

the year, in quantities lasting six (6) and twelve (12) months. For movements against the Indians, or trains *owned by the Government* are most economical as regards expense of cost and supplies for moving the heavy stores. They require no grain, and if the movement is anticipated, grain for the animals and beef for the troops can be placed where they are required in ample time, or they furnish almost a moveable post for any position. As a mule-train can only carry over that country grain to last them about sixty (60) days, the above method has its advantages, besides the mule and pack trains are left free for light and rapid movements. And here let me remark in regard to forage, that by slow and short marches, good and sufficient grazing, without the danger of stampeding, horses or mules could march an unlimited distance for an indefinite period, for long and rapid pursuit of an enterprising enemy, frequently without grazing, with poor water, the strength of the Cavalry and animals must be preserved, or it results in a few weeks' campaigning and several months' remounting and recuperating. Hence I would prefer for effective and continuous campaigning, two (2) companies of Cavalry supplied with the regulation allowance of short forage, to eight (8) companies starved for want of grain, or weighed down by a superabundance of grass, especially when the command is expected to capture or exhaust the thousands of hardy ponies that afford the Indians convenient and valuable relays. As the greatest difficulty in Indian warfare is in finding or surprising the enemy, often requiring exhaustive marches, (in one instance nearly 500 miles,) it is emphatically the "one step further," the rapid pursuit, (of one or two hundred miles if necessary,) which strong horses can accomplish and weak ones cannot, that insures the victory. It is therefore economical and eminently advisable to have supplies at accessible points and that the transportation accompanying the force, be it great or small, should be sufficient to supply the command for from forty (40) to sixty (60) days.

Desultory scouting, often made without positive design and with less result, has a tiresome, exhaustive and injurious influence upon the Cavalry.

Friendly Indians or daring scouts can be more economically employed to hunt for the hostile camps, discover trails or movements of Indians, and Cavalry saved for the direct march, resistless dash and rapid pursuit for which that arm of the service is so well adapted.

#### COMMUNICATION.

It would be economy to connect all of the military posts by telegraphic communication. The signal service was found useful both by day and night; an additional means of communication by rockets, which, in exploding, should leave a dense smoke high in the air, for day, similar to the colored light used at night, and which could be seen at long distances, would be of service in any kind of warfare.

I believe that genuine carrier pigeons could be raised at the frontier posts, and used to great advantage; they would carry a message across the Staked Plains in a few hours, that would take weeks to send round by the usual route. I would recommend their trial.

#### THE BISON

which has from time immemorial furnished the Plains Indians their food, shelter and reinment, is fast disappearing and will soon become extinct. When this is accomplish-

ed, the difficulty, as far as the Plains Indians are concerned, is settled permanently. Some idea of their destruction may be gathered from the fact, that a half million of hides have been shipped from a single station in one season, and a thousand men employed in the business; during the past three years the vast herd has diminished one fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ). This is not to be regretted, as they range north and south over the middle belt, occupy a pastoral country which should be covered with domestic stock. This belt will become the great channel of trade between the cattle regions of Texas and the railroad communications and mining regions of the North. The fifteen to twenty million dollars in cattle that now are moved over a long and less direct route, will find their proper course along the head waters of the Red and Canadian rivers.

#### CAUSE OF HOSTILITIES AND MEANS OF PREVENTING A RECURRENCE.

The cause of hostilities is not generally understood by persons remote from the Indians' country, and unacquainted with the subject. In considering the subject it is useless to denounce the savage instincts of these people, or to allow sentiment to interfere with unbiased judgment. The plain ungarbished truth, as it appears to those who have an opportunity of observing, is most productive of good, and in this respect much might be said explanatory of the Indian's cause for disaffection but naught to mitigate the atrocity of his crimes.

Whatever may have given rise to previous outbreaks, it cannot be claimed that the difficulties during the past season have been occasioned by the intrusion of the white men upon any right or privilege of the Indian.

