary, owing to recent serious droughts, and from a military point of view especially, Sioux Indians for present will be allowed ration prescribed in article 5, agreement of 1877, and you are hereby directed to make issues of rations according to terms and conditions of that agreement, from quantities of supplies already furnished for the current fiscal year. Make immediate estimates showing deficiency required to issue prescribed ration to end of fiscal year, so that Congress may be asked to appropriate necessary funds therefor.

And I have addressed a letter to each, of which I transmit a copy herewith for your information.

In reply to your inquiry as to "the present amount of supplies being given to each Indian and what the increase will be, specifying the kind of additional food furnished," I submit the following statement:

*Statement showing the quantity of subsistence supplies on hand at the beginning of this fiscal year, and purchased since that time under contract or in open market for the Indians of the following named agencies; the per capita allowance; the quantity called for by the agreement of 1877, and the deficiency:*

PINE RIDGE, S. DAK.

	On hand July 1, 1890.	Purchases for fiscal year 1891.	Total.	Amounts called for by agree- ment.	Defi- ciency.	Present per capita ration (gross).
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
Beef .....		4,890,000	6,033,804	5,941,500		3.04
Bacon .....	36,634	154,000				
Flour .....	14,719	815,300	830,019	990,250	160,231	.42
Coffee .....	146	74,000	74,146	79,220	5,074	.037
Sugar .....		116,400	116,400	158,440	42,040	.057
Corn .....	11,709	200,000	211,709	990,250	778,541	.16
Beans .....	11,151	56,000	67,151	59,415		.034

Statement showing the quantity of subsistence supplies on hand at the beginning of this fiscal year, etc.—Continued.

## ROSEBUD, S. DAK.

	On hand July 1, 1890.	Purchases for fiscal year 1891.	Total.	Amounts called for by agree- ment.	Defi- ciency.	Present per capita ration (gross).
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
Beef .....	4,487,900	4,487,900	6,512,024	5,852,775		3.330
Bacon .....	187,354	150,000				
Flour .....	69,896	720,000	789,896	975,462	185,566	.400
Coffee .....	18,805	60,175	78,980	78,037		.040
Sugar .....	9,696	115,000	124,696	158,074	31,378	.063
Corn .....	4,085		4,085	975,462	971,377	.002
Beans .....	31,543	75,000	106,543	58,528		.054

## STANDING ROCK, N. DAK.

Beef .....	167,120	3,946,200	4,952,126	4,489,500		3.300
Bacon .....	17,378	122,417				
Flour .....	8,626	552,900	561,526	748,250	186,724	.370
Coffee .....	1,183	56,535	57,718	59,860	1,142	.039
Sugar .....	6,672	107,111	113,783	119,720	5,937	.076
Corn .....		28,000	28,000	748,250	720,250	.018
Beans .....	5,130	13,500	18,630	44,895	26,265	.012

## CHEYENNE RIVER, S. DAK.

Beef .....	496	3,403,715	3,674,697	3,066,000		3.590
Bacon .....	10,051	35,030				
Flour .....	647	406,000	406,647	511,000	104,353	.400
Coffee .....	459	24,450	24,909	40,880	15,971	.024
Sugar .....	11	42,000	42,011	81,760	39,749	.041
Corn .....	1,141	30,000	31,141	511,000	479,859	.630
Beans .....	5,753	27,500	33,253	30,660		.032

## CROW CREEK AND LOWER BRULÉ, S. DAK.

Beef .....	197,337	1,955,487	2,581,816	2,272,125		3.40
Bacon .....	10,102	61,400				
Flour .....	87,181	298,000	385,181	378,867		.500
Coffee .....	2,247	27,200	29,447	30,295	848	.038
Sugar .....		45,000	45,000	60,590	15,590	.059
Corn .....	26,325	60,000	86,325	378,687	292,362	.110
Beans .....	2,963	16,000	18,963	22,721	3,758	.025

## RECAPITULATION.

[Quantities of additional supplies necessary to be purchased to make issue of full ration as per agreement of 1877.]

Agency.	Beef or bacon.	Flour.	Coffee.	Sugar.	Corn.	Beans.
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
Pine Ridge .....		160,231	5,074	42,040	778,541	
Rosebud .....		185,566		31,378	971,377	
Standing Rock .....		186,724	1,142	5,937	720,250	26,265
Cheyenne River .....		104,353	15,971	39,749	479,859	
Crow Creek and Lower Brulé .....			848	15,590	292,362	3,758
Total .....		636,874	23,035	134,694	3,242,889	30,023



The cost of these additional quantities of supplies at this season of the year and in the locality required will not be less than here stated, viz:

Flour, 636,874 pounds, at \$3 .....	\$19,106.22
Coffee, 23,035 pounds, at 20 cents .....	4,607.00
Sugar, 134,694 pounds, at 8 cents .....	10,775.52
Corn, 3,242,389 pounds, at \$1.50 .....	48,635.83
Beans, 30,023 pounds, at 4 cents .....	1,200.92
Total .....	84,325.49

In arriving at the difference between quantity of subsistence for which provision has been made for these Indians and the ration as prescribed by the agreement of 1877, the beef has been calculated as of weight when received and put in herds upon the reservations at Pine Ridge and Rosebud Agencies. No allowance has been made for the considerable decrease in weight which will occur by cattle growing thinner because of scarcity and difficulty of range-feeding during the winter weather.

