

companies like St. Louis, Ft. Worth, Dallas, Wichita, Kansas City, and all those other - you know, big companies, and they fenced off all the counties. And they're the only ones that would come to Darlington for their supplies, other than orderin' something, you know, like the Kansas City and Wichita. So what I heard the purpose was keeping them from gettin' out again was to confine them to local domestic life so they wouldn't get out in no more trouble, but I don't think that was the stated purpose.

(Well when they left and made it up to Sitting Bull and his camp, were they allowed to stay there?)

Oh, they stayed there. They didn't try to force them out no more. Course the treaties came on afterwards. But the treaty makin' of the government with the Indian tribes terminated in 1871. That's already in process. After that there was to be nothing but agreements. That's how our country was opened here, by agreement. No more treaties. But that's the way the thing worked out.

LEASING OF INDIAN LAND TO CATTLE COMPANIES

(Well, before they decided to allot the land, you were talkin' about the country was all leased by these cattle companies?)

Yeah, when that law passed Feb. 7 - Feb. 8, 1887. The cattlemen were asked to terminate their leases, when all this settler's land - and take the cattle out. I think that was the last time that this Jesse Chisholm drove his last herd through here to El Reno and along to Wichita, on up to Dodge and Kansas City. So eventually the Indians had already gotten some cattle. And all this cattle that belonged to the Indians was driven out by these cattlemen in their respective counties, that they couldn't get back. They lost a lot of cattle. I know over there southwest of El Reno the man - one of our outstanding chiefs - Powder Face.