

Sitting Bull's address to the Silent Eaters
protesting the Treaty of 1889.

By Lone-man 7

301

During the summer of 1889, a commission, consisting
some of the most distinguished citizens of the United States,
including governors, senators, congressmen, army officers
and church dignitaries, was sent to Standing Rock Agency
for the purpose of effecting a treaty with the Indians, whereby
the government, through the above mentioned representatives
a proposition was offered to the Indians, should they assent
to relinquish a large portion of Tribal domain.

The sentiment of the Indians was a split between the
Friendly Indians and the Hostile Band of Sitting Bull followers.

Sitting Bull, heretofore, had always refused to make
any speeches before any body of government representatives, on
Tribal matters, feeling that, inasmuch as he was holding
the highest Tribal office, he rather keep ^{neutral} quiet and let some
one else voice the wishes of the Indians.

At the council of Silent Eaters, upon the request of
the members, he delivered the following speech.

"Friends and Relatives: Our minds are again disturbed
by the Great Fathers' representations, the Indian Agent, the
squaw-men, the mixed-bloods, the interpreters and the favorite
ration-chiefs. What is it they want of us at this time?
They want us to give up another chunk of our Tribal land.
This is not the first time nor the last time. They will try
to gain possession of the last piece of ground we possess.