

A BRAVE'S BURIAL.

The Funeral of Spotted Tail at the Rosebud Agency.

Leaves From the Life of a Chivalrous Chief.

His Ancestry, Deeds of Valor, and Reservation Life.

How a Competent Agent Has Treated the Indian Problem.

Correspondent of the Omaha Bee.

ROSEBUD AGENCY, D. T., August 13.—The violent death of Spotted Tail, a noted warrior and chief of all the Sioux Indians, and the quiet and orderly proceedings attending the arrest of his murderers, awakens renewed interest in regard to the efforts of the government to elevate and civilize this tribe, and revive memories of the bloody wars in which he was engaged.

SPOTTED TAIL was a son of Shooting Star, who was for several years chief of the Brule Sioux, and in his day a noted warrior. Spotted Tail was born in the spring of 1823, near White river, not far from the place of his death. He early showed a warlike spirit, and at the age of eighteen killed his first man in a battle with the Pawnees. It was a custom of the Sioux for a great many years to make annual incursions against the Pawnees, and Spotted Tail was always at the front and in the thickest of the fighting, never returning until one or more Pawnees were made to bite the dust by his own hand.

On one occasion the Sioux were badly routed by the Pawnees, when Spotted Tail took it upon himself to cover the retreat, aided only by two or three friends. How well he did it is attested by the fact that he alone killed six Pawnees without the loss of a Sioux.

INCITED TO WAR. In 1856 Troublesome Bear, who was at that time chief of the Sioux, killed a lame steer which had been left on the prairie by emigrants, near Fort Laramie. The commander at Fort Laramie sent thirty soldiers to the Sioux camp to arrest the Indian. The Indians desired to prevent his arrest and offered thirty-seven head of cattle in payment for the one killed, but no compromise would be listened to and to prevent bloodshed the Indians brought out their chief, Troublesome Bear, and delivered him to the soldiers who immediately shot him. This so exasperated the Indians that they massacred the entire command and fled north. The injustice of the murder of Troublesome Bear started Spotted Tail on the war path against the whites. His first act was to rob the stage at Ash Hollow, killing the three passengers and obtaining about forty thousand dollars in gold. Gen. Harney then marched upon Spotted Tail at the Sioux camp and fought at

ASH HOLLOW, one of the most desperate battles in the history of Indian warfare, taking about one hundred prisoners, mostly women and children. He then sent a messenger to the Sioux camp, stating he would shoot every prisoner he held unless Spotted Tail and his companions who robbed the stage were delivered to him within one week. Nearly all had relatives among the prisoners, some wives and children, others mothers, brothers and sisters, whose lives were dear to them, yet none dared to attempt to arrest the culprits. The sad fate impending over the prisoners caused such weeping and wailing as would be natural under the circumstances. Before the week had passed, Spotted Tail called his companions in the robbery to him and said, "I am going to the fort to die; it is better for us to die than that those innocent women and children should be killed. Who will go with me?" They all went. Spotted Tail stopped at the door of the commanding officer and said, "Take my gun, knife bow and arrows,

I AM READY TO DIE, but let those women and children return to their homes." Spotted Tail was taken to Fort Leavenworth, where he was kept for a year and then released through the exertions of General Harney, who was so surprised at the noble traits of character exhibited by Spotted Tail that he was ever after his staunchest friend. Spotted Tail then went to the Cheyennes and assisted them in two battles against the United States troops. In 1864 he returned and endeavored unsuccessfully to stop the depredations being committed by the Cut-off Sioux along the Platte river. He told them that they had no just cause for the horrible butcheries they were committing, and if they did not desist he would assist the white men in overpowering them. When he learned they had captured a white family and tortured the man and children to death, and held the wife and mother captive, he took a party of braves, rescued the woman after a hard fought battle, and delivered her to the commander at Fort Laramie. In 1868 he made

A FORMAL TREATY of peace with the government, and has since resided upon a reservation. In 1876, after the government had spent an enormous amount of money to bring Crazy Horse to terms, they called upon Spotted Tail, who brought him in and delivered him to the military authorities. Spotted Tail once said to the writer: "I never fought the whites except to secure justice to my people. I never killed a white woman or child, nor allowed it to be done by another when in my power to prevent it." From information received from his lifelong companions still living here I believe he told the truth.

