

It was decided to change this line to the south, and ascend on that side. To the nomad Sioux, who roamed and hunted, this change was very objectionable. All these things combined disturbed the Indians, and made them uneasy. Depredations were committed on the Indians, and they retaliated. Stock was taken from and by them. Both Indians and whites were killed. The surveying parties, who attempted to run the new line of railroad, were driven off. By 1875, many trespassers were lodged in the Black Hills, and early in 1876, the number was greatly increased. In 1875, there was a commission sent to Red Cloud agency to examine charges preferred by Professor March against the agent. Gov. Fletcher, of Missouri, was chairman of this commission. Among the witnesses examined by it were Red Cloud, Sitting Bull of the Ogallallas, Little Wound, and other Indians. In the midst of the questions put to, and answered by Red Cloud, on August 10, 1875, the chief interjected the Black Hills, thus: "Now, as to those Black Hills. Our Great Father has got a great many soldiers, and I never knew him, when he wanted to stop anything with his soldiers, but he succeeded in it. The reason I tell you this, is that the people from the states who have gone to the Black Hills, are stealing our gold, digging it out, and taking it away, and I don't see why the Great Father don't bring them back." To this, the chairman replied: "The Great Father has ordered these people away from there in five days from now, and if they do not go, he will bring them out with his soldiers."

The next day, Sitting Bull, of the Ogallallas, said: "You told me yesterday that the troops would take all the white people away from the Black Hills by the 15th of August, and the young men were all very glad to know that these miners were to be out of the Black Hills before the northern Indians came down to the grand council." (He alluded to a council which was to assemble in September, to treat for the Black Hills.) In reply to Sitting Bull, the chairman said: "We saw Gen. Crook, and he said he had orders from the president to get these miners all out by the 15th of this month, and the miners have all agreed to go by that time."