

The commission demanded and finally worried the Indians present into an agreement to cede all lands south of the Cheyenne River.

5. From the beginning the Indians understood the point of difference perfectly, and many of its practical bearings as well.

6. The character of the honorable commissioners should forbid all suspicion that, in dealing with Indians, they could resort to the use of arguments unjustifiable as between man and man; nevertheless, the Indians regard the result as forced upon them; and there is no question but that, as between two willing parties to an agreement, undue pressure was used.

7. This result is sullenly regretted and wholly repudiated by all as not truthfully expressing their desire and willing action.

I have presented the facts above, giving the Indian a chance for a hearing, and am prepared to go before the public in justification of his right to fair and square treatment in this matter. And, before Congress shall be called upon to ratify the terms of an agreement so entirely opposed to the will and desire of these Indians, who are most vitally interested in the final result, I have the honor to urge upon you the justice and necessity, in behalf of the Indian and the honor of the Indian service, of a renewed hearing and terms for agreement of which it shall not be said "accept you must."

I will, moreover, on my own responsibility, represent: That these Indians are not unfavorably disposed to any reasonable cession of territory. That the proposed change of location—Indians on the northern side of the Cheyenne River only, while the whites will settle on the south—will vastly increase the difficulty of preventing sales of liquor to Indians.

That the cession of the south half of the Cheyenne River Valley is not the end—the entire valley will be demanded.

That the Morro River region, to which they will be driven, is not such as will favor efforts to make these Indians self-supporting or become civilized;