

Copy.

Telegram.

Omaha, Nebraska
January 15, 1879.

Lieutenant General P. H. Sheridan
Chicago, Illinois.

The following just received:

"Fort Robinson, Neb. 15th
"Genl. Crook, Omaha, Nebraska.

Upon a full investigation of the recent Cheyenne troubles here, I find ~~that~~ the facts as follows:-- On the third instant the head men notified by Capt. Wessells that the authorities in Washington decided they must go back south. Without giving a decisive answer they retired to consult with their people. On the next day Hog as spokesman gave an unequivocal negative, saying as had the others on numerous occasions, that they were resolved to die first. A few having been examined and professed willingness to go were allowed to return to the prison for their effects but were forcibly detained by the others. The attempt to starve and freeze them out was now the last and only alternative. On the 9th instant it was decided to arrest Hog as the leading oppositionist. He having been with difficulty induced to come out was ironed but after a struggle in which a soldier was stabbed, the Indians in the prison knowing of this immediately barricaded the doors and covered the windows with cloth to conceal their movements, tearing up the floor and constructing rifle-pits to command all the windows.

From this time the prison was like a den of rattlesnakes, and any white man who had shown his head in the room would have met certain death. It was supposed of course that the Indians had no arms other than a few knives. During the evening the building was as quiet as a grave, and the six sentinels who surrounded it suspected no danger. At ten minutes before 10 o'clock four shots were fired from the west end of the building killing two of the sentinels; shots were also fired from a front window into the guard-room wounding a Corporal.

Simultaneously a rush was made through all the windows, the Indians sallying out resolved to kill and be killed like Malays running a muck. The guard and other troops gave chase. The Indians moved south towards the creek, the squaws being driven in a mass ahead of the men, at least five of the latter keeping up an incessant fire. It was in returning the fire that several women and children were killed. No woman or child was intentionally harmed, and in fact many officers and soldiers showed great daring in trying to save them. To take the men prisoners was impossible, as they all refused to surrender, and when exhausted stood at bay. Several soldiers lost their lives in trying to capture such men.

No Indian was killed who could have been captured. When these Cheyennes were first captured, they were but partially disarmed, and several guns and pistols were taken from them. After they had