

sites for military posts, one at the mouth of the Big Horn, the other at the mouth of Tongue River, both in the valley of the Yellowstone. These stations can be supplied by steamboats and will have so important a bearing on the settlement of the Sioux Indian Question, that I earnestly recommend that Congress be called upon to give authority for their establishment, and the necessary funds for their construction."

1876

"February 21st, Major Brisbin, 2nd Cavalry, with four troops 2nd Cavalry, a detachment of Company "C", 7th Infantry, a field-gun and fifteen citizens, numbering two hundred and twenty-one officers and men, left Fort Ellis, Montana, to march to the relief of a part of citizens, besieged by Indians, at the trading-post at Fort Pease, reaching there on March 4th. The original party had consisted of forty-six men who defended themselves desperately in a stockade, until the relief column of troops arrived. Six persons had been killed, eight wounded and thirteen had escaped, by night, only nineteen being found left in the stockade, and these were brought off by the troops.

In November, 1875, Indian Inspector E. C. Watkins, reported to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the attitude of certain wild and hostile bands of Indians, under the leadership of various chiefs or head-men, who were roaming about Dakota and Montana.

Some of these bands had never accepted the reservation system, would not recognize the authority of the Government, and insisted upon remaining wild and perfectly free from control. Of this class was "Sitting Bull", who was not a chief, but a "head-man", and whose immediate following did not exceed thirty or forty lodges.

Among the Indians referred to, were some who had not only attacked settlers and emigrants, but who had also been in the habit of making war upon the Mandans, Arickarees, and other tribes who were friendly to the whites. Inspector Watkins recommended, therefore, that troops should be sent into the country inhabited by these wild and roving bands, to punish