White men living in Indian country were sometimes indifferent to title of Indian property. They regarded the Indians as a defeated people being kept prisoner at government expense, and Indian reservations as government land belonging to the white men. It was no uncommon thing for men needing fire wood or timber for building to go into the reservation and come out with wagon loads of Indian timber. If questioned about this they would laugh and say "It's Uncle Sam's timber, and we are Uncle Sam's boys." I once lived in a town in western Oklahoma where the foundation of the church I attended was made of cedar logs stolen from a neighboring reservation. So many cedar trees were cut on that reservation for fence posts that the Indians had to go to Montana to get tepee poles. If the white timber thieves could find fire wood already cut by the Indians, they congratulated themselves and loaded their wagons with that. On one occasion an old Cheyenne woman who was cutting hard wood for sale protested and rushed the thieves with her knife. They were too many for her, however, and tied her to a tree and beat her nearly to death, afterwards going away without releasing her. Her relatives found here two days later.

Trouble over cattle was another difficulty which the Indian police encountered. The cattleman could not bear to see all that grass going to waste, and continually drove their cattle upon Indian land to fatten them.