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Message from the President of the United States, communicating, in answer to a Senate resolution of December 7, 1877, information in relation to the cost of the late war with the Sioux Indians.

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M E S S A G E

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a Senate resolution of December 7, 1877, information in relation to the cost of the late war with the Sioux Indians.

FEBRUARY 21, 1878.—Read, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States :

In answer to the resolution of the Senate, dated December 7, 1877, I transmit herewith reports from the General of the Army, the Quartermaster-General, the Commissary-General of Subsistence, and the Chief of Ordnance, showing "what has been the cost" (estimated) "of the late war with the Sioux Indians, and what the casualties of rank and file among the soldiers engaged in said Sioux war."

R. B. HAYES.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *February 20, 1878.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 18, 1878.

SIR: I have the honor to return the resolution of the Senate, dated December 7, 1877, with reports from the General of the Army, the Quartermaster-General, the Commissary-General of Subsistence, and the Chief of Ordnance, showing "what has been the cost" (estimated) "of the late war with the Sioux Indians, and what the casualties of rank and file among the soldiers engaged in said Sioux war."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. McCRARY,
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT.

COST OF SIOUX WAR.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, December 14, 1877.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War, inclosing statement of casualties among the rank and file of the troops engaged in the late war with the Sioux, prepared by the Adjutant-General of the Army.

I am unable to answer that part of the resolution which relates to the cost of the war, but which no doubt can be obtained from the supply departments of the Army.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

Respectfully referred to the Quartermaster-General and Commissary-General for report as early as practicable.

By order of the Secretary of War.

H. T. CROSBY,
Chief Clerk.

WAR DEPARTMENT, December 14, 1877.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., February 18, 1878.

SIR: In reply to your instructions of the 14th December last, indorsed on the letter of the President of the United States, dated 7th December, 1877, transmitting the resolution of the United States Senate calling for information as to the cost of the war with the Sioux Indians, I have the honor to report, that I at length learn by telegraph from Colonel Holabird, chief quartermaster Division of the Missouri, that General Terry, commanding the Department of Dakota, estimates the cost of the Sioux war in that department at \$992,808, of which \$846,179 pertains to the Quartermaster's Department. That General Crook, commanding the Department of the Platte, estimates the cost of the same war in the Department of the Platte at \$1,319,720, of which sum \$1,048,182 pertains to the Quartermaster's Department. Total estimated cost of the Sioux war, therefore, is \$2,312,531, of which \$1,894,311 are charges against the appropriations of the Quartermaster's Department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General U. S. Army.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE COMMISSARY-GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, D. C., December 28, 1877.

SIR: In compliance with your indorsement dated December 14, 1877, referring to this office the Senate resolution passed December 7, 1877, I have the honor to submit herewith a report of the estimated cost to the Subsistence Department of the Sioux war of 1876-'77.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. MACFEELY,
Commissary-General Subsistence.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

Statement showing the estimated cost to the Subsistence Department of the United States Army of the Sioux war of 1876-77.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Value of subsistence stores lost | \$17,486 12 |
| Excess of cost of subsistence stores purchased in the Black Hills over cost of the same stores if supplied from depots | 6,311 86 |
| Total | 23,797 98 |

R. MACFEELY,
Commissary-General Subsistence.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office Commissary-General Subsistence, December 28, 1877.

Statement of casualties among rank and file, United States Army, during the late war with Sioux Indians, commencing in February, 1876.

| Organization. | Killed. | | | Wounded. | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------|------------------------|---------------|--------|
| | Commissioned officers. | Enlisted men. | Total. | Commissioned officers. | Enlisted men. | Total. |
| Medical department | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Second Cavalry | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | 4 |
| Third Cavalry | | 10 | 10 | 2 | 27 | 29 |
| Fourth Cavalry | 1 | 6 | 7 | | 19 | 19 |
| Fifth Cavalry | | 2 | 2 | | 7 | 7 |
| Seventh Cavalry | 14 | 242 | 256 | | 53 | 53 |
| Fourth Infantry | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| Fifth Infantry | | 2 | 2 | | 5 | 5 |
| Sixth Infantry | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Seventeenth Infantry | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Twenty-second Infantry | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 |
| Indian scouts | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | 16 | 267 | 283 | 2 | 123 | 125 |

Aggregate killed and wounded, 408.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., December 11, 1877.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
December 14, 1877.

