

appears to be restored. The troops have not, however, been withdrawn.

In the Indian Territory the settlement effected through the visit of the Lieutenant-General in July, 1885, with the Cheyennes and Arapahoes has given comparative peace to that region, and the Indians are quiet and contented. Still the constant presence of troops is necessary to preserve this present status, and to prevent, especially in the Oklahoma country, the seizure of the land by settlers and its invasion and occupancy by herds of cattle. There seems but little hope of improving this condition of things, in view of the avidity with which this fertile country is coveted by the settlers and the cattlemen, and the duty resting upon the Government to keep inviolate its agreements with the Indians for whose benefit it has been set apart. Congress alone can give the needed remedy, and in the interest of good government it is earnestly hoped by all who have executive duties to perform in this Territory that speedy action will be taken.

During the past year Fort Steele, in the Department of the Platte, and Fort Ellis, in the Department of Dakota, have been abandoned, and their garrisons removed to other and more important places. It is very desirable to reduce the number of small posts, and the appropriations made at the last session for the enlargement of Forts Riley, Russell, and Robinson, and the post at San Antonio, will render it possible, in the interest of economy and good discipline, to make still further reductions in their number.

In the Division of the Pacific, now commanded by Major-General Howard, the principal change that has occurred has already been noticed—the adding of New Mexico to the Department of Arizona and the assignment of Brigadier-General Miles to its command in place of Brigadier-General Crook.

In Washington Territory, upon the requisition of the Governor, troops were ordered to Seattle to protect public property and suppress, if necessary, riotous outbreaks that appeared to be imminent and threatening, arising from an attempt to drive the Chinese from that city and other places in the neighborhood. The troops remained there for some time; their presence quieted the disturbances; the power of the civil authorities was re established, and the troops were withdrawn without being called upon for any active duty.

In the Department of Arizona, from the date of my last report until early in September, the troops and all the military resources of the department have been employed in pursuing and finally capturing Geronimo and his band of outlaws. In November last Geronimo and his band were in Mexico, making occasional inroads into this department, committing murders and other crimes, and undoubtedly communicating with and receiving aid and encouragement from the remainder of their people, the Chiricahua and Warm Spring Apaches, who had not left the reservation of San Carlos. The removal of these Apaches to some secure

place, far away from Arizona, had been the subject at that time of frequent conference between this office and the Secretary of the Interior. Not a mere temporary removal was contemplated, but a permanent withdrawal of these warlike and dangerous Indians from a Territory to the prosperity and security of which they had been a constant menace from the time of the Camp Grant massacre in 1871. The Secretary of the Interior recommends such removal in his report to Congress in 1885. The matter had also been discussed with the Lieutenant-General, who was not then prepared to recommend their forcible removal. In November last he brought the matter to my attention, and it was decided that he should go to Arizona and advise with General Crook upon this and other questions touching the situation. He left on November 22, 1885, and having consulted with General Crook, and also with Capt. Emmet Crawford, Third Cavalry, both of whom considered that the time was inopportune for such an attempt, he deemed it best, in deference to their opinion, to await a more advantageous opportunity for the accomplishment of this purpose. Captain Crawford was then on the point of starting in pursuit of Geronimo with 200 Indian scouts, many of whom were Chiricahuas, from the reservation. Captain Crawford considered that the removal might have a bad effect upon the scouts, in whom both he and General Crook placed great confidence. The report of the Lieutenant-General, sent at that time to me, gives a graphic account of the situation:

I arrived at Fort Bowie, the headquarters of General Crook, November 29, and learned that the area of country covered by raids from the hostile Chiricahua Apaches comprises about 30,000 square miles in our territory, and lies between the Gila River on the west and the Rio Grande on the east, the thirty-fourth parallel on the north and the Mexican line on the south. This region is all in Southeastern Arizona and Southwestern New Mexico, and is the scene of the murders and depredations that have been committed at various times since the Chiricahuas—42 men and 94 women and children—went on the war-path last May, and its area is prolonged into the Sierra Madre Mountains of Northern Mexico, a distance south of about 400 miles and extending east and west 200 miles.

The whole extent of territory in this country and Mexico in which the hostiles roam and raid comprises about 80,000 square miles. It is a region of rough, broken, and bold mountain ranges, and numerous spurs, with an occasional plain, little vegetation, and naturally watered only at a few points by springs and water-holes at great distances apart. Each range of mountains and its spurs furnish splendid points of lookout over the plains to the far-seeing and keen-eyed Apache, and wonderfully add to the difficulties of pursuit, and as his nimble foot and natural instincts enable him to surmount the rugged and arid features of the country and travel in any direction, it is not strange that he often evades and escapes from his pursuers. He is a mountain or foot Indian, bred from childhood to climb the highest peaks or cross the driest plains, and accomplish journeys without other food than roots or berries and little or no water. When on the war-path, or one of his peculiar raids, he goes "light," wearing little or no clothing, carrying no rations, and encumbering himself only with his gun and ammunition, and traveling over the roughest region on foot as much as 60 miles a day. It is only of recent years that the horse has become his auxiliary, but even now, when pressed, he kills and abandons him and flees on foot over almost impassable trails.