At the Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, and Lower Brulé Agencies cattle are delivered monthly as required and issued immediately. At Standing Rock Agency cattle are delivered as required up to October 1, then a seven months' supply is delivered, a large quantity of which is killed and frozen, and very little shrinkage occurs; then cattle for May and June are again delivered monthly as required, thus avoiding any shrinkage.

In addition to the above quantities, the shrinkage of beef delivered at Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Standing Rock Agencies in the fall (about 10,000,000 pounds) is estimated at 20 per cent., or 2,000,000 pounds, for the purchase of which, at \$3.25 per 100 pounds, the additional sum of \$65,000 is required, making a total of \$149,340.49 to supply the Sioux Indians with full rations according to agreement of February 28, 1877, up to June 30, 1891.

The statement herein made shows quantity of supplies available for subsisting these Indians during the current fiscal year, and differs from my report of November 25, 1890, in that it includes the quantities on hand July 1, 1890, whereas the former report only accounted for the quantities purchased during current fiscal year.

The agreement of February 28, 1877, provides—

"a ration of a pound and a half of beef (or in lieu thereof one-half pound of bacon), one-half pound of flour, and one-half pound of corn; and for every one hundred rations four pounds of coffee, eight pounds of sugar, and three pounds of beans, or in lieu of said articles the equivalent thereof, in the discretion of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs." \* \* \*

In the exercise of this discretion a considerable quantity of hard bread, hominy, pork, lard, rice, and tea were purchased for these agencies; but in preparing the foregoing statement it was considered sufficient for the purpose in view to add the quantities of pork and lard to the bacon, the rice and hominy to the beans, and the hard bread to the flour, and the tea to the coffee, first multiplying the number of pounds of tea by 3, as this is about the proportion of their respective ration value.

The addition of hominy and rice to the quantity of beans makes the quantity of the article appear greater than it actually should be, in some cases, to meet the requirements of the agreement; and as the agreement provides that one-half pound of bacon is equivalent to three times its weight in net beef, it is of course equal to six times its weight in

gross beef, and I have therefore multiplied the weight of bacon, pork and lard, furnished by 6 and added it to the weight of gross beef.

I do not submit the foregoing statement as absolutely showing the quantities issued, but as showing the quantities on hand at beginning of fiscal year contracted for and furnished, or to be furnished, under agreements heretofore made for subsisting these Indians during current fiscal year.

As soon as the agents of the agencies named forward the statements called for in office letter of 2d instant such further reports will be prepared and submitted to the Department as may be found necessary to make the information more complete and reliable.

The facts herein presented, however, are considered sufficiently reliable and complete to warrant preparation of necessary estimates to go to Congress, and if directed so to do they will be prepared and submitted at once, without waiting for the reports called for from the respective agents.

Respectfully,

R. V. BELT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, December 5, 1890.*

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*U. S. Senate.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 4th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in reply to Department instructions of 1st instant, directing that the Sioux Indians shall be, for the present, allowed the rations prescribed originally in article 5 of the agreement of February 28, 1877 (Stats., 19, p. 254), and calling for report as to the present amount of supplies being given to each Indian and what the increase will be, specifying the kind of additional food furnished.

The Commissioner's report shows that to comply with Department instructions the following articles must be purchased:

Flour, 636,874 pounds, at \$3 per cwt .....	\$19, 106. 22
Coffee, 23,035 pounds, at 20 cents per pound .....	4, 607. 00
Sugar, 134,694 pounds, at 8 cents per pound .....	10, 775. 52
Corn, 3,242,389 pounds, at \$1.50 per cwt .....	48, 635. 83
Beans, 300,23 pounds, at 4 cents per pound .....	1, 200. 92

84, 325. 49

and to provide sufficient beef to cover the shrinkage on deliveries at Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Standing Rock Agencies, 2,000,000 pounds must be purchased, at an estimated cost of \$3.25 per hundred pounds, making a total of \$149,340.49 required to supply the Sioux with full rations to June 30, 1891, according to the agreement above referred to.

I have this day directed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to prepare estimates in accordance with this statement for presentation to Congress.

