

and passed the entire winter-one of the severest known in this country-in their tents-men, officers, and many ~~xxxxxx~~ officers' families. Although it was the only thing to be done under the circumstances, I anticipated serious results from their exposure; but fortunately, and due mainly to the indefatigable exertions and good example of their commander, Brev Brig Gen J H Potter, they came out in the spring, in spite of their hardships and sufferings, in quite as good health and discipline as any command in the dept.

As early as Feb. th Ind commenced a system of attacks upon small parties and trains along the Mont route, and, as the season advanced, extended them to all my lines, and have kept it up during the whole ~~xxxxxxx~~ summer. This has constituted the Ind war in this dept. It is more in the nature of disconnected raids for stealing animals and getting plunder than of a systematic and permanent war. The raiding parties have been small, and scattered along the various lines of communication in the dept.

(Letter signed, C C Augur, Brev ~~xxx~~ & Maj Com U.S.A. Commandg.)

(More /of above letter).

The question of abandoning the posts on this line had been submitted to me for my opinion, and I have reported against it for the following reasons substantially: Were the question a new one, and arising ~~as~~ as to whether they should now be established, I should now regard it as unnecessary and unwise to do so until more satisfactory arrangements had been made with the tribes through whose country it passes, knowing how impossible it is to make any route thru a hostile Ind country perfectly safe for purposed orf immigration of traffic. But the question is not a new one. The posts are established, and large sums have been expended upon them for storehouses and quarters for troops. It cannot be supposed that the present Ind ~~troubles~~ troubles along it can continue for any very great length of time. They will be ~~exterminated~~, either by treaty or by the subjugation of the hostile tribes. When this time arrives, unless this country is abandoned to the Ind, this route substantially must become the great highway between Col, Neb and Mont. Its proximity, in its whole extent, to what will undoubtedly become Ind country, will render ~~the~~ necessary the very posts now existing along it.

If therefore these posts are now given up, it will be at a loss of all that has been expended upon them, and with almost a certainty that their re-establishment will be demanded in a few years. Aside from this ~~view~~ view there is one of policy, arising from our present relations with the tribes claiming this country. That the estab of these posts produced the exciting state of hostilities

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in that country is undoubtedly true, and up to this time the Ind demand their abandonment as a SINE QUANON to any negotiation, even for that country. To yield to their demands would be regarded by them as evidence of our inability to hold them, and would, I fear, embolden them to enlarge the sphere of their hostilities, and diminish very materially the chances for a permanent peace with them.

Unless, therefore, it becomes the policy of the Government to give up