

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING,

In response to a Senate resolution of 2d instant, a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to the alleged armament of Indians in certain States.

DECEMBER 11, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 11, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Senate resolution of 2d instant in the following words:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to report to the Senate any information in his possession as to arms and ammunition in the possession of Indians occupying the Indian reservations in the States of Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, and also what steps, if any, are being taken for the disarmament of such Indians.

In response thereto I transmit herewith copy of a communication of 6th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom the matter was referred, and its inclosure, save as to some names of Indians.

It appears therefrom that these Indians are generally well armed and supplied with ammunition.

On the 13th of November last the President directed the Secretary of War to assume a military responsibility for any threatened outbreak and to take such steps as might be necessary to that end, and on December 1, 1890, the agents among these Indians were instructed as follows:

During the present Indian troubles you are instructed that while you shall continue all the business and carry into effect the educational and other purposes of your agency, you will, as to all operations intended to suppress any outbreak by force, cooperate with and obey the orders of the military officer commanding on the reservation in your charge.

The power of disarmament was thus transferred to the War Department, and no measures to this end have been taken since by this Department.

The substance of all the communications received from the seat of disturbance and from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs was communicated to the honorable Secretary of War as received.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.