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Chicago Tribune

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If the Government again passes into the hands of the Democratic-Confederates, the Army and the revenue of the Executive authority and the law-making power, they will substitute reaction for progress and re-establish a reign of terror and a system of prostration in the South, and ballot-box stuffing and corruption in the North. The Democratic-Confederates are the "destines of the country in peace should be confided to those who saved it in war."

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CHICAGO, June 25, 1876. HARRISON HANCOCK, Assignee.

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POLITICAL.

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And other eminent speakers from home and abroad, have been invited, and many of them have signified their intention to be present.

Should the weather prove unfavorable the meeting will be held in Farwell Hall.

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SILVER PLATE.

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STOCKHOLDERS' MEETINGS.

Joliet & Northern Indiana Railroad Company.

Joliet, June 12, 1876.

The annual meeting of this Company, for the election of Directors, and the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it, will be held at the office of the Company, in the city of Joliet, Illinois, on the 21st day of July, 1876, at 12 o'clock.

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TOO TRUE.

The Appalling Tale of Indian Butchery Officially Confirmed.

A Feeling of the Most Bitter Resentment Awakened in the Country.

General Demand that the Demons Be Pieganized into Harmlessness.

Some History of the Principal Wild Beast Called Sitting Bull.

The Multiplicity of Instances in Which He Has Courted Extirmination.

A Sketch of the Life and Military Career of the Gallant Custer.

An Outline of Gen. Sheridan's Plans for the Campaign.

OFFICIAL.

THE HORRIBLE STORY CONFIRMED AT HEAD-QUARTERS.

The following dispatches sent by Gen. R. E. Drum, Acting Adjutant-General, to Gen. P. H. Sheridan, at Philadelphia, contain all the official information received here yesterday:

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL TO SHERIDAN. Chicago, July 6, 1876.—Gen. P. H. Sheridan, U. S. A., Continental Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.: The following has just been received from Col. O'NEAL, July 6.—Your dispatch received. Col. Smith, Gen. Terry's Aid, is at Blamark, and has telegraphed me from there to-day as follows:

"Gen. Terry desires you to telegraph Gen. Sturges and Crittenden of the death of their sons in the battle of June 25. Have you received a dispatch via Fort Ellis, reporting the action? I am at Blamark to correspond with Division Headquarters."

"Not having received the dispatch reporting the action, I telegraphed Col. Smith, and asked for particulars. He replied as follows:

"On the 25th of June Custer, with his whole regiment, attacked the Indian village on Little Big Horn, and was repulsed with a loss of fifteen officers and over 300 men. Gen. Custer, Col. Custer, Keogh, Yates, and Cook, Lieut. Smith, McIntosh, Calhoun, Hodgson, Reilly, Porter, Sturges, and Crittenden were killed. Lieut. Harrington and Assistant Surgeon Lord are missing. All the other officers with the expedition are well. Two hundred and sixty-one dead have been buried, and fifty-two wounded brought away. The command is at the mouth of the Big Horn, waiting to rest."

H. E. DRUM, A. A. G.

TRANSPORTATION.

Chicago, July 6, 1876.—Gen. P. H. Sheridan, U. S. A., Continental Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.: Col. Smith, of Gen. Terry's staff, telegraphs as follows from Blamark:

"Gen. Terry thinks that the expense of employing steamers to bring supplies to his command in the field has thus far been kept within the amount allotted for that purpose. He wishes for the consideration of the Interior Department, that the retention of one of the steamers in the Yellowstone is essential to any further operations."

H. E. DRUM, A. A. G.

RETROSPECTIVE.

A HISTORY OF THE TROUBLES.