The real cause, in my opinion, arises from the fact that several thousand wild savages are gathered and placed on remote reservations, under no other control, restraint or influence than that exercised by one or two individuals, beyond, or on the verge of civilization, where they are only the worst features of the same, without ever having an opportunity of seeing or knowing any of the more elevating influences that govern civilized people.

The Indians, accustomed from childhood to the wild excitement of the chase, or conflict with some other hostile tribe, taught that murder is noble and lower degrading, cannot be expected to suddenly change their natures and become peaceful agriculturists. Without occupation, they lead an indolent, listless, life, the very foundation of vice and crime. Through direct and indirect means, they are allowed to provide themselves with the most improved weapons of war, and this inflames their savage natures and gives them confidence in their own strength. Another and still stronger reason for disaffection, (one that will demoralize any people and which tends to create great dissatisfaction and arouse their turbulent spirits,) is the fact that the provisions given them are insufficient to satisfy their wants—they have been for weeks without the bread ration, and their year's allowance of food is exhausted in six (6) or seven (7) months—thus they are half-fed or half-starved. Under these circumstances they become dissatisfied and hostile, "ripe for any crime," an annual outbreak is the result, with all its accompanying horrors. As these powerful tribes have been thoroughly subjugated and are now humble suppliants for pardon, charity and mercy, the remedy is as simple as it is apparent to every one acquainted with the subject.

Disarmed and dismounted, and kept so they should be placed under some government strong and just enough to command their respect. Their thousands of ponies, useful only for war or the chase, should be sold and the proceeds returned to them in domestic stock, they should be encouraged to become a pastoral people, thus introducing them to a semi-civilized condition as a gradual approach to a more enlightened state. As the Government has provided them ample and rich reservations, it would be better to place them within the pale of civilization, or the settlements can be thrown around them by opening the territory to the west. Well-clothed and well-fed, and some employment given them which would be somewhat in accordance with their former habits: their annuities given them, not in useless trinkets to gratify their savage tastes, but in useful property that they could improve. Under these treaties, they have land, (almost without limit,) food and clothing, and with these they have the elements of wealth which no other people on this continent possess. All they require is industry, and a careful and judicious management of their affairs for a number of years, to make them one of the richest classes in the country. But little could be expected of this generation, yet the benefits to the one that follows would be beyond the possibility of doing harm, and the vast frontier country freed from their terrifying and devastating presence; besides there would be an annual saving to the Government of many millions of dollars.

Wherever anything like the above has been tried, it has been eminently successful, and a marked instance of this is the powerful and now prosperous tribe of Navajos of New Mexico; while the strong, industrious but degenerating tribe of Cheyennes prove the folly of the fruitless experiments and humiliating policy that have governed them for the past twenty (20) years. The sooner they are made to know and realize the benefits, advantages and blessings of civilization, the quicker will they become civilized and christened, and it is to be hoped that wisdom may be learned by the experience of the past, and a more humane, judicious and economical course pursued in the future.

I have in preparation recommendations that the following named officers, who have performed especially gallant and valuable services, be brevetted. As the rewards attainable are so slight, I trust that these recommendations will meet with such approval and prompt action as will assure these officers that their Government appreciates, and to the extent of its legal authority, rewards their services:

Major and Brevet Lieut. Colonel Chase, E. Compton, 6th Cavalry.

Captain and Brevet Major Fallis C. Tupper 6th Cavalry.

Captain and Brevet Major Anna R. Chaffee, 6th Cavalry.

1st Lieutenant Gilbert E. Overton, 6th Cavalry.

2nd Lieutenant Frank West 6th Cavalry.

2nd Lieutenant William B. Wetmore, 6th Cavalry.

2nd Lieutenant Austin E. Henely, 6th Cavalry.

2nd Lieutenant Thomas B. Nichols, 6th Cavalry.

Captain and Brevet Lieut. Colonel Chas. A. Hartwell, 8th Cavalry.

1st Lieutenant Henry W. Spool, 8th Cavalry.

Captain and Brevet Major Wylls Lyman, 5th Infantry.