CROOK'S CAMPAIGNS,

Review of the Seven Years Military Service Among the Indians of Gen. George Crook.

Result of the Pacific Policy Pursued After the Terrible Custer

Chevenne letter Chicago Times. It may be broadly stated as an axiom that the most important military services are not those in which the most blood has been shed or in which man's bitterest passions have found their freest vent and fullest scope; but rather those in which the the maximum of result has been e ffected with a minimum of carnage.

Simple as the statement may seem, the history of military operations will show that only the greatest soldiers have absorbed its full meaning and shaped their policy, or evinced by it; or eather we may put our views in exact determination of the enemy's or, rather, we may put our views in different shape and say that those soldiers only have pursued a definite policy, or evinced the deepest knowledge of strategic principles who have had this simple axiom constantly in

The mind of the unthinking observer is so generally dazzled by what are known as brilliant victories, or those most distinguished for slaughter, and so predisposed to lavish eulogy and honor upon the commander who leads his men to fields of senseless butchery, that ambition not infrequently overturns the cool judg-ment which, if left to itself, would prefer to work out with more dilatory, but less costly, more unostentatious but also more enduring methods, the plans of its campaigns.

the commencement of the present century. The average American citizen has not had the time nor the inclination to study the Indian question in all its bearings, to examine fully into all phases of the aboriginal character, with its good points and bad, its virtues, vices, defects and capabilities; to study how much this character has been affected by contact with

THE SURGING TIDE of a constantly aggressive and not always considerate civilization; to de- there was an assurance of success, termine dispassionately and accurate which swept away the objections of ly wherein our treatment of the red man has been defective through ignor-ance, want of sympathy, indifference, "Crook's plan." Let us not be misor positive terpitude, or to draw the understood. Other officers had preexact line to which shall conform the viously used and other officers at that rights of the Indian, the demands of the settlers about him, and the capacity, character and attainments of the agent who is supposed to hold the but the scheme to bring in Indians scales of justice between them both. who had just been on the war-path Few men, we say, have the time or against us, or who belonged to bands the inclination to enter into such a then in hostility, struck all as chimerthe inclination to enter into such a study. We may say more—few, very few, men have the mental power, and the calm, evenly-poised tone of thought properly to seize and solve the Indian problem as it presents itself to-day. This Indian problem—is it is no longer an Indian question—is it is no longer an Indian question—is it was his plan now. He

No state in this trans-Missouri domain has been more deeply concerned in this Indian problem than the lusty by assisting the government to mainno state has been more immediately and permantly benefited by the satisfactory condition to which her personal relations with the Indians, once threatening her prosperity and existence, have been brought by the unflinching courage, cool, long-headed judgment, and keen sense of justice. to white men and red men alike, of the soldier whose name heads this

Several years ago, when Gen. George Crook first assumed command of the military department of the Platte, the rich valleys of the Loup and Platte were scarcely settled, and the broad fields of the Elkhorn, Niobrara, and Republican were

A TERBA INCOGNITA. It is not so many years ago, and yet the intervening time has been so replete with prosperity to this lusty commonwealth than many of its own newly-arrived citizens may be surprised to learn that within its boundaries, in the latter part of 1875, the United States commission to treat for the cession of the Black Hills was it was sent to confer.

Senator Allison, the chairman of that commission, ought to be in a posi-struck, as strike he did in the followtion to give some definite and trustworthy ideas upon the inflamed and the Indian sued for peace, our soldier hostile state of the Indian feeling discovered the possession of admintoward our government and people at strative abilities of the highest order, that time. The war which soon fol- and brought them all to bear in adlowed and lasted until the spring of vancing the interests of those who so 1877, nearly a year and a half, proved lately had been his foes. The camto be, -whether we consider the numbers of the Indians engaged, their excellent preparation and equipment for the frozen valleys of the Powder and hostilities, and the character of their and Little Missouri, in storms during chief, Crazy Horse, or upon the side which the mercury congealed in the of our own people remember the mag-nitude of the growing interests in-struction of the great Chevenne vilvolved and the paucity of the troops on hand to protect them-the most serious that has ever engaged the attention of our military establishment. We mean no disparagement to the regular army when we say that, as an army, it was found to be entirely insufficient to meet the demands then made upon it, and, without seeking to lessen the reputation of other officers, the Pawnee. Shoshone, and Bantal army forman friends. methods of dealing with the tribes in

