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Letter of the Secretary of the Interior, communicating information in relation to recent raids and outrages upon citizens of Texas and in the Chickasaw nation by bands of Indians belonging to the Kiowa and Comanche tribes.

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LETTER

OF

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

COMMUNICATING

Information in relation to recent raids and outrages upon citizens of Texas and in the Chickasaw nation by bands of Indians belonging to the Kiowa and Comanche tribes.

MAY 26, 1868.—Read and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., May 26, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a communication from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 23d instant, submitting, for the examination of this department, the accompanying copies of letters from Agent Leavenworth, relative to recent raids and outrages upon citizens of Texas and in the Chickasaw nation by bands of Indians belonging to the Kiowa and Comanche tribes.

The attention of Congress is most earnestly invited to an early consideration of the subject and to the propriety, indeed the urgent necessity, which exists for placing at the control of this department the means of meeting and providing for this and similar emergencies as they arise. Occasions in the Indian service demanding prompt and efficient action are of very frequent occurrence, but no action can be taken for want of means to meet the necessary expenses. The public interests consequently suffer great detriment, and much larger expenditures become necessary to repair the injury than would have been requisite in the first instance to prevent it.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. BROWNING, *Secretary.*

Hon. B. F. WADE,

President of the Senate United States.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., May 23, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of two letters from Agent Leavenworth, dated 23d and 26th ultimo, relative to recent raids and outrages upon citizens of Texas and in the Chickasaw nation by bands of Indians belonging to the Kiowa and Comanche tribes.

The agent states that our Indian affairs are just now in a critical condition, and he desires full power and the means to act in reference to them. He remarks that he may need the assistance of Governor Harris, of the Chickasaw nation, but it cannot be obtained unless rations for the men be furnished.

Deeming it important that the agent should proceed to act promptly in the matter, I respectfully recommend that he be authorized to accept the proffer of the requisite service that Governor Harris may be disposed to make, and, as the department has no means on hand for the purchase of rations for the men, I suggest that, by communicating with the War Department upon the subject, a sufficiency of rations might be obtained from the military post of Fort Arbuckle. I know not how otherwise they can be procured, unless it be that the contractor for providing supplies for Indians in the leased district can be induced to furnish them under his contract, in which case he would have to depend for payment upon an appropriation to be made by Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. MIX,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. BROWNING,
Secretary of the Interior.

CHEROKEE TOWN, C. N., April 26, 1868.

SIR: Just as I reached this place, a few minutes since, on my return from my visit to Governor Harris, I met a messenger with the enclosed letter. It tells a tale of woe for those seven poor little captives, reported, as I believe, in Mr. Ward's letter. I shall not go to Fort Arbuckle, as I intended, but reach my agency as soon as possible—will investigate and report fully. Governor Harris will do all in his power. I may want his assistance, but cannot get it unless I furnish his men with rations. How shall I get them? I wish I had full power to act, not only with energy, but means. Our Indian matters are in a critical condition just now. Please to telegraph me via Fort Gibson and military express. to be sent me on receipt at Fort Arbuckle.

In haste, respectfully,

J. H. LEAVENWORTH,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

KIOWA AND COMANCHE AGENCY,
Eureka Valley, L. D., April 23, 1868.

DEAR COLONEL: The Kiowas are arriving, women, children, and all; also, wild Naconees, and many others from the Staked Plains. The Kiowas have brought in two captives, two girls. I talked with Timber Mountain. He says all is good. They had seven captives; five have died, and they have brought in the two that are living. I think you should be here at this time, for a short period, at least. I have no trouble with the Indians; the great difficulty is to get something for them to eat. I write this in advance of seeing the children, so that I can start a man immediately on their arrival here.

The Indians understand that I have sent for you, and all wish to see you. I have seen the children. They are two girls, about three years old, one of them very fair skin, and pretty. I think Black Eagle is the prime mover. McClurken is going with Perry Wah-soit to their camps. Mead is just here with a train of two wagons goods.

Yours, truly,

S. J. WALKLEY.

CHEROKEE TOWN, U. N.,
75 MILES EAST OF KIOWA AND COMANCHE AGENCY,
April 23, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt on the 17th instant, at Eureka Valley leased lands, your several communications dated February 26th, March 5th, 6th, and 10th, all on the subject of raids and depredations committed, it is supposed, by Kiowa and Comanche Indians. My attention, since my arrival in the leased district, has been given *very much* to these subjects, and I was, before the receipt of your instructions, collecting all the facts possible, so as to give full information to the department. On my arrival here I found there had been many outrages committed by different bands, both of Kiowas and Comanches, and that they had many captives and many stolen horses and mules. I adopted such measures as I believed the best, and in pursuance thereof I am here on my way to consult with Governor Harris, and to get his and Junper's co-operation, and if necessary their assistance, as well as the military at Fort Arbuckle. I have recovered from the Noconi Comanches Vina Mars, aged between 11 and 12, and sent her home to her friends in Texas; and I now have with me a small boy, got from the same Indians, but whose home I am unable to find out, as he will not or cannot talk much English, but I think his name is "Kerkensall." This same band have a negro boy who will be given up soon. All the Comanches, including the wild tribes of the Staked Plains, are in the vicinity of Fort Cobb, and some of them (wild ones) have visited me at the agency, and their head chief is soon to be in. The Kiowas are all in the same vicinity except Satanta and a part of his band, who have gone to the Arkansas, Fort Dodge, I presume. It has come to my knowledge through the Indians that he has a white captive with his band, and had the same at the council on Medicine Lodge creek last fall. The Kiowa (Kicking Bird) thinks he has given or will give up the girl at Fort Dodge. I trust the department will not get out of patience with me for not communicating more frequently. My labors are great. I am writing in my ambulance, and cannot take a copy of this. After my visit to Governor Harris and Fort Arbuckle will report result.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. LEAVENWORTH,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

P. S.—The Navajo Indians have driven all the Indians from their strongholds on the Staked Plains, thereby doing more good than all the army of the United States could have done. If it should cost millions to make them comfortable where they now are, they should be kept there until removed to the lands between the two *Canadians*. This Indian territory is fully ample for all the Indians east of the Rocky mountains. I never dreamed of such a country, capable of sustaining its millions. Don't move the Navajos yet.