HIS DOMESTIC RELATIONS were according to the customs of his people. He has had six wives, four of whom survive him. Thirty-six children have been born to him, twenty-eight of whom are still alive. He possessed remarkable intellectual powers, and would have attained

eminence in any community. His powers of oratory seldom failed to convince his people of the soundness of his judgment. His efforts for the welfare of his fellow Indians were unceasing, and his influence for the elevation of his race extended to all the Sioux agencies. He was honest, noble, kind and brave. Peace to his ashes.

THE FUNERAL. His body was placed in a rough wooden box, the best that could be obtained at the agency, taken to the church in a lumber wagon, one of his wives sitting on the coffin, holding one line, while another wife walked beside the wagon, holding the other line. The mourners, some twelve or fifteen in number, all naked but unadorned, followed the wagon. On arriving at the church the mourners took the front seats and listened to the Episcopal burial service in their own language. He was buried on the top of a hill, overlooking the agency. Already over one hundred dollars has been raised from half breeds and white men towards procuring a suitable monument to mark his last resting place. It is proposed to make the amount \$250.

THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH. Envy, factions, cliques and rings exist among all tribes of Indians to fully as great an extent as among white communities, and Spotted Tail's death is the direct result of this envious factional strife. Black Crow, an egotistical Indian of limited mental capacity, and a deadly enemy of the white men, has long aspired to Spotted Tail's place. For years he, with a few followers, has held council after council to devise a way to accomplish his purpose, but lacking the courage to himself put his murderous designs into execution he has repeatedly requested others to murder Spotted Tail for him. Recently Crow Dog was dismissed from the captaincy of Indian police for insubordination and on account of his disposition to seek a quarrel with, and for threatening Spotted Tail's life. This angered him to such a degree that at a council of the Black Crow faction he agreed to commit the murder. A short time ago the secretary of the interior invited Spotted Tail to visit Washington for the purpose of holding a conference, with other Indians, in regard to matters affecting the interests of the northern tribes.

A COWARDLY MURDER. On the day he was killed he held a council of the sub-chiefs and head men to confer with them in regard to the action he should propose at the coming conference. Crow Dog visited the place of council, remaining outside until Spotted Tail mounted his horse and started for home, when he sprang from behind a wagon, with cocked gun, and when within ten feet of his victim and at the instant Spotted Tail saw him, took quiet but deadly aim and fired. The ball entered near the heart, passed entirely through the body, killing him instantly. No words were spoken by either, but Spotted Tail said as he fell from his horse, "Catch him." These were the last words spoken by the great chieftain. The Indian present were so amazed at the boldness of the act that before they commenced shooting at Crow Dog he was beyond the reach of their bullets.

O. M. CARTER. A CRITICAL MOMENT. The news of the murders spread rapidly and the excitement came to a fever heat. Gen. Cook, the agent, who on previous occasions has shown himself to be a very cool and determined man, was away. The white people ran to the agency office to consult in regard to what should be done, as the half-breeds and snowmen were as badly excited as the Indians, and predicted a general fight among the different factions of Indians, with a probability of a general massacre of the whites before it was over. However, Henry Lelur, acting agent, was as cool and self-possessed as though nothing unusual had occurred. He immediately sent for Eagle Hawk, captain of the Indian police, and gave him peremptory orders to make a detail of his most trusted police and such other Indians as he considered necessary, and arrest Crow Dog together with Black Crow as an accomplice. Eagle Hawk found Crow Dog and Black Crow on the White river, overcame their resistance by superior physical force and reported early the next morning with the prisoners. They were not allowed to even stop at the agency, but were hurried along to Fort Niobrara under a strong escort, where they are now in irons.

