

103.

Great Britain Notes.

Sir. E Thornton----- Feb. 9, 1878

April 24, 1879

Dept. of State.

Copy of a report of a committee of the Honorable the Privy Council for Canada approved by his Excellency the Governor General on the 17th March, 1879.

The Committee of Council have had under consideration the ~~dispatch~~ dispatch of the 14th February last from the Rt. Hon ~~ble~~ Sir Edward Thornton to your Excellency on the subject of an alleged concentration of Indians of various tribes in the Bear Paw Mountains, within United States territory.

They have also had before them a memorandum dated 28th February 1879 from the Honorable the Minister of the Interior, to whom said despatch had been referred, and they answer in the views and recommendations and submit the same for your excellencies approval, and recommend that a copy of this minute and of the memorandum be transmitted to Sir Edward Thornton for the information of the United States Government.

Certified

W A Hinesworth
Clerk of Privy Council
Canada.

Department of the Interior
Ottawa, 28th February 1879.

Memorandum

In the matter of the Despatch of the 14th instant from the Right Hon: Sir Edward Thornton to his Excellency the Governor General on the subject of an alleged concentration of Indians of various tribes from British Territory in the Bears Paw Mountains, within United States territory, the undersigned has the honor to report for the information of his excellency that he has caused inquiry to be made of the officer in command of the Northwest Mounted Police at Fort Walsh as to the facts, and he has further requested in the event of such gathering having occurred, that all the information obtainable be furnished as to the subject of the movement.

In the meantime, pending the receipt of the information asked for the undersigned begs to express the conviction that the reason alleged in the communication of M- Seward to Sir Thornton, under date of the 13th instant, for the General conveyances of all these Indians towards that section of country, will be found to be the true one, that is to say the pursuit of the buffalo, which they claim as nowhere else to be found north of the Missouri River.

The undersigned is of another opinion, should the alleged ~~take~~ movement be shown to have taken place, that it will prove to have been the result of necessity on the part of the Indians to follow the buffalo across the boundary line and into the United States territory in order to procure food for themselves and their families, the herds having

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