

All of the Apaches in Arizona were now located in the San Carlos Reservation. Five major tribes, which never had been overfriendly toward each other, were now living together in peace and reasonable prosperity. Order was maintained, and rules were enforced by Apache policemen and Apache judges. Drinking of tiswin was negligible. All able-bodied male Indians worked at regularly assigned tasks and were paid in agency scrip, with which they bought such knickknacks and gimcracks as the trader's store afforded. It was a normal, wholesome frontier life, and gave to the American Indian his first, and perhaps only, experience in self-government. Had this policy been adopted universally by the federal Indian bureau, and adhered to, our American red men would have developed quickly and securely into good and useful citizens.

Occasionally, news of Apache deviltry reached San Carlos, but the perpetrators were renegade bands which made their headquarters in New Mexico or Old Mexico. These bandit groups would raid across the border into Arizona, pillage and kill, then hurry back to their relatively safe havens in the mountains of Sonora or near the headwaters of the Gila River. Most notorious and largest of these groups was the one led by Geronimo, comprising about one hundred Southern Chiricahua warriors and twice as many old men, women, and children. The company of sixty Apache militia, which Clum had turned over to the Governor of Arizona, were 'state troops' and could not follow Geronimo's band into either Mexico or New Mexico. The United States Army seemed to have reached an impasse. Public clamor for protection of isolated ranchers increased.

Late in February, 1877, Lieutenant Henley, United States Army, while going north up the Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico, encountered Geronimo and his raiders, who were trying to dispose of stolen cattle to