

I was not an applicant for the position of U.S. Indian Agent in charge of Red Clouds 9,000 semi hostile Sioux scattered over 4,000 square miles of country, in the Spring of 1879, at the age of 50.

The offer of the appointment came to me from Secty Carl Schurz, representing Pres, Hayes.

Matters were in a very much disturbed condition over the Northwest, following the Custer campaign in which I served as a surgeon of Cavalry.

Sitting Bull was still in his stronghold in British America with the bulk of his warriors, and keeping the country disturbed,

Red Cloud was a reactionary, and a friend of Sitting Bull, and had aided that Chief in the Custer campaign, with young warriors, ammunition, arms, and supplies.

His agent, formerly in charge of the Shoshones with a good record, had fallen down in trying to handle the Sioux,

I had established a reputation over the Northwest by many years service with the army, as a surgeon, engineer, explorer, etc, and was credited with an extensive knowledge of the Indians and the country, hence the offer to me, which I accepted with the understanding that I was to have full swing, and no interference in my methods as planned out.

I was young then, and possibly being placed in such an important position rather swelled my head, and possibly the old saying, "Fools enter where Angels fear to tread" applied, so I sailed in, and Red Cloud opposed me at every turn, for I represented the White man and his civilization, while Red Cloud was a reactionary, representing the Indian and the days of the past, and in 1882 it came to a show down and Red Cloud "threw me away" and he ordered me off the reservation, three days limit, under penalty of the death of myself and wife otherwise.

Two or three years before, I had organized the original Mounted Indian Police of the service, of fifty young fighting Indians, and had the U.S. Troops who had heretofore been located at the agency removed seventy miles away, and promised the Indians a home government, I gave them my confidence, and secured theirs in return, among the younger element.

On Red Clouds threat, I called a general council, and in that council Red Cloud assuming a threatening and belierant attitude, I placed him