

of the Hills by the miners was withdrawn and that venturesome men poured into the Hills from every section. Crazy Horse, American Horse, Gall, Black Moon and Sitting Bull were still, as they had at all times been, maintaining themselves back upon the buffalo range of Powder River; generally without any government assistance, though in times of great stress they would allow their young men to go into the agencies and gather up what rations they could secure to help them through the emergency. By the first of the succeeding March (1876) there were fully 11,000 white men in Custer City alone. The Indians could see nothing before them but the loss of their reservation and their final expulsion. They, therefore, largely arrived at the conclusion that the time had come when they must make another positive and formidable stand for their rights, and to undertake this they were greatly encouraged by the success which had attended the efforts of Red Cloud in his war from 1866 to 1868.

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CHAPTER XLI

Tetons Gather in Rosebud Country - Have Permits from Agents - Insufficient Supplies at Agencies - Compelled to Hunt for Subsistence - Notified to Return to Agency Before January 31, 1876 - Unreasonable Order - Impossible to Comply - Declared Hostile and Turned Over to Military - Crook's Winter Campaign - Great Suffering - Destroys Crazy Horse's Camp - The Summer Campaign - Battle of Rosebud - Crook Defeated - Terry Moves Out from Fort Abraham Lincoln - Gibbon Moves Down from Fort Ellis - Yellowstone Reached - Fatal Error of Military in Relation to Strength of Enemy.

In the early part of the winter, 1875-6, many Indians from the different agencies went out with the consent of their agents to hunt buffalo in the unceded territory of Powder River. They had the right to do this under the treaty. There was more reason for them to go at this time because there was an insufficient supply of provisions at the agencies. December 6, 1875, the commissioner of Indian affairs sent instructions to the several agents to notify the Indians in the unceded territory to come to the agencies before the 31st of January, 1876, or that they would be regarded as hostile. This letter reached Standing Rock agency on the 22d. The runner, who was sent by Agent Bingham to notify the Indians to return to the agency, was not able to return himself until February 11, 1876. He