

posed a transfer of the control of the Indians to the War department.

The following table shows the amount by which the estimates of the Indian Bureau have been reduced by Congress from and including 1879: 1879, \$105,000; 1880, \$55,000; 1881, \$15,000; 1882, \$25,000; 1883, \$275,000; 1884, \$275,000; 1885, \$275,000; 1886, \$875,000; 1887, \$200,000; 1888, \$100,000; 1889, no reduction; 1890, \$100,000; 1891, \$50,000.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. — General Schofield said: "It had been suggested by a person whom I cannot mention that it would be well to look into the matter of the fight at Wounded Knee Creek the other day, inasmuch as the reports stated that several Indian women and children were killed. Accordingly General Miles, at a suggestion from here, relieved Colonel Forsythe of his command pending an investigation of the circumstances of that fight, which investigation is probably now being conducted by General Miles. The general management of the fight is also to be looked into, but the particular point in question is the death of the women and children.

Considerable criticism against Col. Forsythe's suspension is heard in the War Department. It seems to be directed against the policy of relieving an officer during the progress of a campaign instead of waiting until after the trouble is settled. As to the charge that Col. Forsythe allowed his men to kill women and children, it is stated that it would be impossible in the hurry and confusion of the unexpected fight and subsequent stampede and pursuit to detect the sex of the Sioux. One officer remarked: "It is preposterous to say it is necessary in an Indian skirmish to stop firing long enough to find just what sort of an Indian you are shooting at. The women and men look very much alike in their blanket costume, and the former are quite as fierce fighters as the men. The Sioux squaw is as bad an enemy as the buck at times. Little boys, too, can shoot quite as well as their fathers, and what a spectacle it would be for a soldier, on seeing a 10-year-old pointing a loaded gun at him with as true an aim as the best marksman in the army to stop his advance and cry out: 'My son, you must drop that gun, for you are a minor, and I am not allowed to hurt you.'"

Another officer said: "At this rate the Sioux troubles will grow to be just as bad as the events of the first three years of the war, when every officer with an independent command had not only an enemy in front of him, but a court-martial behind him."

Still another officer said it was a grave error to order the relief of Col. Forsythe at this stage of the proceedings, and thus hold up a warning finger to every colonel in the little army around Pine Ridge to tell them that the death of each Sioux must be explained.

WASHINGTON, January 7. — The following correspondence, made public today, explains fully the position of the administration on the Indian question:

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 1890.

Secretary of War: — Sir: — I forward for your information a letter addressed to me by the Secretary of the Interior, under date of October 30th, accompanied by letters from the commissioner of Indian affairs, and of certain Indian agents, all relating to the apprehended trouble with

the Sioux Indians. This delusion as to the coming Indian Messiah and his return against the whites, seems to have taken a strong hold, not only upon the Sioux, but upon some of the other tribes, even as widely separated as Indian Territory. You will at once cause a personal investigation to be made by either a division or the department commander, into the actual condition of things among the Sioux, and direct him to make an early report of his observations and any recommendation he may have to submit. In the meantime you will see that all necessary precautions are taken to have the troops in that vicinity prepared to co-operate in the execution of any orders that may be adopted.

Very respectfully,  
BENJAMIN HARRISON.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13, 1890.

Secretary of War:

Sir: — I transmit herewith communications dated November 7th, 10th and 13th 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 and Cheyenne River Agencies, all relating to the disturbed condition of the Indians at these stations, and relating incidents in which the authority and power of the agents and 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 that may put in peril the lives and homes of the settlers of adjacent States. You will therefore assume direction and responsibility for such steps as may be necessary to these ends. You will see that troops, whose services will be in requisition in case of an outbreak, are in readiness to take and remain in the field; that any movement is supported by a body of troops sufficiently large to be impressive, and in case of resistance be 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 has made the necessary preparation.

(Signed) BENJAMIN HARRISON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 1890,

Commander of Indian Affairs:

Sir: — You will convey to the several agents among the Sioux the following order, which is hereby made during the present Indian troubles: You are instructed that, while you shall continue all 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, co-operate with and obey the orders of the military officers commanding in the reservation in your charge.

(Signed) JOHN W. NOBLE,  
Secretary.

General Schofield sent the following telegram to Miles, under yesterday's date:

"You are hereby authorized, under the existing orders of the President, to assign Captain Ewers, Fifth Infantry; Captain Lee, Ninth Infantry; Captain Earnest, Eighth Infantry, and Captain Pierce, First Infantry, to take charge of the Indians at the several Sioux and Cheyenne agencies, to exercise over them such military supervision and control as in your judgment is necessary, without interfering unnecessarily with the administration of the agents of the Indian

bureau, under regulations and instructions received by them from the Interior Department."

CHICAGO, Jan. 8. — Dispatches from Pocatello, Idaho, received here early this morning, say that the Indians are burning the town. Troops have been asked for from Boise City.

BOISE CITY, Jan. 8. — Advices from Pocatello state that the Indians on the Fort Hall reservation have been dancing and that two hundred in war paint have taken to the mountains with arms, causing a great excitement.

Governor Wiley has been asked to order the militia to Pocatello and, probably a company of United States cavalry at the Boise barracks will be sent there. The Indians on the reservation, number 1200 or 1400 Bannocks, who caused a prolonged war twelve years ago. The people at Pocatello have almost no arms and the towns of Blackfoot and Eagle Rock are on the border of the reserve. The Indians who took to the mountains are working eastward towards Wyoming. The belief is expressed that, if the Indians at Pocatello go on the war path, they will be joined by the tribes on the Lemhi reservation who number 500, embracing 125 able bodied bucks.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. — General Schofield this morning received the following telegram from General Miles, dated Pine Ridge Agency, January 8th: — Seventy Indians came in from the hostile camp today. The reports from them are that Red Cloud, Little Wound, Two Strike, Big Road and others will come in tomorrow.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7. — The *Herald's* Pine Ridge special says a courier has just come in from General Brookes' headquarters on Wounded Knee Creek with a dispatch for General Miles, to the effect that heavy firing is going on in the direction of the hostile camp. He believes some portion of the troops have engaged the rebellious Sioux. His forces are ready to move just as soon as it can be definitely learned where and what the fight is. Scouts have been sent out from here to get at the truth and all in excitement.

General Miles also received an official report that Lieutenant Edward Casey, Company H, Twenty-second Infantry, had been killed by hostiles. The unfortunate young officer had gone too near the hostile camp, when he was fired on and shot through the head. His body has been recovered.

Lieutenant Casey was born in California, but appointed to the Military Academy at West Point from Louisiana in 1869. On graduating in 1873 he was appointed as Second Lieutenant in the Twenty-second Infantry, and promoted to the first lieutenant in 1880. He served with his regiment in the departments of Texas, Dakota and Missouri, up to 1883, when he was made senior assistant instructor of infantry and artillery tactics at West Point, serving there a year. He was adjutant of his regiment from 1884 to 1887. He was regarded as one of the brightest young officers in the service.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 12. — A *Post Dispatch* special from the Pine Ridge Agency reads: General Miles determined this morning not to parley nor confer again with the Indians, and this morning he sent a messenger to the hostile camp at the mission, stat-