

best serve his country in some other department than that of the commander, and by request of Capt. Bagge and with the grace of Gen. Cook, was detailed to the quartermaster's department.

Perhaps it would be well here to state some of the objects and purposes of the Sully expedition. Late in the fall of 1858 the Dakotas were opened for settlement and the Indians ordered to go to, and remain on their selected and allotted reservations. Their annuity was supposed, and was, if properly preserved, sufficient to sustain them there. The Yankton Sioux whose agency bordered on the Missouri River between Yankton and Ft. Randall, at once complied with the order. These Indians had come into contact with the whites and had tendencies of civilization by their own development, and realized that they would not be able to leave the reservation to hunt. Not so with the Indians farther up country. They never had shown any disposition to remain permanently on their reservations. Unlike the territory around the Yankton Reservation, the country abounded with large game and the Indians could not resist the temptation to leave the agency to hunt whenever and wherever they pleased. In this they were encouraged by the trappers and traders, whose business and profits depended on the amount of furs and pelts the Indians could secure on forbidden territory. And they all alike agreed that the white man should not trespass on this source of their revenue and were attempting to make it unpleasant and even dangerous for them to do so, and none but the fool-hardy would attempt it. The purpose of the expedition was to persuade the Indians, if possible, to return to their agency and cease their depredations, and if not successful in this to