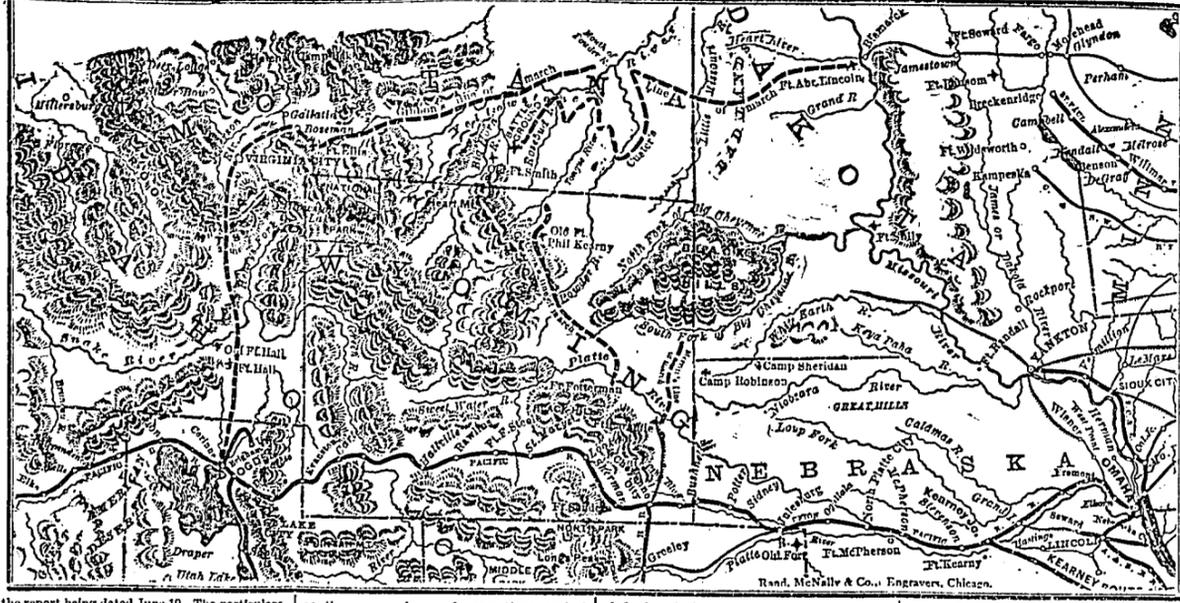
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7.—The reported massacre of Gen. Custer and a large portion of his command has caused a great deal of excitement in Washington to-day, and much anxiety on the part of those who had friends connected with the expedition. The news received at the War Department, while confirming the press reports, adds nothing of importance to their details, but arrangements have been made which, it is believed, will cause the interpretation of the official reports of the battle, which would ordinarily be forwarded by mail, and secure the substance of them by telegraph within a day or two. In the meantime, the temper of the Indians, and the objects of the expedition against them from which to form some idea of the extent and cause of the disaster. For many years a number of hostile Sioux have been ranging through the northern portion of Dakota under the leadership of Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and a few other Chiefs. Two years ago, their number was estimated at 7,000, but subsequently about 4,000 of these Indians went into the Agencies at Standing Rock, Spotted Tail, and Cheyenne River, reducing the number who might properly be called hostile to about 3,000. The War Department estimates Sitting Bull's band at about 3,500 Indians. The number of warriors in these bands could not originally have exceeded between 400 and 500. All attempts to induce these Indians to go upon reservations have thus far failed, and last fall Gen. Crook visited Washington for the purpose of consulting the Administration in regard to their future treatment of them. With the Secretary of War and Gen. Cowan, Acting Secretary of the Interior, Gen. Crook visited the President and proposed that an expedition be sent against these Indians during the winter, when they would be less prepared than at any other time to resist it. His recommendation was favorably considered, and

A MESSAGE WAS SENT TO SITTING BULL and the Chiefs who were operating with him, ordering them to report at the reservations before the 1st of January, 1876, the alternative being that if they did not the United States would make war against them. This step was considered necessary not only on account of the numerous murders of white people committed by these Indians, but because they were being constant attacks upon the Bannock and other friendly Indians whose reservations were in their vicinity, and were inciting other Sioux to hostility. The uneasiness of the Red Cloud and the Spotted Tail Indians on account of the invasion of the Black Hills, and the scarcity of supplies furnished them, also made it very dangerous to allow these hostile bands to remain any longer beyond the control of the United States authorities. They might at any time be led to join in a general war which it would require the entire available military power of the United States to quell, and in which there might be

A GREAT SACRIFICE OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. The hostile Sioux paid no attention whatever to the orders directing them to report at the reservations, and preparations were made in the meantime to send an expedition against them. The first engagement occurred in January, but resulted in no advantage to either side.

A letter dated Fort Berthold, Dakota Territory, Jan. 16, 1876, reports that at that time there were about 500 lodges of the hostile Sioux. On the 23d of last month Gen. Sheridan forwarded to the War Department Gen. Crook's telegraphic report of another engagement,

SCENE OF THE SLAUGHTER OF CUSTER'S COMMAND.



the report being dated June 19. The particulars of this fight have already been published, and its result was to give great encouragement to the hostile Indians and to incite them to greater desperation.

