

Yanktons, Santees, Northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes. When in the mid-summer the runners went out to the agencies to notify the Indians to meet in council, the Indians felt that they were hardly prepared to discuss the question intelligently without themselves knowing precisely what the condition in the Black Hills was. Therefore, Spotted Tail, with several of the head men, was delegated to go to the Black Hills and if possible learn what discoveries the white men had really made there. Accordingly Spotted Tail visited the Black Hills, and in an intelligent and business-like way examined the prospects, obtained all the information he could from the miners and Professor Jenney, and appeared at the council well informed as to the real value of the concessions which the white men desired to secure. On the 20th of September the council assembled, William B. Allison acting as chairman. In opening the council Mr. Allison said: "We have now to ask you / ⁴¹⁸ if you are willing to give our people the right to mine in the Black Hills as long as gold or other valuable metals are found, for a fair and just sum. If you are so willing, we will make a bargain for this right. When the gold or other valuable minerals are taken away the country will again be yours to dispose of in any manner you may wish. If you will sell us this right we suggest as the proper eastern boundary the point where the north and south Cheyenne come together, and that we take for mining uses all the country lying between the rivers, thus uniting as far west as the 104th meridian west of Greenwich, which will be about the line of the high limestone ridge in the west of the Hills." It will be well to bear in mind this statement of Chairman Allison's, because we will learn that even to this day there is a controversy with the Indians as to what rights they really sold when the Black Hills were finally relinquished. After this statement the Indians asked time to consult. The commissioners at once became aware that an exorbitant price would be demanded, and in this the Indians were supported by Dr. Daniels, the agent of Red Cloud and the agent of Spotted Tail, who expressed