

them the Black Hills, the best part on which it was possible to subsist themselves in winter. 3. That there were already more Sioux at the agencies than Congress had made appropriations for feeding there. 4. That it was impossible to convey this information to said Indians in time for them to comply with the orders. 5. That more than 100 miles of bleak, barren prairie lay between these Indians and the nearest agencies, and that it was impossible for women and children to cross this in winter without great suffering, and probable loss of life.

The Secretary of War and his subordinates were not slow in making arrangements to whip these Indians. His report to the President as to the origin of the war shows that he knew but little about them, and was entirely ignorant of our treaty relations with them. If some of the officers were better informed, they were bound to obey orders.

As soon as he could get ready, in February or March, General G. Crook, an officer of great experience, set out to Powder River Valley, and struck and destroyed, according to his report, the village of Crazy Horse.

Dr. J. W. Daniels, for many years Indian agent and inspector, and one of the commissioners who in 1876 obtained from the Indians the cession of the Black Hills, says this village was composed of friendly Indians from the Red Cloud Agency, who, owing to the scarcity of provisions there, had obtained permission to go on a buffalo hunt, and were returning loaded with meat and robes. Being surprised, they abandoned their baggage and fled for their lives. The baggage was destroyed and the horses captured. After the