

line at the slightest encroachment -- to locate them and say: "Thus far shalt thou come, and no farther," is the only policy practicable. It will apply in many places in dealing with men other than Indians. Of course Major Chilton had experienced advisors in abundance if he chose to ask advice. Colonel Mitchel, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, had spent many years with the Sioux of the Upper Missouri. Then there was Bridger and Fitzpatrick with their great experience, and always reliable and any number of long-haired mountaineers -- a large percentage of them worthless characters -- but many traders, trappers, and guides of good, well earned reputations. Captain Ketchum, commanding Company G, Sixth Infantry, had been stationed several years at Laramie, and few men knew the Indians and the country better than he.

This camp, and incidents connected with the treaty was well written up at the time by Mr. B. Gratz Brown, heretofore referred to, and published in the Missouri Republican. So far as I know, no other paper had a correspondence on the ground. Today such an event would draw reporters from most all of the leading papers in the country, including the illustrated papers; the whole camp, including daily incidents, war dances, squaw dances, sham battles, etc., portraits of the principal chiefs and the officials would be seen in these great periodicals, and all the reading public would be familiar with it.

We remained a month in this camp, awaiting the⁸⁷ arrival of the ox train that brought the presents from the Missouri, they having been first brought from St. Louis by steamboat to Fort Leavenworth. During the time we were waiting the Commissioner was having made a list of all the head men and the number of each band, and ranking them according to their power and influence, judging by the number of followers; then taking an invoice of the goods to be distributed parceling them off to each band, turning them over to the chief or sub-chief for distribution.

This listing of the bands was an immense job, and the distribution must be