

would accept the annuities this time, as long as they were brought and unloaded, although this acceptance endangered the lives of the friendlies. Bear Ribs warned Judge Latta not to bring any more goods unless he also brought soldiers to guard them and to keep them from being destroyed.

That same spring Bear Ribs and some of his band hitched up their travois and took a journey west to look for the hostile Tetons. They took nearly all of the issue goods that had been left on the river landing at Pierre. They travelled north until they reached the Yellowstone River. From there scouts were sent out to locate the camp of Sitting Bull and his Hunkpapas. They found the great hostile camp on a point of land between the Yellowstone and the Missouri Rivers on a stream called Cherry Creek, which empties into the Yellowstone. Bear Ribs was received by the Tetons in a friendly manner; he told Sitting Bull he wished to speak publicly to the Tetons.

A crier was sent around the camp to call a gathering to council. In this council, Bear Ribs explained about the landing of the issue goods against his protests, and of how he told the agent not to bring any more goods, for they would not be accepted. Bear Ribs told the Tetons that he was not unmindful of their wishes; that he was not intentionally receiving goods from the government in spite of the decision not to make any more treaties until the first treaty was fulfilled; that he had brought out all the goods left on the boat landing at Pierre. All of the goods he gave to the hostile Tetons, who were very much pleased at what he had done.

Bear Rib in his speech advised the hostiles to surrender and come in. His actions showed that he had a true regard for his nation and for the wishes of his people. As he was going back in a few days, he was asked to take with him the load of furs the Tetons had, and trade them in for articles such as knives, axes, awls, buckskin needles and dry goods. There were some beaver and otter hides, but most of the furs were buffalo hides, 580 of them to be traded to the American Fur Company. Bear Ribs and his band had the travois and were equipped to carry the furs, which they did, taking them to the post at Fort Pierre, instead of to the fur company at Fort Union. Many months passed, but no word was sent out by Bear Ribs to the hostiles regarding the returns from the furs that were sold. That fall some of the Tetons went down to Fort Pierre to see why they had not got their returns. Nearly all the hardware that the American Fur Company used to trade with the Indians was manufactured in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This goods was shipped down in boats from there on the Allegheny River, to the Ohio River, and from Cairo, Illinois, on the Mississippi to St. Louis. From there it was shipped up the Missouri River. In 1862 the Civil War was going on and shipments to the west were very uncertain of delivery. Boats going up or down the Ohio River were often sunk or destroyed by the rebels, especially boats carrying troops or ammunition; very few boats could pass down the Ohio without danger. It was not unusual to hear of them being held or set on fire.

It is absurd to think that the Indians knew about the Civil War; they could neither read nor write and they had so little intercourse with the white people that most of them did not know that war was going on in the eastern part of the country. The hostile Indians could not understand why the goods they had paid for with their furs had not come. There had been plenty of time allowed. They had waited for six months, thinking that at any time they would hear something about the sale of their furs. It was getting late in the season and something had to be done about the matter. Bear Ribs had to accept five head of fine, big horses that had been shipped up from St. Louis, as payment for the furs that had been entrusted to him. The American Fur Company said they were out of the goods