

and are entitled to compensation for the damage and distress caused by making so many roads through our country, and driving off and destroying the buffalo and game." In his report of March 9, 1866, Colonel Maynadier says, "It satisfies me of the entire trustiness of Spotted Tail, who is always with Red Cloud, and they two rule the nation."

After the summons to this treaty council, all of the Dakotas ceased their hostilities and began to assemble about Fort Laramie. From January to July there was entire peace in the Dakota country. On the 1st of June, in pursuance of previous arrangement, the treaty commission assembled at Fort Laramie. It was constituted as follows: E. B. Taylor, superintendent of Indian affairs for the northern superintendency at Omaha, president; Colonel Henry E. Maynadier, Colonel R. N. McLaren, of Minnesota, and Thomas Wistar, of Philadelphia. Charles E. Bowles, of the Indian department was secretary and Frank Lehmer of Omaha assistant secretary.

Two thousand of the Brules and Oglalas were in attendance and the principal chiefs were delegated to represent the bands in the council. The main object sought to be accomplished by the commission was, of course, in addition to the general negotiation for peace, the opening of the new road from Fort Laramie to Montana by way of Bridger's ferry and the head waters of the Powder, Tongue and Big Horn Rivers. This region of country was the most highly prized by the Indians who occupied it, as it abounded in buffalo, antelope and deer. Those of them who did not reside in the region willingly signed the ³⁵⁵ treaty granting a right of way, probably upon the theory that they were willing to sacrifice their relatives for the good of the country, but those who did reside in that region absolutely refused to allow a road to be made or a military post to be established. While they were negotiating this treaty at Laramie, the commissioners and chiefs being assembled in council under a bower prepared for the purpose, Colonel Henry E. Carrington, of the Eighteenth United States infantry, arrived at Fort Laramie with a force of about 700 men, with instructions from military headquarters to establish and occupy military posts on the proposed route to Montana.