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latter was at all times ready to stand by those intruding on the rights of the Indians. As early as March, 1870, he had said officially: "I have no hesitation in making my choice. . . . My duty is to protect the people; I have nothing to do with Indians, but in this connection." Such was his frame of mind at that time that he regarded all Indians as "fiends," to be killed, and every lawless intruder was by him esteemed "a pioneer of the frontier."

In less than two months after the annual report of General Crook was made, E. C. Watkins, United States Indian inspector, submitted, on November 9, 1875, a communication to the commissioner of Indian affairs, in relation to "the condition of certain wild and hostile bands of Sioux Indians in Dakota and Montana, that came under his observation during a recent tour through their country," and what he thought should be the policy of the government toward them. He referred (he said) to Sitting Bull's band and other bands of the Sioux nation, under chiefs or head men of less note, "but no less untamable and hostile." He did not name them, but spoke of their roaming "over western Dakota and eastern Montana, including the rich valleys of the Yellowstone and Powder rivers," and making war on the Arickarees, Mandans, Gros Ventres, and others who were friendly. He said:

"Their country is probably the best hunting ground in the United States, a 'paradise' for Indians, affording game in such variety and abundance that the need of government supplies is not felt. Perhaps for this reason they have never accepted aid or been brought under control. They openly set at defiance all law and authority, and boast that the United States authorities are not