

can do this, and it is a grievous wrong to force our soldiers into the unnatural attitude in which they now stand, when the people of our frontier universally declare the Ind to be at war, and the Ind commissioners and agents pronounce them at peace, leaving us on the gap to be abused by both parties.

The Sec of War knows already what efforts have been made in Mont to involve us in war there; also how clamorous have been the civil authorities of Colorado to the same end, and lastly Kans. Were I or the dept commanders to send guards to every point where they are clamored for, we would need along the plains a hundred thousand men, mostly of cavalry. Each spot of every road, and each little settlement along our five thousand miles of

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frontier, wants its regiment of cavalry or inf to protect it against the combined power of all the Ind, because of the bare possibility of their being attacked by the combined force of all these Ind. This war-making, I know, is an expensive matter, and it does not rest with me. I will not assume it by calling into service an unlimited number of volunteers, and comprising those who in their ignorance would respond, and learn too late that Congress alone can pay the bill. I do, however, urgently beg that some disposition be made of these questions by the rightful party, the Cong of the U S, that all parties interested may know where they are to look for safety. Until ~~this~~ this is ~~xxx~~ done, I must continue, as heretofore, to use the regular troops provided by law, and only to call for voluntary help when, in the language of Gen Grant, "it becomes necessary for the preservation of existing settlements and lines of travel."

I enclose herewith copies of despatches taken from a great mass on hand, many of which you have already seen, but which I think, taken in connection, will show ~~xxx~~ whether the Ind troubles of this spring are caused by recent acts on our part, or have arisen from the inherent causes so fully and clearly set forth and described in the "Report of the Ind Committee" hereinbefore quoted, to which I beg to refer as containing a column of testimony dating long before a Pacific road was projected or Gen Hancock's expedition was dreamed of.

I also return herewith the report of Gen Buford, special commissioner as it is an original paper for file in the war dept.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W T Sherman,

LT Gen U S Army.

Col Geo K Leet

Asst Adjutant Gen
Hdq. Army of U S & Wash .D.D.
{Headquarters}

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The third point demanding attention is the want of more mounted men. There seems to me to be but one way of bringing about this result, and that is the mount inf. This will render them available in the pursuit of Ind, and will be a strong addition to the effective force in the territory. As footmen they are of but little service in Ind warfare.