

Citizens of Silver City Letter to President RB Hayes 10 May, 1880.

Silver City N.M.

May 10, 1880.

To His Excellency R.B. Hayes,

President Washington, D.C.

The undersigned citizens of Southern New Mexico would most respectfully and urgently present to your Excellency the following statement. – That hostile Apaches under Victoria have been and are now being reinforced from the Apaches reservation and are becoming bolder and more aggressive and merciless in their

raids on our settlements. That during the past two weeks some fifteen of our people have been murdered by these savages. Large herds have been scattered or wantonly shot down. Miners and farmers driven from their homes and their property destroyed and whole communities are terrorized and have suspended their usual avocations to watch and guard against hostile Indians. About eighty of our citizens have gone as volunteers to the rescue of settlements nearly a hundred miles distant. They were left unprotected by the troops and were attacked by these Indians. That the troops now in the field have been operating against Victoria for several months and have entirely failed either to subdue or punish him or to protect our people from his murderous raids. We do not believe that the true gravity and dangers of the situation have been correctly reported through military or official channels and we would therefore beg your Excellency to heed

our statement and petition and cause to be sent to our aid a sufficient force to speedily conquer these Indians

and restore peace to this afflicted portion of our territory.

(Sd) G.W. Bailey, P.M.

C.P. Crawford

J.B. Morrill

C. Bennett

R.V. Newsham, Co. Clerk

Kennon, M.D.

E. Stine, Dep Coll.

H.H. Whitehill, Sheriff of Grant Co.

S.M. Ashenfelter

General Pope adds the following to the above:

Respectfully returned to the Adjutant General of the Army – thro. H'dqr's M.D. Mo. –

The troops in Southern New Mexico under Col. Hatch's immediate command are:- the whole of his own Reg't (9th Cavalry) and five (5) companies of the 15th Infantry, the latter at the posts of Bliss, Stanton and Bayard and at Ojo Caliente and Craig. One (1) company or more understood to be with him.

In addition he has had two (2) companies of Indian Scouts from Department of Arizona and one (1) company of Indian Scouts belonging to this Department.

He has been and is being aided cordially by the troops in Arizona. – The military force appears to me entirely adequate to deal with the Indians in question. The trouble is to catch them. – They scatter in every direction when closely pressed and require to be hunted down.

This the troops, both from this Department and Arizona are doing, but it takes time. Of course more troops in that section would be very desirable but as I know that none can be spared, I have not asked for any since my last communication on that subject – three (3) months since.

128 Horses Worn to Mere Shadows

There have been some persons killed by the Indians and some stock taken in this long chase but most of the reports from that section are now, and always have been the grossest exaggerations. – The endorsement on Captain Pollock's report forwarded yesterday will show how these stories are magnified beyond recognition.

The last heard from Hatch was dated San Francisco River, the 11th – He was on large Indian trail leading toward the White Mountains in Arizona.

The troops have been hard worked for months in this chase, and I believe, have done all that men can do.

The result in time is not in doubt, but of course with more troops, the end would be nearer. – I think another Regiment of Infantry could serve a good purpose in New Mexico for a year to come.

Sigd, Jno. Pope

Bvt. Major Gen'l. U.S.A.
Commanding.97