

reservation."

On the 6th of December, 1875, the commissioner of Indian affairs, in pursuance of the instructions of the secretary of the interior, issued a letter of instructions to the agents at Red Cloud, Spotted Tail, Lower Brulé, Crow Creek, Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, Devil's Lake, and Fort Peck agencies, directing them to communicate, if practicable, to Sitting Bull and other hostile Indians, the requirements of the government that they remove within the bounds of their reservations on or before the 31st of the next month. The Indians to whom this notice was to be given were nomads, roaming and hunting in the unceded Indian country, by virtue of a right guaranteed to them by the treaty of 1868. Moreover, there was not sufficient food at the agencies during that winter for such Indians as resided adjacent to them.

Agent Howard, of Spotted Tail agency, reported, under date of January 3, 1876, that he had sent out runners, and believed by that time they had reached the northern camps, and that Sitting Bull was therefore advised of the intentions of the government.

Agent Burke, of the Standing Rock agency, did not receive his instructions until the 22d day of December, and immediately sent some trustworthy and reliable Indian messengers to the "hostile" camps, to notify them of what was required. On December 31st, he wrote this fact to the department, and said: "I have no doubt but a large number of these wild and lawless Indians will come to this agency and accept the conditions of the treaty of 1868. I am strengthened in this belief from the fact that many of them had already sent word to their Indian relations and friends now peaceably