

up his horses. During the fall of 1876, it was ordered that all the Indians, whether friendly or hostile, should give up their guns and horses, except those they really needed, to the government. Most families were allowed to keep only one horse, but some were permitted to keep two. Charger, who had a fine lot of horses, brought them to Scott. At the same time he gave Scott a paper he had received from the officer to whom he had delivered the Shetak captives. It was a testimonial recommending that Charger be given favorable consideration by other army officers. Handing the testimonial to Scott, Charger said, "Read this and see whether I am a friend or a foe of the white man."

Scott read the testimonial and replied, "If an Indian can risk his life and endure suffering to save helpless women and children, I certainly can risk my commission by disobeying orders." He then told Charger to turn in his scrubs, but to keep his best horses.

When the government took the arms and horses away from the Indians, it promised to give a young cow for each horse surrendered. The government took over the horses in a season when ice was drifting down the Missouri river. Many of the horses were drowned in crossing the turbulent stream. Those that survived were driven overland to Yankton, where they were sold. Many of them died from exposure and starvation before reaching the destination. The survivors, weak and emaciated, brought only two or three dollars a head at the sale. Disregarding its promise to pay for all the horses, the government paid only for those that lived. It did the same thing in 1881, when the Indians came back from Canada. So far as I know, the horses that died never were paid for.