

- 43 -

discharge of the duty assigned him. In view of the fact that, as a commissioner on the part of the United States, he was a party to the treaty of 1868, by which the integrity of the reservation and the unceded Indian country was guaranteed to the Indians, with the undisturbed use and occupation of the same, it has seemed a cruel thing for his superiors to put him in the field to punish the Indians for exercising rights acquired under the treaty. As a good soldier, he must obey orders, there being no alternative other than resignation of his office. As to Gen. Crook, his reports overflow with charges and allegations against the agency Sioux. He said officially, on September 26, 1876, that, from the date of the treaty of 1868 to the present time, there had been no time that the settlers were free from depredations; that the Indians, without interruption, attacked persons at home, murdered and scalped them, stole their stock, and, in fact, violated every leading feature of their treaty. He said <sup>3/4</sup>that "the reservations, instead of being the abode of loyal Indians, holding the terms of the agreement sacred, have been nothing but nests of disloyalty to their treaties and the government, and scourges to the people whose misfortune it has been to be within their reach." When it is stated that Gen. Crook, from the date of the treaty with the Sioux, in 1868, until a brief period previous to the time he wrote the above, had been located on the Pacific coast and in Arizona, and hence personally ignorant of the condition, temper, and conduct of the agency Sioux, the reader will know what weight to give to such bold and reckless statements.

It is presumed that the war department was properly in-