

Canada

The R·H . Sir Edward Thornton, K.C.B.

Referring to the correspondence which has been exchanged between us in relation to the lately hostile Indians under the lead of SB., I have now the honor to bring to your attention the substance of recent information received through the responsible agents of the Dept. of the Interior, ~~six~~ and to invite earnest consideration of the ~~important~~ important points thereby suggested.

This Government has been informed that companies of hostile Indians from Sb camp have been and are scarrtere about, an groupd of lodges of varying numbers, throughoutthe entire northern part of the Indians Reservation having Fort Peck, on Poplar River, in Montana Territory, for its headquarters and agency. The peaceable resident Indians pf the Reservation havr daily come into the Agency, with bittercomplaints of the encroachment of SB's men on their special hunting grounds. They say that they find ~~xxxxxxx~~ Uncapapas from S B 's camp everywhere, driving and scattering the buffalo and other game and stealing their hor es and running them ovrr the boundary line, thus in every way diminishing the ability ofand opportunity of the Agency Indians to maintain themselves. There is every reason to believe that SB himself was so late as the 19th ultimo, withan the territory of the United States, and had been camped south pf the bd bonhdary line since Feb. last, and that practically all of his Indians had crossed to the southward of our northern boundary there being, as they claimedd, no game for their subsistence on the Canadian side. This statsof things baturally gives rise tothe disquietude, notwithstanding the late information, communicated to me by you in a recent conference, that SBa ~~at last~~ and his chief lodges of arriors were at last advices again on British Territory.

It is ~~therefore~~ true that these wandering movements of an ~~aggressive~~ irreconcilable and declaredly unfriendly Indian force from one side to the other of the frontier do not indicate any determinate purpose or any disposition even, on their part to abandon a residence under British protection, or to renew the state of warfare with the Government of the United States, whose active hostilities were only arrested by the refuge sought and afforded on the soil of a neighboring state. Yet the situation now existing on both sides of the border cannot but be regarded as one requiring the most urgent and careful attention of both governments, lest by uncertainty as to the precise scope and definition of their obligations toward each other, and decision in their treatment of the Indians domiciled within their jurisdiction undue and unnecessary difficulties may grow out of the present attitude of these tribes which have in the most formal manner possible to their savage state renounced their rights in one country and rejected terms of security, subsistence and peace, to seek and receive asylum and residence in the other.

Should these agratic movements continue, this Government may at any time moment be brought face to face with the necessity of suppressing the manauding operations of the hostile Indians ounder SB's lead, or weven of resorting to active ~~relaxians~~ military ~~relaxians~~ operations to repel open attacks on the lives and prosperity of its own people.

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