Noted and respectfully forwarded to the Commissary-General United States Army.

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General U. S. A.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE COMMISSARY-GENERAL SUBSISTENCE,
December 19, 1877.

Noted and respectfully returned to the Hon. Secretary of War.

R. MACFEELY,
Commissary-General Subsistence.

WAR DEPARTMENT, December 20, 1877.

Respectfully referred to the Chief of Ordnance for report as early as practicable.

By order of the Secretary of War.

H. T. CROSBY,
Chief Clerk.

COST OF SIOUX WAR.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 14, 1878.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War.

The records of this office show that the value of the ordnance stores expended in action, lost on the battle-field, abandoned and destroyed for want of transportation, &c., in the campaign against hostile Sioux Indians, amounts to \$70,466.23.

S. V. BENÉT,
Brigadier-General, Chief of Ordnance.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a Senate resolution of December 7, 1877, further information in relation to the cost of the Sioux war.

MARCH 26, 1878.—Read, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States :

In further answer to the resolution of the Senate of December 7, 1877, as to the cost of the Sioux war, I transmit herewith copies of additional reports on the subject received from the Military Division of the Missouri.

R. B. HAYES.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *March 25, 1878.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 22, 1878.

SIR: In connection with my letter of the 15th ultimo, submitting, in compliance with the resolution of the Senate dated December 7, 1877, reports as to the cost of the Sioux war, I have the honor to inclose copy of additional reports on the subject received from the Military Division of the Missouri.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. McCRARY,
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT.

[Telegram.]

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 18, 1877.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
*Commanding Division Missouri,
Chicago, Ill. :*

The Secretary of War desires to have an approximate estimate of the cost of the late Sioux war, to enable him to answer a resolution of Congress.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

COST OF THE SIOUX WAR.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE,
Omaha, Nebr., January 18, 1878.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of December 19, 1877, and in reply to say that the approximate cost of the late Sioux war, so far as connected with the Department of the Platte, and as near as can be at this time estimated, amounts to \$1,319,723.46.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE CROOK,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

To the ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL, U. S. A.,

Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
Saint Paul, Minn., February 14, 1878.

SIR: In obedience to the telegraphic instructions of the Lieutenant-General, dated December 19, 1877, I have the honor to forward herewith an approximate estimate of the cost of the late Sioux war, so far as concerns the Department of Dakota, with the subreports upon which the approximate estimate is based.

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

ALFRED H. TERRY,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

To the ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, Chicago, Ill.

Approximate estimate of the cost of the late Sioux war to the Department of Dakota.

| On what account. | Amount. |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Quartermaster's department..... | \$846, 179 28 |
| Subsistence department..... | 35, 728 50 |
| Medical department..... | 33, 000 00 |
| Ordnance department..... | 75, 000 00 |
| Miscellaneous (telegrams)..... | 2, 900 00 |
| Total..... | 992, 807 78 |

ALFRED H. TERRY,
Brigadier-General.

QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
Saint Paul, Minn., December 26, 1877.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of the 10th instant, I have the honor to submit herewith an approximate estimate of the cost of the late Sioux war in 1876-'77 to the Quartermaster's Department, as follows, viz:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Transportation of troops and supplies by steamer, including the hire of such vessels..... | \$174, 585 41 |
| Transportation of troops and supplies by rail..... | 260, 000 00 |
| Transportation of supplies by wagon, including hire of teams..... | 195, 599 17 |
| Material for the repair of means of transportation..... | 434 21 |
| Hire of teamsters, packers, &c..... | 47, 561 97 |
| Ferriage of troops and supplies..... | 2, 654 23 |
| Hire of guides, scouts, special couriers, &c..... | 16, 252 74 |
| Purchase of grain..... | 70, 367 50 |
| Purchase of hay..... | 100 00 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Pay of extra-duty men..... | 549 50 |
| Purchase of buffalo overcoats..... | 5,412 64 |
| Purchase of mules..... | 20,900 00 |
| Purchase of horses..... | 49,866 29 |
| Purchase of camp-kettles..... | 40 00 |
| Purchase of tent-stoves..... | 55 00 |
| Pay of clerks..... | 800 00 |
| | \$846,179 28 |

A considerable sum must have been paid in Chicago for transportation of troops and supplies by steamers, during the summer of 1876, of which no record has been made in the office of the department quartermaster.

