

traveled, and to places he had never seen.

Beside the assistance of these men, there was the aid of the Interpreters, and a number of traders and trappers, some of whom have been thirty years in the country. Each nation had a number of their most intelligent men, and they all seemed to fully understand the object of the map, as also the geography of the country. After much consultation, particularly of the Indians among themselves, the metes and bounds of the several nations were agreed upon.

Much difficulty was experienced in explaining to the Sioux the extent and effect of the boundary designated between them and the Cheyennes and Arapahoes. The Platte was fixed as the boundary, but the Sioux asserted their claim to both sides of the river. They did not content that the south side of the Platte belonged to them, but as they had always hunted on the south side, as far as the Republican Fork of the Kansas and the waters of the Arkansas, they claimed the same right now, and therefore objected to the line.

(September 17, 1851) Some days previous, the military escort of the Commissioners had moved their camp down the Platte river, two miles or so below where they first encamped. The Commissioners continued their encampment as at first established, although it would have been desirable to them and to all others to have moved, for the grass had been eaten out, and the tramping of so many persons over the sandy soil had made the prairie little, if anything, better than an arid plain, ~~and~~ from which the dust went up with every gust of wind in immense clouds. With such a crowd, it did not require much time to make it offensive in many respects, but as the Commissioners, in conformity with the wish of the Indians, had gone to that point, they deemed it advisable to remain there permanently, as we had no certain notice of the time when the train with the goods would arrive.