

Under an act of congress approved July 20, 1867, to establish peace with certain hostile Indian tribes, a commission was appointed, consisting of N. G. Taylor, J. E. Henderson, General Sherman, General Harney, General Sanbron, General Terry, General Augur and S. F. Tappan. This was known as the peace commission, and was authorized to call together the chiefs and headmen of such bands of Indians as were then waging war, for the purpose of ascertaining their reasons for hostility, and, if though advisable, to make a treaty of peace with them. The commissioners met at St. Louis on the 6th day of August and organized by selecting N. G. Taylor president and A.S.H. White secretary. The first difficulty which presented itself was to secure interviews with the chiefs and leading men of these tribes, but after some negotiations they got word to Red Cloud and his people that they would be met at Fort Laramie on the 15th day of September. While they were waiting for the Indians to come in they took a trip up the Missouri to a point thirteen miles north of the mouth of the Big Cheyenne River. On the trip up the river they were accompanied by Hon. Andrew J. Faulk, governor of Dakota.

Swift Bear, a friendly Brule, had been employed to carry the summons to the hostiles, and finding that the proposition was not received with favor, he took it upon himself to promise that if they would come in the commission would furnish them with ammunition to kill game for the winter.

383

/ When the commissioners arrived at Fort Laramie to keep their appointment for the 15th of September, Swift Bear met them and told them of the promises that he had made, and that the hostiles had agreed to come down and meet them, but that they could not do so early in the aseson, but that they would be there about the > 1st of November.

When November arrived, to the great disappointment of the commission, Red Cloud did not appear. He sent word, however, by Man Afraid, that his war against the whites was to save the valley of the Powder River, the only hunting ground left to his nation, from our intrusion. He assured the commissioners that whenever