Some doubt was at first expressed in regard to the truth of the report about Gen. Custer's defeat, as it was supposed to be impossible for 4,000 Indians to have been at the point where the battle is said to have taken place, unless they were

REINFORCED BY LARGE BANDS from the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail Agencies. The latest report from these Agencies represents that the Indians there are still friendly, and most positively deny that any number of them have recently left the reservation. Earlier in the spring a few of the more disaffected, whom Red Cloud and Spotted Tail were unable to control, did join Sitting Bull, and about 600 of the Northern Cheyennes are said to have accompanied them. Gen. Van Dever, who has been sent by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Red Cloud and Spotted Tail to report on the condition of affairs there, writes on the 25th and 29th of June that, although the supplies were almost gone,

THE INDIANS STILL REMAINED FRIENDLY, and that none of them have recently left the reservation. At a great sun-dance, which occurred only a short time ago, nearly the whole of Red Cloud's and Spotted Tail's bands were present, and a conference of the Chiefs was held to consider the relations of the tribes with the United States. Gen. Van Dever says that the Indians recognized the fact that it would be necessary for them to concede something if they expected to continue to receive supplies from the United States, and that a general desire was expressed that the President should send a Commissioner to treat with them in regard to relinquishing the Black Hills.

A telegram received from Gen. Van Dever to-day reports that

WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, and urges very earnestly that a Commission be sent at once. A bill authorizing the appointment of such a Commission was passed by the Senate some time ago, but the House has taken no action upon it.

Although the number of Indians engaged in battle with Gen. Custer's troops is probably exaggerated, the reports, as published this morning, are generally accepted as true in their most essential particulars. Several gentlemen in Washington who are personally acquainted with the scout Taylor, who brought the report of the battle to Boston, Mont., vouch for him as a cool-headed, trustworthy man, whose reports are not likely to be exaggerated. Roseman is the nearest point to the scene of the battle which has telegraphic communication with the rest of the country, and is itself about 180 or 200 miles from the mouth of the Little Horn River. The country where Gen. Custer's disaster is reported to have occurred is

VERY FAVORABLE FOR SUCCESSFUL AMBUSHES.

It consists of foot-hills, or, as they are called in the West, hog-backs. They are so formed by the upheaval of the strata of the rocks that the plane of their surface forms an angle of from 10 to 140 degrees with the natural surface of the earth. These follow each other in parallel lines, rising from 75 to 200 feet, and are 30 to 100 yards apart. The ravines between them have a very steep side slope, up which it is almost impossible to go with a horse, and a body of soldiers, or a wagon train that once enters one of them has no way of escape except by following it to the mountains or the plains, or in turning back and retracing its steps.

POINTER MANEUVERS.

On more than one former occasion the Indians have deceived troops into one of these ravines, and surprised them by an ambush.

In 1893 or 1894 Gen. Carrington, who was in command at Fort Phil Kearney, ordered out his troops in pursuit of Indians, who were making a demonstration. The soldiers followed them into a ravine, between two hog backs, when they were attacked by other Indians concealed among the rocks on the sides and top of the hill, and were all massacred.

Great surprise has been expressed in Washington to-day by those who knew Gen. Custer at all, that he should have been caught in any Indian trap. He has been generally regarded as an Indian fighter, and was well acquainted with all their tricks and modes of warfare. He was an officer of great bravery and daring. If, then, he was caught in an ambush, as the report seems to indicate, it was because his enthusiasm got the better of his judgment.

AN INTERVIEW.

Delegato McGinnis, of Montana, who, from his long residence in the vicinity of the great Sioux reservation, and his careful study of the country, has a question which he asks of the West, probably understands the subject better than any other Member of Congress, and as well as any one in Washington, gave the following information in an interview to-day:

Correspondent.—Is this news true about Custer's disaster?

McGinnis.—I fear it is. Muggins Taylor, the scout who is reported to have brought in the news, is generally considered to be a very trustworthy man. It is true that he came from Gibbon's command, I have no doubt that dispatches will soon be forwarded from Roseman or Blamark, the nearest telegraphic points to the point of operations. The Little Horn River empties into the Big Horn a short distance above the point where the latter empties into the Yellowstone,—the point where Gen. Sheridan has been directed to establish a post.

The scene of the conflict is on the Crow Reservation, which is habitually invaded by the hostile Sioux. The Crow are the friend and allies of the whites. The mouth of the Big Horn is the point at which Gen. Sheridan has been directed to establish a garrison or depot

as the proper base of operations against the Northern Sioux. There is not the least doubt that such is the proper base of military operations. Converging columns, like those of Crook, Gibbon, and Terry, moving from such distant points and through such a difficult country, cannot make prompt connections, nor even be properly advised of each other's movements. So that the final, roving stronger than was anticipated, on account of the reinforcements of young warriors from the Agencies, attack these several columns in detail. They recently crippled Crook, who was advancing from the south, and now have defeated Terry's cavalry before they could gain the co-operation and assistance of Gibbon.