hoatility, the FULLEST MEED OF GRATITUDE is due. He alone, it may be said, comprehended the inability of the ennes not only surrendered, but as a army to cope with the formidable force His soldiers, he felt, were brave and the northern Sioux to a reservaenough and earnest enough; his officers, the younger ones, at least, active, intelligent and ambitious. These and laster Spotted Tail should have qualities would have told in a contest had a chance to go out to the hostiles, with a civilized enemy of equal num- explain to them the change in the bers, but against ten times their condition of affairs and the hopeless- Westchesser, N. Y., Capital 1,000,000.00 strength, of the finest cavalry in the ness of further resistance, and ask Tas Merchants, of Newark, N. J., world, availed but little. Our esti- them to mate of the power of the North American plains Indian as a cavalry to avert the shedding of blood. Crazy force can not be questioned. We repeat that the Sioux and Cheyennes, straits to which his people were re-

Arapahoes, Crows and Utes, have no equals to-day in the whole world as light cavalry. Passing their whole lives upon horseback, trained to the fullest dexterity in the use of the rest. Tall according to the rest of the rest.

ing. The accuracy of Crook's cool, of killing the Indian, he hoped to exact determination of the enemy's make a friend; perhaps, in time, to power received a startling endorse- put him on the road to freedom and

ment in less than a fortnight from the date of this engagement. The same Indians who had withdrawn from Crook's front precipitated themselves upon the unfortunate Custer, who, with a force scarcely inferior to that which Crook commanded on the Rose-bard and Dull Knife baye, reposed in his judgment and upon the unfortunate Custer, who, the implicit confidence with such lead-with a force scarcely inferior to that which Crook commanded on the Rose-bud, was overwhelmed upon the Little have reposed in his judgment and Big Horn, half of his men falling with him upon the bloody field.

To follow through the remainder of that dreary campaign, with its fruit-less waiting and watching for the reinforcements which even in coming in the long list of officers on the rolls would count for but little in a contest of our army there be one to compare with the wily foe in their front, as an with him in fruitful, arduous and uninfliction from which the reader may ceasing service among the wildest of well desire to be spared. In the our savage tribes, we ask for his name. dreary commonplace of military cor-respondence, bound in ali formality the whole subject matter of our arti-Such a criticism is especially pertinent to the Indian operations, engaging the attention of our army since ind only one gleam of what to our contradiction. From the moment of mind may be taken as common sense. his entry into service, some time in

it is no longer an Indian question—is plan then; it was his plan now. He assumming each day a greater importance in its bearing upon all that conclement of friendliness could be found cook. His unaffected modesty and cerns the speedy development of our among the Sioux and Cheyennes, that gentle dignity have turned into warm new country beyond the Missouri. element could be concili-

young state of Nebraska, and probably tain order and quiet among their own people; that the enlistment of such a detachment would withdraw from the effective strength of the enemy and add to our own, would demoralize the "sore-heads," and give backbone to the well-disposed who wished to exchange the rifle for the plow, the pony for the farm wagon, the breechclout and the blanket for the raiment of civilization. Strong in his conviction, he set 'to

work. "You can't do it," said the "old-timers," who opposed this innovation principally because it wasn't laid down in the "Tactics and Regulations"—"you can't do it." But I did it—I did it in Arizona," replied Crook. "Oh, those Indians are different. The Apaches are not like the Sioux. You can t do it." But Crook did it, nevertheless. He soon convinced the Indians that he was their best friend, anxious to defend their rights and foster their interests, but determined to

STAMP OUT those who persisted in hostility. He showed, in a quiet and undemonstrathreatened with destruction by Little tive way, a lively sympathy in the Big Man and other chiefs with whom welfare of the Indian and a compassion for the injustice from which he too often suffered. When he ing winter, he struck hard. When paign of the winter of 1876-7, where struction of the great Cheyenne vil-lage of Dull Knife and Little Wolf, in the latter part of the month of November. These chiefs, up to the time so irreconcilably hostile, saw that the day of settlement

where so many showed themselves to nock, and with them former friends, be worthy and capable, the people of the Sioux and Arapahoes, and, worst Nebraska and Wyoming know that to sight of all, a large body of their own General Crook's profound knowledge people! To continue the struggle against such odds, they had sense enough to perceive would be madness. Overtures for their surrender were soon arranged, and, late in January, of natural-born soldiers opposed to it. sist the troops in driving Crazy Horse

LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS

fullest dexterity in the use of the re- Tail agencies (then in northwestern peating rifle, skilled in all the arts of wood-craft, knowing every hill and brook and canyon, they presented themselves in the confidence of over-figures, but from our recollection whelming numbers to Crook's little those given above cannot be far out force of 800 men on the Rosebud of the way, and represent in them-river, Montana, on a bright June selves the destructive energy of a morning in 1876. That Crook's little cyclone which, with a less discreet and band was not snapped up at a mouth- capable general on our side, would ful was due to his presence in com-mand, and to that alone. After a ing and Nebraska with the besom of hard-fought contest, lasting from wrath and desolation. Had Crook early morning until evening twilight, pursued a different policy, his name the enemy abandoned the attempt to would with frequency have ap-break our lines and retired, sullen peared in bulletins of skirmishes and disappointed, from the field. and bloody battles, and much Were it our intention to prepare a distinction—as distinction is generbiographical sketch, we would and ally considered-might have convergcould go into details upon this engage- | ed upon him; but would the settlement—a task which we may take up ment of our great state have been in at a later date.

THE MAIN FEATURES

ment of our great state have been in so advanced a stage of progress, and would not our national exchequer have felt the drain of such a war Crook chose the better part; instead

> counsels. If our country has ever had an

INDIAN PACIFICATOR find only one gleam of what to our mind may be taken as common sense of Crook, it was evident, had early acceptance of subduing the hostiles with the unaided efforts of white soldiers. For the reasons we have alterated more keenly than Crook and inself, he determined to supplement his force with a contingent of auxiliaries, to be drawn not only from friendly tribes, but from the bosom of the hostiles themselves. In the very audacity of this plant here was an assurance of success, which swept away the objections of timid critics. It was known in the army, and is known to-day as solved the contingent of any provided the propriety of envisoring the contingent of any provided the propriety of envisoring the contingent of any provided the propriety of envisoring the contingent of assigned to commands which swept away the objections of timid critics. It was known in the terms and assurance of success, which swept away the objections of timid critics. It was known to the cognition a pretentious egotism might have secured him. We find him, however, assigned to commands, which had just been on the war-path against us, or who belonged to bands then in hostility, struck all as chimerical and insensate. Crook had tried the bundant success in Califorina, in Washington territory, in Oregon, in Neyada, and with brilliant results against the hitherto indomitable Apaches of Arizona. It was his plan there, it was he plan now Health and the conting the first territors and the conting the continguation of the propriety of the prop

friends the admirers whom his abili-N. E. E.

Explained

"Now," said the justice to the wit ness, "you will please tell precisely how it happened.

"Yes, sir, I'll try. The prisoner and that man were eating dinner at the same table, and they got to quarrelling, when the prisoner just up with a dab of mashed Irish potatoes and hit that other man on the head with it.' "Do you, sir," said the justice stern-

ly, "pretend to tell the court that a dab of mashed potatoes even when thrown with the greatest violence, can make a gash five inches long on a man's head, and knock him senseless? If you trifle with the court you will be locked up."

"Judge, I reckon I forgot to say that when the prison threw the dab of mashed potatoes at the man, he forgo to first take the dab out of the dish.

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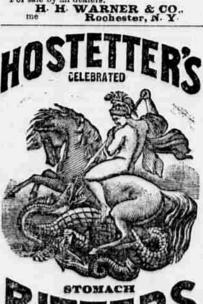
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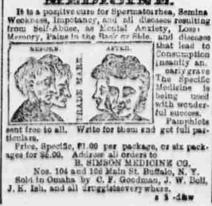
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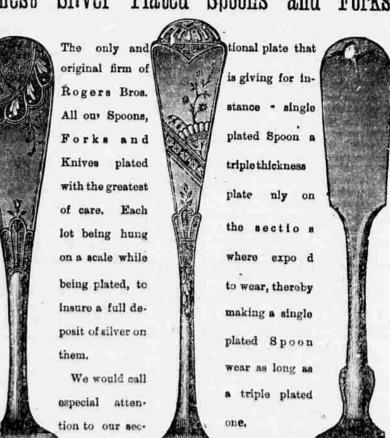
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