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On returning to Cheyenne, learning that the annuity goods for Red Cloud, which had been shipped from New York on the 1st, would reach Cheyenne on the 17th, we arranged to start for Fort Laramie on Monday, 19th. On reaching the fort on the evening of the 21st we regretted to find that, with the exception of bands of Northern Cheyennes under Dull Knife, a band of Brule Sioux and a few Ogallalas, the Indians had not arrived. We again sent messengers to hasten Red Cloud's movements, but the chief did not reach Fort Laramie until the evening of October 4.

On the 5th a council was held at which Red Cloud, Men-afraid-of-his-horses, Red Dog, American Horse, Red Leaf, Grass, and a large number of Ogallala and Minneconjou chiefs and braves were present.

The commissioners were satisfied that the delay was owing to the fact that Red Cloud, anxious to procure unanimity in the conclusions of the various bands, and to have the largest possible number present and agreeing to the council, had been visiting and holding talks with all of them for that purpose. As they were all in the buffalo country three hundred to four hundred miles distant, and scattered over an extensive area, his work, necessarily done in the Indian deliberative way, was one requiring time.

At the council Red Cloud complained that the Great Father had told him no white should go north of the Platte, but now white men had gone along the Laramie (or old California) road, and others were cutting hay on the north side about twenty-five miles from Fort Laramie. He said he had been promised traders, and he wanted his trading post at Ward's old trading house, ten miles from Fort Laramie, on the south side of the Platte. He also wanted ammunition and the privilege of trading for it.

The commissioners endeavored to correct the misunderstanding about the road, impressing upon him that the Government did not intend by the treaty to close that road; but had closed the road to the north, via the abandoned forts, and that, while by the treaty unauthorized persons were not to be permitted to go through or to settle upon their hunting grounds, the Government had a right to send its own men for purposes connected with the forts.