

ammunition, so we can shoot the game. For seven generations to come I want the Great Father to give us Texan steers for our meat. I want the government to issue bacon, the very best kind, and cracked corn and beans for me hereafter flour and coffee, and sugar and tea/and rice and dried apples and saleratus and tobacco, and soap and salt and pepper for the old people. I want a wagon, a light wagon, and a span of horses and six yoke of working cattle for my people. I want a sow and a boar, and a cow and a bull, and a sheep and a ram, and a hen and a cock for each family. I am an Indian, but you try to make a white man out of me. I want some white men's houses at this agency to be built for the Indians. I have been into white people's houses and I have seen nice black bedsteads and chairs, and I want that kind of furniture given to my people. I thought I had some interest in this sawmill here, but I find I have not. I want the Great Father to furnish me a sawmill which I may call my own. I want a mower and a scythe for my people. Maybe you white people think I ask too much from the government, but I think those hills extend clear to the sky, maybe they go above the sky, and that is the reason I ask for so much. I think the Black Hills are worth more than all the wild beasts and all the tame beasts in the possession of the white people.

420

I know it well, and you can see it plain enough, /that God Almighty placed those hills here for my wealth, but now you want to take them from me and make me poor, so I ask so much that I won't be poor. Now I will tell you how much country I give you. Around the Hills is a race track (referring to the valley which extends clear around the main body of the Hills) and I sell to the government inside of that trail." Many others made addresses, but enough has been given to show the general tendency of Indian opinion. Fast Bear said, referring to the capture of One Stab by General Custer, "One of my headmen was caught in the Black Hills and scared a little last summer. I want the government to pay him for that road." Mr. Allison asked, "What road?" To which Fast Bear replied, "That thieves' road." Meaning the trail made by General Custer. Stabber, whether or not in a spirit of facetiousness the commissioners do not inform us, advised the commission to "Beware and be lively and don't be discouraged and try and give us as many millions as we have asked for these hills."