

viz; "Do you know that you are now in the Queen's country?" Their answer was that they did. I asked, "What have you come for?" They replied, that they had been driven from their several homes by the Americans and had come to look for peace. They had been told by their fathers that they would find peace in the land of the British. They had not slept sound for years, and were anxious to find a place where they could lie down and feel safe. They were tired of living in such a ~~most~~ disturbed ~~peace~~ state. I asked them: "Do you intend to remain here only during the cold ~~winter~~ months of winter, have peace, and when ~~spring~~ comes to return to your country across the lines and make war?" They answered "No." They ~~only~~ wished to remain, and prayed that I would ask the Great Mother to have pity on them. I then explained to them the law, such as we gave to the other Indians; also told them it was a crime against the laws of the Great White Mother for anyone of them to go from her country and make war on the Americans, and asked them if they thought they could obey it; if not they had better return, for the White Mother would not allow any crimes to go unpunished in her land. They replied that they would obey the law.

I then spoke to Medicine Bear and the Yanktons, and asked them what were they doing on the British side of the line; that they were agency Indians and I was surprised to see them over here? Medicine Bear replied, that most of the Y. had become dissatisfied with the Americans; that they had refused to allow them ammunition to kill buffalo to feed their families; that before he left Peck, the tribe, 300 lodges, held a council, and decided to leave the Americans forever; the camps divide into small parties and started north, to meet again on the British side of the line; that he was now waiting for them, and on their arrival a council would be held and a final decision made what they should do. I explained to them the laws, and told them they must be careful and obey it; that if one act was committed against it I would take the person or persons out of camp as prisoners; that I would hold the Chief responsible for the good behavior of the camp.

The Y I believe will return to P. At present they are going to move westward. Along White Mud River, and halt at Timber About 20 miles east of the east end of this mountain.

Findin good feed for horses at this timber, I left a look-out post in Tepec, of one acting constable and two sub-constables, with six horses, with instructions to notify me on the arrival of any Indians.

The Tetons had not decided whether they should follow the Yanktons or go to Wood Mountain and join "Black Moon." These Indians asked for ammunition, and I informed them they would be allowed to purchase sufficient to feed their families, but if I found that they sent one round of it across the line, I would ~~stop~~ put a stop to their getting it at once.

As soon as camp arrives at timber, I will give non-commissioned officer in charge the same instructions as those given to non-commissioned officer in charge of "Wood Mountain" party; that is, to examine trading outfits coming into camp, and if he finds ammunition in it, to ascertain if party has permit from me to take ammunition into camp, if not, for him to take charge of same and report to me at once.

If party has permit for him (Non-com.), to see that ammunition is only sold in Page 32

small quantities and to satisfy himself before an Indian is permitted to purchase the second lot that the first has been consumed in securing meat.

The Tetons report that it took them twenty-five days to make the trip from Powder River to where I saw them, that they were harassed by the troops until they got close to the Missouri which they crossed west of Peck and were so closely pressed they could not hunt and were obliged to kill their horses for food; had lived on horse-flesh ten or fifteen days,

They claim that the Sioux are British Indians, that sixty-five years ago was the first their fathers knew of being under the Americans; their fathers were told at that time by a chief or chief "British Father" (it was a father they saw they had at that time) that if they did not wish to live under the Americans; they could move northward, and there they would again find the land of the British. Why the "White Father" gave them and their country to the Americans they could not tell.