

stipulation, it was but natural that they should reply that the Indians themselves violated the treaty hundreds of times every summer by predatory incursions, whereby many settlers were utterly ruined, and their families left without means of subsistence; and this by Indians who are fed, clothed, and maintained in utter idleness by the government they (the settlers) help to support. I respectfully submit that their side of the story should be heard, as the settlers who develop our mines and open the frontier to civilization are the nation's wards no less than their more fortunate fellows, the Indians. In any event, unless some arrangement can be made this winter, by which the Indians will be satisfied to cede the mining region, my impression is that serious trouble will ensue when the miners attempt to return, as I believe they will by early spring."

It is doubtless true that some of the settlers lost some stock during the year 1875. They would probably have lost some, had there been no Indians in that region. The Indians also lost stock, but it does not seem clear that, if Gen. Crook's statement that four hundred head of stock were stolen was true, the fact should be put in as an offset to the unlawful occupation of the Black Hills, not by the settlers along the line / ³⁰⁰ of the railroad, but by adventurers who did not reside in the country. Moreover, it is strange if the Sioux had stolen four hundred head of stock from the settlers, that no claim was ever filed against the Indians for compensation. In a country where sharp lawyers abound, it is remarkable that the settlers, if they had claims for such depredations upon them, had not filed and prosecuted them, when the treaty provided a full remedy for such cases, and compensation to the injured parties, out of the annuities or other moneys due the Indians. The Sioux commission of 1876, in all their journey among the Sioux, did not hear, from any source or from any person, one word about four hundred horses, or even one horse, being stolen in the preceding year. If any such story had currency at any time, it was no doubt a fabrication; but it was just the kind of news that Gen. Crook was in search of, since his desire appeared to be not to