Custer, it is supposed, was SCOUTING FOR TERRY'S COLUMN, and which was moving up the Yellowstone to join Gibbon. He came upon the enemy and probably greatly under-rated their forces. We know his gallantry, and most likely he was smarting under recent criticisms, and more than ever determined to make a glorious record.

What is the cause of this war? The cause of the war, or rather of these expeditions, for this war with these Indians has been going on for fifteen or more years, may be summed up in the words, "Sitting Bull and the outlaw Sioux." We have never had peace or even truce relations with these bands. After the Spirit Lake massacre in Iowa and the great Sioux massacre in Minnesota, all the more turbulent spirits banded together. After Gen. Sibley's expedition in 1863, they crossed the Missouri, and endeavored to concentrate for another invasion of Minnesota, but the next year they were defeated at the mouth of the Missouri, and after several running fights they retreated across the Big Horn lands into the Big Horn country, and he followed to the Yellowstone and established Fort Buford. Upon this point, and on the steamboats, and immigrants to Montana, they kept up unceasing war, often keeping the garrison at Buford in a state of siege for weeks at a time, and murdering every straggler who went outside the post. An attempt was made to treat with them in 1869, but after accepting the presents and securing ammunition, Sitting Bull

BROKE UP THE CONFERENCE, and the Commissioners escaped to the fort across the river. When Red Cloud and Spotted Tail made peace at Laramie, Sitting Bull stubbornly refused to come in. All that year he made war on the steamboats and commerce of the Missouri, MASSACRING SEVERAL SMALL BOAT-LOADS OF RETURNING MINERS, and capturing large quantities of gold dust, which he traded for arms to the Northern half-breeds. He has been the scourge of the Crow, Valley, in Montana, where the Montana Volunteers were raised to meet him. In 1868 he attacked the settlement of Muscle-Shell and suffered defeat, losing thirty-six warriors. The settlers having notice of his coming, ambushed him in a ravine outside the town. Although the attack was made by the Sioux on the village, this battle was denounced as a massacre by a portion of the Eastern press. After this he lost prestige. During 1869 and 1870 he evaded himself principally in the neighborhood of the Crow, where he was followed by the Shoshone, and all other tribes friendly to the whites, trying it by an occasional attack on the Missouri River forts. In 1870, Gen. Hancock, then commanding that Department, thought of organizing an expedition to bring him to terms, but as there was a prospect of the extension of the Northern Pacific Railway, which would simplify operations, he recommended another attempt to buy a peace with him until that road should be pushed into the Big Horn country. On this recommendation, backed by the assurances of the Peace Commissioners and the Interior Department, Congress voted half a million dollars to make peace and subdue him. This was

THE FAMOUS TETON-SIOUX APPROPRIATION, Sitting Bull himself claiming to be a Teton, though his followers are outlaws and hard core-comers from all the bands of the Sioux Nation. Considerable criticism has been made on the expenditure of this appropriation. It resulted in bringing to the Fort Peck Agency a part of his followers, but he refused to sit him out next year. Gen. Custer went out with the Northern Pacific surveying party, and twice defeated Sitting Bull, and at last repulsed his attacks. One of his bands invaded the Gallatin Valley in 1872, and carried off 500 head of horses, after murdering a number of farmers. In 1873 he made a night attack on Col. Baker, but was repulsed and pursued. In 1874 he drove the Crows from their reservation agency, and

HE WAS AN ALLY OF THE PEACEABLE INDIANS. The Peace Commission, finding him intractable, now began to demand that the army should take the offensive and subdue him, and this request has frequently been repeated by the Peace Commission, and the Indian Department, until the War Department has acted on it. Last year some of his followers went down to meet the Commissioner in Conference with the Red Cloud Sioux, and came near precipitating a massacre of the Commissioner. Sitting Bull himself refused to go in, and spent the summer in attacks on the Crow Agency, and on the frontier settlers. He captured a Government wagon-train on the Carroll Road, murdered a number of recruits going to the Montana post, and captured the stock of the Carroll Stage Company.

Such have been his exploits up to the bloody history of the present year. He defies the Government and hopes that he can get the Sioux nation to join him. If they will only do this he promises to

DRIVE THE WHITES BACK INTO THE SEA, out of which they came, and utterly dishevels the reports of Red Cloud and others who have visited the coast as to the numbers of the whites they saw. He says they were daz-

zled by bad medicine, "magic." How many followers he has ordinarily? Not more than 200 or 300 lodges, but there is no doubt that his numbers are now swelled by recruits from all the Agencies. The northern Cheyennes are with him, and a large portion of the Ojullahs, and probably he has had 2,000 or more

WELL-ARMED AND WELL-MOUNTED WARRIORS in these late fights. There were times last winter when he could not have gathered 800 men, but the young bucks have all slipped away from the Agency, where they wintered, and where the old people, and women, and children are being fed by the Government, and they will remain with him during the summer.

