

major in the regular army.

During this period of his military life on the western plains, Maj. Alvord was engaged in doing garrison duty in what is now western Kansas, Oklahoma and northern Texas. The army officers in those days had large responsibilities in dealing with the Indians, who were on the verge of outbreak much of the time. Maj. Alvord never held the view that "the only good Indian was a dead one," but displayed such tact and wisdom in dealing with them that he was successful in their management to an unusual degree and he had a share in planning and organizing the Carlisle Indian School. While in charge of the Model Houghton farm in Orange county, N. Y., he employed a number of Indian boys and girls from the Carlisle School. While in the West, Maj. Alvord established Ft. Riley and Ft. Sill, besides doing much pioneer work, such as constructing first bridges over many streams.

Maj. Alvord, known among the Indians as the "White Horse Captain", came to be thoroughly trusted by them, so that after he resigned from the army, when the Government needed a commissioner to treat with them in reference to acquiring more of their lands, it turned to this trusted and experienced leader. So successful was he in accomplishing this difficult mission at a time when the Indians were in an especially ugly mood, that he induced forty chiefs with fifteen squaws, representing the tribes of the Comanches, Kiowas, Arapahoes and some others to go to Washington for conference with the President. A satisfactory agreement was reached; the Indians received beef, blankets and annuities in return for their lands and thus a border settlers' war was averted.

During Maj. Alvord's service in the west he made a comprehensive study of the great cattle growing industry, which was then beginning to assume the vast proportions it soon after attained. From his observations and study of this great interest he wrote an exhaustive article on "American Beef for the British Markets" for which he was awarded the grand medal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. While yet in the army, Maj. Alvord was detailed as military instructor at the Mass. Agricultural College at Amherst, and afterwards became an instructor at Williston Seminary, Easthampton, Mass. As early as 1876 he became much interested in the cooperative creamery system of butter making, and was influential in its adoption, particularly in New England. He established the first creamery east of the Hudson river, and assisted in the estab-