

p.134 cont'd.

By common consent among the chiefs, head men, and warriors of a band, soldiers are appointed on particular occasions, as in moving camp, or hunting the buffalo, to preserve order, and keep the band together; but this is only temporary, and nothing like a permanent institution of police law, or police officers, is known among the wild tribes.

I thought so highly of this stipulation in the convention of General Harney, that I immediately adopted it, on a very limited scale it is true, as the means placed at my disposal by the Indian department in the outfit of the Indian annuity goods was very scanty, being the clothing, about one hundred suits, without caps or swords, and an insufficient supply of guns, ammunition, and provisions, without seriously tranching upon the supply for the pressing wants of the hunters, the old men and women, and the young children.

However, by careful and studied arrangements, I succeeded in organizing, and keeping organized, a small body of Indian soldiers in each band, not exceeding one hundred men in the aggregate, by which I have been able to maintain order at the time of distributing the annuity goods, and prevent stealing and robbing from each other; kept the bands from committing robbery and depredations upon white people; and maintained during the year a degree of peace and order in the Indian camp, which satisfied and pleased the parties most nearly concerned.

These appointments are made for one year, and the Indian soldiers are constantly on duty.

I have the satisfaction of knowing, from daily experience and habitual intercourse, that this method of organization is highly popular among all the different bands of Indians within this agency. Even the most lawless of the Indians, and they are not few, praise the plan, and the soldiers of the Indian agent, and admit that it is good for all / of the Indians. It is evident and clear to my mind, that the Indians, among themselves, make a distinction, and a very marked and notable one, between the soldiers of a war party under a leader who is the most distinguished