

CORRESPONDENCE.

BRIG. GEN. SULLY TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF DAKOTA, }
SIOUX CITY, IOWA, Oct. 22, 1863. }*Col. N. B. Baker, Adjutant General, Iowa:*

SIR:—By a late order from the Department of the Northwest, the sixteen counties in the northwest corner of Iowa are placed in my district. I have just returned from the Upper Missouri, and know very little about the points now occupied by State troops in this section, nor for how long a time they have been called into service. Will you be kind enough, therefore, to give me all the information you can in the matter.

I have many places in Dacotah to garrison this winter, but will still have left at this place some three or four companies of cavalry. I expect them here in about a week. At least two or three companies can be placed on duty at points already occupied by State troops, if necessary. But I think it would be better, if possible, to keep the State troops at these points this winter, as they are better acquainted with the country and are already located.

I will send one of my aids up there to-morrow to visit these posts, and will myself visit the line as soon as I can settle up unfinished business here.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

ALF. SULLY, Brigadier General.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL TO GENERAL SULLY.

STATE OF IOWA, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
DAVENPORT, October 29, 1863. }

GENERAL:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 22d inst., and reply that we now have in service only one company for the northern border.

With the exception of this company, the Northern Border Brigade, for the protection of the northern border, has been disbanded.

The headquarters of that company is at Estherville, and it is scattered in squads over a line of nearly 160 miles.

In my opinion one company of your cavalry would be amply sufficient to supply the place of the State company. It certainly would not require over two of your companies.

The State seriously objects to keeping State troops longer at these posts, and for good reasons. If they are not immediately relieved, every day's delay will increase the labor and difficulty of relieving the State company, as the inclement season soon sets in.

We have maintained at State expense five companies on the northern frontier, and can neither obtain credit for the men nor allowance for cash expended, while other states that have raised men for local or temporary purposes have received credit for the men, simply because they were mustered into the United States service. As far as the general government was

concerned, they received as much benefit in one case as in the other, and have had no trouble or expense (to this time, so far as this State is concerned) in the matter. We have an idea that this sort of injustice should cease, and earnestly urge on you that the State company at Estherville may at once be relieved by the cavalry under your command.

Upon notice received from you that you have given the requisite orders the governor will issue the proper orders to disband the State company at Estherville.

This is urged for another reason: We are called on for more troops, and if we can not get credit for the Northern Border Brigade, we would like to give them a chance to enlist where we can obtain credit.

With great respect, truly yours,

N. B. BAKER, A. G. of Iowa.

Brig. Gen. Sully, Commanding, &c., Sioux City, Iowa.

STATE OF IOWA, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
DAVENPORT, November 21, 1863. }

GENERAL:—Major General Pope advises the governor, that he has no authority to order the muster in of our State troops, on the northwestern frontier, for the special duty of protecting our frontier. He doubts very much whether the War Department would accept such troops for that special service, and writes that "General Sully has sufficient force to replace your State troops whenever a military force is needed on your frontier, and he has orders to do so. The services of your State troops on the frontier, are, therefore, in my judgment, unnecessary."

Under these circumstances, I have ordered the mustering out of our company 1st of January, 1864, or sooner, if relieved by United States troops, and on being advised by you of the fact that you will relieve said troops. The mustering out officer is Capt. Wm. H. Ingham, of Estherville, Iowa. Please advise him and this office of the earliest practicable day when you can relieve the State troops. The muster out will be made certainly, and at all events on the 1st of January, 1864, and I respectfully urge immediate action on the part of the United States, and report to me and Capt. Ingham. The company is detailed along a line of 160 miles, and some time will necessarily be required in arranging details and reliefs. I deem it very important for the frontier, the protection of our citizens and the safe keeping of the block houses now erected, &c., that the United States station sufficient details at once at the several posts where the State troops are now located.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, truly yours,

N. B. BAKER, Adjutant General of Iowa.

General Alf. Sully, Brigadier General Commanding, Sioux City, Iowa.

P. S.—Please have the block houses and stables receipted for to the State by proper officer.

Your quartermaster can take forage and commissary stores, upon pro-

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