

build another road over practically the line of the present Dakota Central railroad, thence up the Cheyenne and westward until it intersected the Laramie and Bozeman trail. Each of these new roads, it will be observed, would run directly through the great buffalo ranges of the Tetons.

Early in the spring of 1865, Colonel Sawyer of Sioux City was designated to survey and open the Laramie-Bozeman trail, which soon came to be known as the Montana road. Lieutenant John R. Wood, with a detachment of twenty-five men of B Company of Dakota cavalry, was detailed to protect him upon the expedition. He was also accompanied by some traders who were going into the mountain region, among whom was Mat Hedges of Sioux City. Sawyer, with commendable activity, proceeded to work, and soon was on the stretch northwest of Laramie. The general rendezvous of the Oglalas was at Fort Laramie, where their agent resided and where their annuities were paid. When Sawyer entered the buffalo country northwest of Laramie, Red Cloud at once perceived the danger of disturbance to the buffalo upon which the tribe depended for the greater part of its subsistence, and he started out to overtake Sawyer and protest against his entering the country. This he did, but, of course, effected nothing thereby. It was Sawyer's business to build a road and he had no discretion in the matter, and probably no comprehension of the argument advanced by the Indians.

Failing in argument to impress his point, Red Cloud resolved upon trying moral suasion. He gathered up a large body of Oglalas and Cheyennes, and again overtaking Sawyer's party at the Powder River, he surrounded it and held it in siege for ³⁵³ fifteen days. No force was used; the intention being by a show of force to bluff the road makers out of their country. The Indians, after two weeks, raised the siege, but continued to make demonstrations to intimidate, but were careful to do no real damage. However, the feeling of hostility was growing and Red Cloud began to realize that it would be impossible to much longer restrain his young men. Young Hedges strolled too far away from the main force and was killed by an irresponsible young Cheyenne. After this Red Cloud withdrew his Indians and the