

TO SHOW IN SOME MEASURE THE GRATITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO CHIEF QUANAH FOR HIS UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION AND THE INFLUENCE FOR PROGRESS WHICH HE EXERTED ON BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE AND THE OTHER GREAT TRIBES IN THIS AREA. THIS DEBT OF GRATITUDE GOES BACK 83 YEARS TO A SPRING DAY IN 1875 WHEN A DELEGATION FROM FORT SILL, TRAVELLING UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE, LOCATED QUANAH AND THE QUOHADA COMANCHES IN CANYON BLANCO AND TREATED WITH HIM IN A COUNCIL THAT RESULTED IN LASTING PEACE ON THE SOUTHERN PLAINS.

FROM THAT MOMENT ON, CHIEF QUANAH DEVOTED HIMSELF UNSTINTINGLY TO THE MANIFOLD PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTING HIS PEOPLE TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE--A WAY OF LIFE MADE NECESSARY AND INEVITABLE BY THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE BUFFALO, THE ADVENT OF THE RAILROADS, AND THE COMING OF WAVES OF SETTLERS.

THE OLD WAY OF LIVING HAD BEEN A GOOD WAY WHILE IT LASTED. ANTHROPOLOGISTS TELL US THAT THE SUCCESS OF A CULTURE IS RIGHTLY MEASURED BY THE DEGREE TO WHICH IT MEETS THE NEEDS OF ITS PEOPLE. BY THIS MEASURE THE CULTURES OF THE PLAINS TRIBES WERE ALMOST PERFECTLY ADAPTED TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT. THE TEEPEE AS A LIGHT, PORTABLE, AND EXCELLENT DWELLING IN SUMMER OR WINTER, Pemmican AS A HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS AND CONCENTRATED FOOD, THE SIGN LANGUAGE AS A UNIVERSAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PEOPLES OF DIVERSE LANGUAGES, THE COMBINATION OF THE BOW, LANCE, AND HORSE WITH WHICH THE AMERICAN PLAINS INDIAN BECAME THE BEST LIGHT CAVALRYMAN IN THE WORLD--THESE AND MANY OTHER DEVELOPMENTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES OF THE NATIVE GENIUS OF THE INDIAN THAT HAS ENRICHED AMERICAN CIVILIZATION AND BECOME AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR GREAT HERITAGE TODAY.

CHIEF QUANAH HAD RISEN IN HIS TRIBE IN THE DAYS OF THE WAR TRAIL BY