

again earnestly renewed by Lieutenant General Sheridan, and on the 22nd the Honorable Secretary of the Interior authorized the military to assume control of all the agencies of the Sioux country, but it was too late; extensive trading with the enemy had been going on, and large supplies of ammunition had thus been obtained by the hostiles to carry on the war. However, the commanding officers at Camps Robinson and Sheridan were at once ordered to take possession at Red Cloud's and Spotted Tail's Agencies, and Colonel Mackenzie, 4th Cavalry, was sent to Red Cloud Agency, with a force to arrest any hostiles who came in and to count and enroll the Indians. A careful count was made by September 1st, and it was found that those at Red Cloud numbered only four thousand seven hundred and sixty, nearly one half less than had been reported by the Agent. The count at Spotted Tail's Agency developed less than five thousand, whereas nearly double that number were presumed to be present at their agency and were ostensibly issued to. Troops were also sent to the Missouri River Agencies to accomplish these same purposes, and the number of Indians actually present was found to be from one-third to one-half less than reported present for issues. It was then easy to see where the small bands originally out, and upon whom the war was being waged, obtained their strength and supplies.

At last, on July 22nd Congress having passed a bill authorizing the construction of the two posts in the Yellowstone country, recommended long before this war began, preparations were made to begin them at once and all the material was prepared as rapidly as possible, but the season had now become so far advanced that it was found impracticable to get the supplies up the Yellowstone River, on account of low water, so the building of the posts had to be deferred until the following spring. However, a temporary cantonment was ordered to be immediately constructed at the mouth of Tongue River, the place selected for one of the permanent posts, (now Fort Keogh), and a strong garrison, under the command of Colonel Miles, 5th Infantry was detailed to occupy it.