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settled on this reservation of their intention to do so the present winter or early the coming spring, in view of which I respectfully invite the attention of the department to the necessity of providing food for their subsistence and maintenance." One of agent Burke's messengers returned on January 30, 1876. When he left the "hostile" country, no communication had been had with the "hostile" Indians, owing to a difficulty between the Two Kettle, Sans Arc, and other bands, and the Fort Berthold Indians. Agent Burke looked, however, for good results from/ <sup>306</sup> movements he had inaugurated; and urged an extension of time, owing to the trouble referred to, and the great length of the journey to the "hostile" camps at this inclement season.

Agent Hastings, of Red Cloud agency, received the notice on December 20, and replied that Sitting Bull separated in the fall from the "hostile" camp on the Powder river, and started for the Yellowstone. Since then he had heard nothing about his location, but as he was an Unepapa, suggested that he could be reached with less difficulty from Standing Rock, Crazy Horse and Black Twin, to whom he sent word to come in to the agency, were, he said, then en route to Red Cloud agency with their people, but their progress was retarded on account of deep snow. When heard from they were at Bear Buttes. These two chiefs had never been at an agency. He said he had sent couriers to notify the Cheyenne camp, located about one hundred miles beyond Crazy Horse and Black Twin, but had not heard from them. He could not obtain couriers to go north except on a promise of reward.

Agent Bingham, of the Cheyenne river agency, reported that one of the delegations he sent to the camp of Sitting Bull and other