This war, then, has no connection with the Black Hills troubles, none whatever. It has been waged defensively on our part for many years before the hills were entered by anybody. The Black Hills troubles may be used for a pretext to induce the treaty Sioux to join him. Of course, he is anxious to confederate all the Sioux tribes and bands

IN A GENERAL WAR.

He has been trying to do this for years, and has made repeated advances to the Crows and Black Feet. This is one reason why the Peace Commission regards that he must be subdued, lest he should demoralize all the treaty Indians, and bring on a general war. Of course the Government has no alternative except to bring him to terms. Any other course would be a cowardly and wicked surrender of our frontier. Settlers, and our friendly Indian allies would be subject to a barbarous and determined enemy.

SHERMAN AND SHERIDAN.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., July 6.—Regarding the reported killing of Gen. Custer and the massacre of his command, neither Gen. Sherman nor Gen. Sheridan, both of whom are now in the city, has received any confidential information. Gen. Sherman simply says "I don't believe it, and I don't want to believe it, if I can help it." Gen. Sheridan says that he would like very much to disbelieve it, but his fears that it is true are stronger than his hopes that it is not.

He said that the last heard from the expedition was from Gen. Terry, about the 23rd or 24th of June. Terry was then north of Rosebud, and was leading a column against the savages, frequently of whose presence were they were cured. It was his intention to have Custer lead an expedition of about 800 men up the stream, and effect a junction with Gibbon's command, on the south side of the Yellowstone, at its junction with the Big Horn. This is in the southern part of Montana Territory. It was then Terry's purpose to be himself at this junction when Custer's and Gibbon's forces arrived. Gibbon reached the junction of the Rosebud and the Yellowstone first, he was to march up the former and meet Custer, who was directed to march down. Gen. Sheridan says: "From what has been reported I infer that Custer met the savages on his way toward the junction, and made a daring effort—he was always brave and daring—to cut his way through the enemy who filled the stretch of country separating the two forces. I do not like to believe that the news is as terrible as it is reported, and yet there is no reason why the dispatch should not come direct from Ellis, the nearest post to the scene. The line, I understand, were recently placed in good working order."

ST. LOUIS.

A BLOODY REMINISCENCE. Special Dispatch to The Tribune.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., July 6.—The reported massacre by Indians near the Little Big Horn River of Gen. Custer and his command, and the loss of 260 men, is a sad and appalling sensation. Since the massacre of 1866 of Lieut. Col. Fetterman and seventy-five soldiers under his command at Fort Phil Kearney, there has been no such disastrous defeat from the Sioux. Lieut. Col. Fetterman went out in command of a war party, and, being surprised by the savages, not a man was left to tell the tale.

MAJ. GRIMES.

The report of the Custer massacre, which at first was received with some degree of incredulity, has been confirmed by reports received at Gen. Sheridan's headquarters at Fort Lincoln, the Quartermaster's Department, also believes in the truth of the report. He was acquainted with Muggins Taylor, who first came in with the news. Taylor was a gambler, but a man of truth and veracity. Maj. Grimes is well acquainted with the country where the fight took place. He was detailed by the Government, in 1868, to remove all the forts on the Powder River route, in accordance with the provisions of the Fort Laramie treaty of 1858.

THE SENIOR MAJOR OF THE SEVENTH UNITED STATES CAVALRY, is now in this city on leave of absence. Maj. Tiford was in command of Fort Rice, and is familiar with the situation. Winter before last the Indians at Standing Rock, some 30 miles below, had consumed their rations, and, after eating up all their ponies and dogs, they came round the Fort begging for subsistence to save themselves from starving. It was indicated by the Government, and the agents, and from their deplorable condition could easily have been wiped out. The very Indians who begged for supplies would start out on their raids. It is of opinion that the Indians who fought Custer are Gray Horse's band and Sitting Bull's band, and that they are in command of all the malcontents and young men ambitious to distinguish themselves on the war-path. The Major speaks in high terms of Custer.

A SON OF ONE OF THE ILL-FATED BANDS.

WHAT A BLOOD-CURDLING SCENE. In a lengthy interview with ex-Gov. Fletcher, who was a member of the Peace Commission in 1875, that gentleman states that the present desperate state of affairs has, without the ad-

vice of a doubt, been brought about by the present peace policy of the Government.

THE FEEL