

the northern Indians mostly had come down into the neighborhood of Fort Laramie and the Black Hills, and that they were not far from the new Red Cloud agency, where one of the commissioners, Dr. Daniels, then resided. They sent out word to all of the hostile camps, inviting them to send in representatives to a general council, and on May 9th met delegates representing from 400 to 500 of the hostile lodges. The commissioners informed them of the wishes of the government in relation to the Northern Pacific, in reply to which the Indians said they were very glad to hear from the Great Father, and they wished to have him informed that they did not want any white men in their country. The trader was the only white man they wanted to see. They wanted the Great Father to let them sell guns and ammunition. The principal men in the council were Red Thunder, Thin Soup, Ashes, Little Chief, and Hump Rib, head soldiers of the Uncpapas, Minneconjous and Sans Arcs. The commissioners conclude their report with these remarks: "They feel no hesitancy in assuring the department that there will be no combined resistance to the construction of the Northern Pacific railroad. The Indians have neither ammunition nor subsistence to undertake a general war."

While the commissioners were correct in their conclusion that the Indians could not make a great and united campaign because of the lack of subsistence, the, nevertheless, were able to give the military an active summer. Red Cloud was thoroughly impressed at this time with the belief that the government did not intend to show good faith, and keep the stipulations of the treaty of Laramie relating to the sanctity of the Indian lands, and Crazy Horse, Black Moon and Sitting Bull at least received his approbation, if not his active assistance, in their attempts to harass and drive out the Northern Pacific surveyers from the Yellowstone country. On the 7th of May, at the very / ⁴⁰⁴ time when the commissioners were at the Red Cloud agency, and two days before the great council there, another vigorous attack was made upon Fort Abraham Lincoln, which was repelled by Lieutenant Colonel Carlen, of the Seventeenth infantry. The Indians were driven