The Sioux were promised by the Sioux Commissioners the rations provided by existing treaties, and without such assurances it would have been impossible to obtain their consent to the cession of their lands. The military authorities call attention to the reduction of the beef ration and the failure of crops, and urge that this should be corrected at once.

Under date of 2d instant I asked Congress to appropriate \$100,000

for the purchase of additional beef or other articles for issue to the Sioux Indians, in fulfillment of assurances made that additional rations would be provided because their rations were reduced on account of reduced appropriations for the fiscal year 1890.

In the correspondence accompanying this letter reference is made to the fact that the appropriations made for these Indians by Congress have been gradually decreasing since 1883, and the following statement shows this to be the case:

In 1884 there was appropriated.....	\$1,325,000
In 1885 there was appropriated.....	1,275,000
In 1886 there was appropriated.....	1,250,000
In 1887 there was appropriated.....	1,200,000
In 1888 there was appropriated.....	1,000,000
In 1889 there was appropriated.....	1,000,000
In 1890 there was appropriated.....	900,000
In 1891 there was appropriated.....	950,000

I have the honor to request that when the estimates hereby directed for additional supplies to these Indians for the current fiscal year reaches your committee it may receive your early and favorable consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington December 5, 1890.*

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*U. S. Senate.*

SIR: In connection with Department letter of this date relative to providing rations for the Sioux Indians in accordance with the provisions of the act of February 28, 1877 (19 Stats., 254), I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of a communication of 2d instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, containing a statement from Special Agent Lea relative to the condition of the Sioux Indians.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,  
*Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, December 2, 1890.*

J. GEORGE WRIGHT,  
*U. S. Indian Agent, Rosebud Agency, S. Dak.:*

SIR: Yesterday I sent you the following telegram:

By direction of Secretary, owing to recent serious droughts and from a military point of view especially, Sioux Indians for present will be allowed ration prescribed in article 5, agreement of 1877, you are hereby directed to make issues of rations according to terms and conditions of that agreement from quantities of supplies already purchased for the current fiscal year. Make immediate estimates showing deficiency required to issue prescribed ration to end of fiscal year so that Congress may be asked to appropriate necessary funds therefor. Letter by mail.

This order by the Secretary, while not qualified by conditions, except that the increased issues "shall be for the present," is not intended to

authorize or direct any wasteful or unnecessary issue of ration supplies to the Indians under your charge.

He does, however, intend that all actual distress by reason of hunger amongst the Indians of your agency shall be relieved by your issuing, if necessary, to the full extent the ration prescribed by article 5 of the agreement of February 28, 1877 (19 Stats., 254).

In carrying out the Department instructions you will issue from the supplies already on hand at your agency or to be delivered under existing contracts.

You will immediately prepare and forward to this office statements showing the following information :

First. Statement showing how long the supplies you have on hand, or yet to be delivered under existing contracts, will hold out to meet issues under the Secretary's instructions.

Second.—Statement showing the additional quantity and probable cost of each article of ration supply, or of articles desired in lieu thereof, the purchase of which will be required to make necessary issues to the end of the fiscal year, or for such portion thereof as may be necessary under the Secretary's directions of 1st instant.

Third.—Statement showing quantity of each article of food supplies issued as daily ration to each Indian under your charge for the period from July 1 to November 30, 1890.

This information is necessary to enable the Department to prepare and submit to Congress estimates of appropriations necessary for the purchase of the additional subsistence required, and as the Congress is now assembled, and the session a short one, it is of the utmost importance that your report, as required, be made at the earliest practicable moment.

Let there be no tardiness or delay about this matter on your part.

I will inclose a copy of the Secretary's letter of 1st instant that you may fully understand his wishes.

In preparing the statements above required, the fact should be fully considered that articles of subsistence, not specified in article five of the agreement referred to, have been purchased for and issued to the Indians under your charge. Those articles must be calculated as a part of the ration in lieu of the specified articles.

Respectfully,

R. V. BELT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, December 5, 1890.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR:

SIR: In compliance with your verbal request of even date, I have the honor to inclose herewith, in quadruplicate, a statement showing the number of male Indians eighteen years of age and over at the several Sioux agencies.

This statement is prepared from the census rolls received from the several agencies, except in the case of Rosebud Agency, in which latter case the number is estimated, taking as the basis of such estimate the percentage shown at the other agencies.

Very respectfully,

R. V. BELT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*

# ARMS IN POSSESSION OF CERTAIN INDIANS.

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*Number of Sioux Indians (males) eighteen years of age and over, at the following agencies :*

Cheyenne, S. Dak .....	739
Crow Creek, S. Dak .....	279
Lower Brule, S. Dak .....	289
Pine Ridge, S. Dak .....	1,386
Rosebud, S. Dak. (estimated) .....	1,400
Standing Rock, S. Dak .....	1,152
Total .....	<u>5,245</u>

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