No estimate is made of depreciation of property by wear and tear during the war, because no satisfactory calculation of the amount can now be made.

No account is taken of the loss of public animals, except as they were replaced by purchase, nor of other supplies forwarded to the troops, except as they were purchased in excess of the ordinary allowances or wants of the troops.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. C. CARD,
Quartermaster, U. S. A.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
OFFICE CHIEF COMMISSARY OF SUBSISTENCE,
Saint Paul, Minn., December 28, 1877.

SIR: In reply to indorsement of December 20, 1877, from your office, on copy of telegram from Lieutenant-General Sheridan, of December 19th, instant, I have the honor to furnish the inclosed report. This contains all the information on the subject which I have been able to glean from my files, and it is, I suppose, incomplete. In order that the information required might be complete, all officers performing subsistence duty in this military department should be required to forward, with the papers enumerated in paragraph 2 of General Orders No. 12, headquarters Department of Dakota, February 12, 1870, a copy of each abstract of issues made in the month; and when the purchases, invoices, and transfers of stores are too numerous to be entered on the face of the returns of provisions, an abstract of each should accompany the return. At present the required information can be furnished complete only from the records of the office of the Commissary-General of Subsistence, United States Army, Washington.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. R. MORGAN,
Major and Commissary Subsistence, Chief Commissary Subsistence.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.

COST OF THE SIOUX WAR.

Approximate estimate of the cost to the Subsistence Department in the Department of Dakota of the late Sioux war.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| For subsistence stores issued to civilians employed with expeditions in the field, and to Indians, and for losses during the campaign | \$31,734 80 |
| For hire of citizen herders, and for extra-duty pay to enlisted men in the subsistence department with troops in the field | 3,993 70 |
| | 35,728 50 |

M. R. MORGAN,

Major and Commissary Subsistence,

Chief Commissary Subsistence Department of Dakota.

OFFICE CHIEF COMMISSARY SUBSISTENCE, DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
Saint Paul, Minn., December 28, 1877.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,
Saint Paul, Minn., December 26, 1877.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have made an approximate estimate of the expenses of the medical department during the Sioux war in 1876 and 1877, in excess of the requirements of the service in time of peace, viz:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| For additional medical officers, hospital stewards, cooks, and nurses | \$25,000 00 |
| For additional medical supplies for new posts and field service | 8,000 00 |
| | 33,000 00 |

As I do not disburse public funds, I have not the exact data for a more correct estimate, but believe the above amount will cover the expenses referred to.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. J. SLOAN,

Surgeon, U. S. A., Medical Director.

To the ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Department of Dakota.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
OFFICE CHIEF ORDNANCE OFFICER,
Saint Paul, Minn., February 13, 1878.

SIR: In compliance with the instructions of the department commander, I have the honor to submit the following estimate of the cost of the Sioux war of 1876-'77.

The Ordnance Office, under a resolution of the United States Senate, has prepared a tabulated statement of losses, compiled from returns on file, chargeable to the Sioux war, from which it appears that about fifty thousand dollars should be credited to this department. I think that this estimate is too small, for it does not take into account losses that are not yet settled, the property being still borne on the returns. From a careful consideration of the amount of property furnished and that now on hand, I am of opinion that \$75,000 will not more than cover the losses of the Ordnance Department, directly traceable to the Sioux campaign, in this command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. E. MICHAELIS,

Captain of Ordnance, Chief Ordnance Officer.

To the ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Department of Dakota.

[Memorandum.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
Saint Paul, Minn., January 19, 1878.

Amount paid for telegrams received at and sent from the offices of the commanding general and adjutant-general, Department of Dakota, in relation to the Sioux war of 1876-77 (approximate), \$2,900.

GEO. D. RUGGLES,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Indorsements.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
*Chicago, February 26, 1878.*Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army.
In the absence of the Lieutenant-General, commanding.R. C. DRUM,
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, March 6, 1878.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War. The inclosed reports, called for in accordance with Senate resolution of December 7, 1877, give the cost of the late Sioux war, as follows:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Department of the Platte | \$1,319,723 46 |
| Department of Dakota | 992,807 78 |
| Total, Division of the Missouri, approximate | 2,312,531 24 |

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

S. Ex. 35, pt. 2—2

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