

SAN DIEGO HERALD

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— *Mr. Nugent, of the San Francisco Herald,*
never uttered a more desirable remark, or one
that will find a reader echo in the minds of
those who have thought of the matter, than the
following on Mr. Secretary Conrad:

It is scarcely necessary to say that it is to
the senseless and injudicious course of the War
Department these Indian outbreaks are mainly
attributable. Almost the first act of Mr. Con-
rad after his induction into office was to recall
Gen Smith and order the Mounted Rifles to
New Mexico. Not only the frontier, but the
very heart of California and Oregon, swarms
with hostile Indians, who are becoming every
day more bold, more warlike and better used to
arms. The steps allowed by the War Depart-
ment to do the immense duty that should be
done by the Pacific States, to keep them

way more done, more warfare and better used to
army. The force allowed by the War Depart-
ment to do the immense duty that should be
done by the Pacific division, to keep these sa-
vage hordes in check and to protect and succor
emigrants on the northern and southern routes,
is so scant and meagre, that there are scarcely
men enough at any time to mount guard at
Headquarters. The post on the Colorado, one
of the most important and most accessible in the
country, has been left to be defended by nine
men—nine men to stand before a thousand war-
riors that could at any time in six hours, notice
be brought to attack them. It is really not at
all surprising that the ~~warriors~~ should have come
to look upon this handful of men with such in-
difference as to regard it easy to blot them out.
The small force at present in the country at
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men enough at any time to mount guard at Headquarters. The post on the Colorado, one of the most important and most accessible in the country, has been left to be defended by nine men—nine men to stand before a thousand warriors that could at any time in six hours be brought to attack them. It is really not at all surprising that the Indians should have come to look upon this handful of men with such indifference as to regard it easy to blot them out. The small force at present in the country at other points may likewise be regarded as rather affording inducement than offering a check to Indian hostilities. For such a state of things we regard the Secretary of War as deeply culpable. His dispositions in regard to California have been made in criminal indifference to the fate of our people, or in equally criminal ignorance of their necessities.