A PRAISEWORTHY AGENT. Too much praise cannot be accorded Mr. Lelur for the admirable tact and good judgment displayed in handling these Indians at this, probably the most critical time since they have been under treaty stipulation with the government. Two years ago the predilections of the half-breeds and snowmen would undoubtedly have been realized. That they now submit to the strong and determined will of agent Lelur is undoubtedly due to the fact that he treated them as equals, as he considered necessary, and arrest Crow Dog together with Black Crow as an accomplice. Eagle Hawk found Crow Dog and Black Crow on the White river, overcame their resistance by superior physical force and reported early the next morning with the prisoners. They were not allowed to even stop at the agency, but were hurried along to Fort Niobrara under a strong escort, where they are now in irons.

AT THE FIRST COUNCIL. held by Gen. Cook with the Indians, when he explained in as kind a manner as possible the necessity for the new order of things he proposed to establish. Standing Elk, an Indian of considerable influence delivered a violent speech in which he urged those present to immediately kill the agent. Other tactics which had been successfully employed in forcing previous agents to submit to their will were tried in vain. General Cook remained firm, giving them at all times to understand that he desired to promote their welfare, but could not be scared into swerving a hair's breadth from what he considered his duty. He arrested a naked Indian murderer, who was one of the most desperate fellows on the reservation, disarmed him, took the

sticks from the places where they had been run through his flesh, compelled him to wash and dress himself, and extorted a promise from him to behave himself in the future, which promise he has faithfully kept up to the present time. He arrested the noted desperado, Turning Bear, with five companions and turned them over to the Nebraska authorities for punishment. He arrested the murderer of Atkinson and delivered him to the civil authorities for trial. He gave all to understand order must prevail and crime would surely be punished. He assisted such as showed a disposition to help themselves, turned a deaf ear to professional beggars and grumblers, ordered feasting and dancing about the agency stopped, and took care to see the order was obeyed. He encouraged them to wear citizen's clothes, to build houses, to perform such manual labor as could be made productive in these sand hills, and particularly to abandon their old superstitions and barbarous customs, even going so far as to stop the issue of rations to such as killed ponies and destroyed other property at the burial of the dead. All this has been accomplished and without ostentation.

heard of being perpetrated by a railroad. Had the road built their line around the town they might have been legally though not morally excused for the wrong done, but to run trains at full speed through a thriving city without stopping, leaving mail or having a depot is something refreshingly new. For over three months this state of affairs has existed and all interests of the railroad company have been sacrificed to the Lincoln Land company. Not more than one-eighth of the freight for Blue Springs is carried by the B. & M., although that is their natural outlet, and Omaha their natural trading point. For proof of this every pound of freight that flows from the new town, comes over the B. & M. St. Joe gets the trade of Blue Springs and the St. Joe & Western gets the freight simply because the people here will not pay a dollar that can be avoided to a corporation that has treated them so unjustly.

THE RESULT. This letter I may have mixed up somewhat the two companies, the B. & M. and the Lincoln Land company, but while the former is guilty of the wrong, it is maintained by the latter, and may never have consented to these outrages, still many of its prominent officers are stockholders in the latter company, notably Messrs. Touzalin, Phillips, Castor, Perkins and Philippi. Hence the people will hold the B. & M. railroad responsible for this outrage.

THE INDIAN QUESTION. Our eastern friends believe the Indian question to be a very complicated one, but in the opinion of the writer, after a residence of twenty years on the frontier, three years of which have been spent at the agency, the question will be easily and quickly solved whenever the government will pay to its Indian agents salaries large enough to secure the services of first-class business men, and decides to give them large discretionary powers, untrammelled by the theories of people who live thousands of miles away, whose opinions have been obtained from works of fiction, and from the harangues of cracked-brained fanatics who know as little of the subject as their hearers. The progress these Indians have made under the present agency administration shows conclusively what can be done under a capable man, but the duties of an Indian agent are such an arduous and perplexing nature, the responsibilities are so great, the discretionary powers allowed by the government so limited and the salary so small, that the present agent will not remain very long, and the next agent will probably be some theorist who will undo all that has been accomplished.

