Hand , having been sent into the vicinity of Fort Phil Kearney with a considerable force of warriors, a little fight occurred near that post, the first of any importance since the Fetterman massacre of the previous December. A similar engagement occurred on the 18th of June. . On the very date of Yellow Hand's attack on Fort Phil Kearney, Man Afraid and a band of the head men of the Oglalas and Brules appeared at Fort Laramie and engaged in a long council with General Sanborn and General Beaubois. They claimed to represent 200 lodges of the hostiles, which they undoubtedly did. They told the commissioners that Red Cloud had abandoned the war and was now ready to come in and join the friendlies under Spotted Tail. They, however, expressed great anxiety to get powder from the commissioners, and the optimistic men of peace were forced to the conclusion that the only significance of this pilgrimage of Man Afraid's was "to obtain more powder and lead with which to wage a more vigorous war."

All of this time Spotted Tail, Swife Bear, Standing Elk, Big Mouth and Blue Horse with in the neighborhood of 1,200 warriors, were quietly hunting buffalo on the Republican and doing their best to keep out of mischief.

On the 20th of June an unidentified band of Oglalas made an attack upon a company of Pawnee scouts from Fort Laramie, on the line of the Union Pacific railroad south of the Black Hills. They were probably Man Afraid's peaceful embassy, just then starting off to enter into negotiations with Spotted Tail in the hope of drawing him into the war. After twelve days of quiet Yellow Hand made another demonstration near Fort Phil Kearney, which brought out Company C of the Eighteenth infantry, and a few shots were exchanged. All of the efforts of the Indians during June had been to draw the 373 soldiers out of the fort and into ambush. During this period the soldiers were all engaged within the stockade, barely going outside except to make a little sortie toward the Indians, but careful to keep under the protection of the big guns. There had been no occasion to cut wood and the horses had not been put out to pasture, except immediately under the walls of the fort, being subsisted upon grain and the hay made the previous