

2-23-1886

Cavalry in New Mexico and Arizona

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RAISING OF TWO REGIMENTS IN THE TERRITORIES.

FEBRUARY 23, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STEELE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following as the

VIEWS OF THE MINORITY:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5867.]

The minority of the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred House bill 5867, dissent from the views of the majority, and report that they believe the officers and soldiers of the Regular Army have shown themselves abundantly able to deal with the Indians, as has been attested on many fields, and it is the belief of your minority that we have now in the Army some of the best known Indian campaigners and fighters, notably Generals Sheridan, Crook, and Miles. The bill, it seems to your minority, particularly reflects upon the services of General Crook, and those serving under his command, and in view of the fact that he has been sent from Oregon to Arizona, from Arizona to Wyoming, then back to Arizona and New Mexico, because of his peculiar fitness as an Indian fighter, and that in no case has he failed to accomplish the result expected, your committee think this seeming rebuke unmerited. It was a well-known fact when the majority report was made that the last of the Indians off the reservations in Arizona had either been forced to return, or hostages to the number of nine had been delivered to the command of the late Captain Crawford, U. S. A., as a guarantee that those remaining off would return, which it seems to the minority ought to be taken as a repeated guarantee of the ability of our Regular Army to deal with the Indians.

The minority of your committee is divided in opinion as to whether or not it is best to wage a war of extermination on Indians leaving their reservations; but if such a war is thought best, an intimation is all the Army requires, and the object will be as speedily obtained, at least in the opinion of your minority, as it could or would be by regiments especially enlisted for that purpose.

The bill proposes that in addition to wagons now provided for the mounted troops, a sufficient number of pack animals shall be furnished, number not limited. That at least two horses shall be furnished to each officer and soldier, and when a command runs short of this number, authority is given to any quartermaster or acting quartermaster, to supply deficiency from any herd accessible, whether belonging to the United States or not, an unusual power in time of peace, and would, in all probability, result in an indebtedness far-reaching, and, judging from the past, never ending. The bill says to our regular soldiers, many of them wear-

ing scars from Indian arrows and bullets, brave and true men, with years of experience, your services have proved a failure, but for ornamental purposes we will retain your services at \$13 per month, and will enlist competent settlers residing in the Territories, to do our fighting and pay them \$30 per month.

The majority assign as a reason for this increase that you cannot get competent men to leave their homes in the Territories for a less sum, and at the same time would have the House understand, that the frontiersman would make a more competent soldier because of the desire to defend his home. If he so desires why not do so at \$13 per month, or because of his desire. It is the opinion of your minority that the Army as at present managed will (in a humane way so far as it is possible) deal fairly, firmly, and as promptly as it is possible with the Indians requiring subjugation from time to time unforeseen, and that the authority now reposed in the Secretary of War allowing him to employ one thousand Indian scouts when he deems it advisable, is all that is necessary or required to insure a chastisement of the Indians leaving their reservations.

The committee here inserts the military history of General Crook in brief:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 16, 1886.

Statement of the military service of George Crook, of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office.

He graduated at the United States Military Academy July 1, 1852, and has held all the grades of a commissioned officer from brevet second lieutenant to his present rank of brigadier-general, U. S. Army. He also attained the rank of major-general of volunteers during the late war. He served on frontier duty in California, Oregon, and Washington Territory from 1852 to 1861, being on the Rogue River expedition in 1856 and in command of the Pitt River expedition in 1857, having been wounded with an arrow in a skirmish with the Pitt River Indians June 10, 1857. He also participated in the Yakima expedition in 1858. During the war of the rebellion he was colonel of the Thirty-sixth Ohio Infantry from September 12, 1861, to September 7, 1862, when appointed brigadier-general of volunteers. He was wounded in the action at Lewisburg, W. Va. He commanded a brigade in the Northern Virginia and the Maryland campaigns of 1862, being engaged at South Mountain and Antietam, Md.; also in the operations in Western Virginia from October, 1862, to March, 1863; commanded a cavalry division in the operations in the Tennessee campaign, being engaged at Tullahoma, Hoover's Gap, Chickamunga, and in the pursuit of the Confederate General Wheeler.

In February, 1864, he was ordered to Western Virginia, and commanded a division in the Department of West Virginia to September 1, 1864, making constant raids and participating in numerous actions. On September 1, 1864, he assumed command of the Department of West Virginia, participating in the Shenandoah Valley (Virginia) campaign, and was engaged at Berryville, Fisher's Hill, Strasburg, Opequon, and Cedar Creek. While in command of the Department of West Virginia he was taken prisoner February 21, 1865, at Cumberland, Md. He resumed command of the department March 20, 1865, but was relieved March 22, 1865, and ordered to the Army of the Potomac, where he commanded the Second Cavalry Division, under General Sheridan, in the operations around Richmond, Va., which terminated in the surrender of the army under General R. E. Lee.

Since the close of the war he has commanded the districts of Owyhee, Boise, and the lakes, in Idaho and Oregon, in 1867-'68, and was actively engaged in operations against hostile Indians. He commanded the Department of the Columbia from May 23, 1868, to August 8, 1870, and was engaged in quelling the disturbances with Indians in that department.

He commanded the Department of Arizona from June 4, 1871, to March 25, 1875, being actively engaged in the operations against the Apache Indians in Arizona and on the borders of New Mexico, following the hostiles into Old Mexico, capturing many and compelling them to sue for peace.

He commanded the Department of the Platte from April 27, 1875, to August 30, 1882, during which time he was, in 1876, actively engaged in the field against the Sioux Indians, and in the winter of 1876-'77 commanded the Powder River expedition, which

resulted in quelling the Indian disturbances. Since September 4, 1882, he has been in command of the Department of Arizona, being almost constantly engaged in field operations against the hostile Apache Indians in Arizona and New Mexico.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

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EDW'D S. BRAGG.
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