O. M. CARTER. BLUE SPRINGS. The Dirty Scheme of a Railroad Corporation to Kill the Original Town of That Name. Name. One of the Many Such Schemes Shown Up. Communicated. BLUE SPRINGS, AUG. 19.—Your correspondent "Ranger" has given a very fair sketch of Blue Springs and her business men. There are, however, things in the history of this place especially its treatment by certain railway officials that should not remain unpublished. In justice to the B. & M. R. R. it should be said that as a corporation they have been more liberal than any other railway in the State of Nebraska, and that the vast number of petty rings formed of subordinate officers and employes for fleecing the people by unjust discriminations have been winked at or boldly endorsed and encouraged by many other monopolies, but the B. & M. has as a rule discouraged all of this petty stealing.

I deem it my duty however, to expose a piece of high handed injustice, a gross and wholly inexcusable wrong that is aimed to destroy a Nebraska town of no little importance. The town of Blue Springs, Nebraska, according to the U. S. census taken May, 1880, 972 inhabitants and it is claimed that since that time the population has doubled in number. At the present time there is not an empty house in the town. Now the B. & M. R. R. officials have a survey made for a railway line through this city, took possession of the people's lots and built that line, but failed to provide a depot. The people, however, had proffered lands free, and proposed to pay the expense of erecting a depot, but they were flatly refused, and the Lincoln Land company, composed of officers and attorneys of the B. & M., purchased several hundred acres south of the town and located a village and erected a depot one mile and a quarter from the corporation limit of Blue Springs.

Now, the citizens of Blue Springs find no fault with any company starting a line of railroads, but they will not run a railroad through an incorporated city and refuse to furnish that city with facilities for transacting business with that railroad. Blue Springs has been, for justice from these autocrats, but has only met with repeated insults, until it has determined to take the aggressive and combat this cruel wrong to the bitter end. Discriminations by common carriers when applied to railroads, passengers or express matter is wrong and the courts have so decided, but soon they will have to pass upon this, the most flagrant outrage that I have ever

heard of being perpetrated by a railroad. Had the road built their line around the town they might have been legally though not morally excused for the wrong done, but to run trains at full speed through a thriving city without stopping, leaving mail or having a depot is something refreshingly new. For over three months this state of affairs has existed and all interests of the railroad company have been sacrificed to the Lincoln Land company. Not more than one-eighth of the freight for Blue Springs is carried by the B. & M., although that is their natural outlet, and Omaha their natural trading point. For proof of this every pound of freight that flows from the new town, comes over the B. & M. St. Joe gets the trade of Blue Springs and the St. Joe & Western gets the freight simply because the people here will not pay a dollar that can be avoided to a corporation that has treated them so unjustly.

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IA MAN advertisement with image of a man.

"Great Rock Island Route!" advertisement for Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad.

HOP BITTERS advertisement with image of a bottle.

Sioux City & Pacific advertisement for St. Paul & Sioux City Railroads.

D.T. MOUNT advertisement for saddles and harness.

Wise's Axle Grease advertisement.

Dexter L. Thomas & Bro. advertisement for real estate.

THIS NEW AND CORRECT MAP advertisement for Chicago & North-Western R'y.

Map of Chicago & North-Western R'y showing routes and stations.

The Imperial Palace Dining Cars advertisement.

NOT THE LARGEST BUT THE CHEAPEST advertisement.

Sioux City & Pacific advertisement for St. Paul & Sioux City Railroads.

GUILD & McINNIS advertisement for clothing.

Wise's Axle Grease advertisement.

Dexter L. Thomas & Bro. advertisement for real estate.