

When I was at Fort Sedgwick, on the 11th of June, assisting General Augur on that line, General Hancock was in person on the Smoky Hill, and to give encouragement I advised him to go in person along the whole line as far as Denver. This he did, reaching Denver on the 23d of June. After arranging certain matters there he returned eastward along that route, (the Smoky Hill,) and I met him in person at Fort Harker, July 12. In the mean time the cholera had manifested its presence at Fort Harker, and the Indians also were very active attacking the railroad working parties and the trains generally, so that on the 4th of July I went to Fort Harker in person to see that all was being done the case admitted of to check the progress of the cholera, and of the Indians also. Brevet Major General A. J. Smith, in command of the troops there in the absence of General Hancock, had represented the absolute necessity for more cavalry, and urgently asked that the six companies of the seventh cavalry that had been previously ordered across to the Platte should be sent back again. This being impossible then, there was no alternative but to meet the pressing demand by a call for volunteers. Governor Crawford undertook to raise a battalion of six to eight companies of Kansas mounted volunteers, to be ready for muster into service of the United States by the 6th of July. Captain and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel F. H. Bates, (retired,) mustering officer of the department of the Missouri, was ordered to Fort Harker with the necessary rolls. The volunteers were not ready at the day appointed, but Governor Crawford came in person to Fort Harker; and on the 14th day of July Captain Bates mustered in four companies of Kansas volunteers for four months, all that could be got up to that date. They are now in service and have done well, and I ask that the necessary appropriations be promptly made for their payment. To this Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War, pledged himself to me, and I, in turn, made the same pledge to the men; and I ask that this pledge be redeemed. They are the only volunteers called out by me, and they were indispensably necessary. In this connection I will also say that this, the only expense, is outside of the regular appropriations for the army, that has been incurred with my sanction in all these Indian troubles.

We have been very short of cavalry all the time. General Terry had none at all; General Augur but one regiment, one of which, the third, was and is in New Mexico; the tenth, a colored regiment, was just in the act of enlistment, and the seventh ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ was the only one available for service this summer. This forced me to shift the seventh back and forth, from the Smoky Hill to the Platte and back again, as the hostile Indians changed from one road to the other; and this led