

Head Qrs Fort Dodge, Kansas
March 24th, 1868

Bvt. Brig Gen. Chauncey McKeever
A. A. General, Dept of the Mo.
(Thro Dict Hd Qrs.)

General

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of copy of letter from Commissioner S. G. Taylor, enclosing copy of letters from Mr. Thomas Murphy, superintendent of Indian Affairs and Mr. J. S. Butterfield, Indian trader concerning the selling or supplying Arrapahoe and Cheyenne Indians with spiritous liquors, said to have been obtained from parties at Fort Dodge, Kan. and have the honor to submit the following.

That Indians have procured whisky at or in the vicinity of this Post I must admit and the person or persons furnishing it have eluded the ~~almost~~ vigilance both on any part and on the part of the officers of this Post to prevent it. I cannot wholly prevent the supply of it to the soldiers under my command not withstanding they are held under the strictest Military surveillance. and it is entirely denied to them. There are so many ways and means resorted to by those who sell or purchase liquor; to baffle the s of the Military Authorities. that detection is in most cases impossible. The Indian purchaser will not betray the white dealer any more than the Soldiers will betray the source from which he derives his liquor. whenever I discover liquor I cause its destruction and so does an every officer at this post. Considerable quantities are destroyed, but the person or persons who introduced it are not so easily found and still harder is it to detect a person in the act of selling it.

I am directed to investigate immediately concerning this traffic by indorsement from Dept. Head Quarters. I would most respectfully state that I have been investigated to the utmost of my ability, and I am continually investigating and on the watch for the purpose of detecting the persons engaged in the traffic: I investigated concering the liquor procured by "Big Mouth" alluded to in Mr. Butterfields letter, but was unable to discover his source of supply.