

the Platte upon the qui vive to seize and destroy the wagons and outfits of all persons attempting to enter the Indian country, and to send the argonauts themselves under arrest to the nearest military post. Naturally, this had a depressing effect upon the gold hunters. He especially called the attention of General Terry to parties said to be outfitting at Yankton. It must be said that in good faith this order of General Sheridan's was carried out in the fall of 1874 and the spring of 1875. A few persons, it is true, did succeed in reaching the diggings and got out again with exaggerated stories of the richness of the placers. But those who remained there were promptly removed by the soldiers and every avenue leading to the Hills was strongly guarded. Under all of the circumstances the Indians behaved very well indeed. They were annoyed, as they had a right to be, over the military invasion of the Black Hills in 1874, but the ⁴¹⁶ / government gave them the assurance that the public should be kept away until a satisfactory treaty could be negotiated with the Indians for the purchase of the Hills, and they waited patiently the course of events, relying upon the government to do them justice. On March 27, 1875, the commissioner of Indian affairs instructed Professor Walter P. Jenney, a geologist of note, to visit the Black Hills, make a thorough examination of the same, and to report on the mineral wealth, climate and rainfall and natural resources of the region. This Professor Jenney did, under a military escort, which left Fort Laramie on the 24th of May. Lieutenant Richard I. Dodge was in command, having something more than 400 men and seventy-five wagons with him, and they were absent four months and twenty days upon the expedition, returning on the 24th of October. While the report of Professor Jenney was not so lurid as that of General Custer, it still added something to the force of what had previously been done in establishing the fact that gold existed in the Hills over a wide area.

On the 18th of June the secretary of the interior appointed a commission consisting of William B. Allison, Alfred H. Terry, A. Comingo, Samuel D. Hinman,