

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON,

August 21, 1877.

The U.S. Indian Agent

Agency,

Sir:

It has come to the knowledge of this Office that there is a spirit of unfriendliness manifested on the part of some of the Indians upon the Sioux and other reservations, toward the Government, and that this, to a great extent, has been occasioned by reason of the rigid measures which it has been necessary to take by the military authorities to suppress and prevent hostilities. It is stated that there is a determination on the part of many of the Indians "to secure arms at all hazards, and that they will exchange property of great value for them," and that sales of arms and ammunition to the Indians are conducted secretly by freighters and others not connected with any of the agencies. Precautionary measures should, therefore, be taken to prevent hostilities, and to arrest and punish lawless intruders, and to this end you will use the utmost diligence in gaining all the information possible in regard to the conduct and intentions of the Indians under your charge toward the Government, and, also, with respect to any illicit traffic among them of arms, ammunition and other contraband articles, and make immediate report of such traffic, if any, to this



Office.

You will especially labor to inform yourself thoroughly of the habits and conduct of the Indians, their feelings and attitude toward the Government, as well as of other matters connected with their improvement and civilization, and those subjects should be embodied in your monthly reports. If any disaffection among them is observed, or any acts that may tend to an outbreak, you will, immediately, make report thereof to the Office, and take prompt and effective measures to thoroughly investigate the causes of the disaffection, in order that a proper remedy may be applied, and hostilities hereafter prevented.

Respectfully,

J. D. Smith
Commissioner

Aug 27/77
Comr. Ind. Affs. A.

Circular letter to Agts.

Relations to sale of arms +
feelings of Indians towards
whites + Govt. + of Letter

A canon &c.

wholly inapplicable
to this gang.

1877