

Governor John Martin to Colonel A.B. Campbell

Kansas Governor John A. Martin of Topeka telegrams Adjutant General Colonel A. B. Campbell of Parsons about conditions in Parsons during the 1886 Missouri Pacific Railway Strike. Colonel Campbell has written the governor asking permission to provide arms for the citizens of Parsons to protect the peace. In this telegram, Governor Martin asks the Colonel if it would "be better for the citizens to organize a militia company under command of Major Kniffin or some other experienced officer?"

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Governor John Martin to Colonel A.B. Campbell

Topeka, Kansas, April 5th, '86.

Col. A. B. Campbell,

Adjutant General.

Sir: Your telegram received, and I notified you by wire to use your own discretion about withdrawing the troops. The dispatches this morning, however, indicate further complications, growing out of Hoxie's refusal to talk with the National Executive Committee.

Would it not be better for the citizens of Parsons to organize a militia company, under command of Major Kniffin or some other experienced officer? Or do you want the guns to arm a sheriff's posse? From all accounts the sheriff of Labette county would not be a very judicious man to have charge of an armed posse.

The people of Parsons, however, ought to perfect an efficient organization of some kind for their own protection. The presence of the Guard must have had the effect to give them courage, and let the strikers know that lawlessness will not be tolerated and cannot be safely indulged in.

Of course I am anxious to relieve the Guard as soon as possible, as the expense of maintaining over one regiment in active service is very large.

Give my regards to Gens. Carroll and Roberts, and express to Col. Patrick and the officers and men of the First Regiment my grateful appreciation of and thanks for their soldierly conduct.

Yours, truly,

JNO. A. MARTIN.