

Report of the commissioners appointed by the President of the United States to treat with the Indians at Fort Laramie; sgd. E. B. TAYLOR, Henry E. Maynardier, col. 5th U. S. Volunteers.

In the meanwhile ~~rumors~~ of a discouraging character were in daily circulation of the disinclination of the Indians to give government the desired road to Montana by the way of Powder river. These rumors, on being traced, appeared to have a very doubtful origin, being mainly spread abroad by persons interested in keeping up an agitation for the purpose of keeping freights at high rates. These persons have but little at stake, as they reside in parts of the country not likely to suffer directly from Indian depredations, while they profit largely by magnifying the dangers of travelling to emigrants and freighters, and using these imaginary dangers as an excuse to increase the prices of their wares. On the other hand, these traders and dealers who are immediately among the Indians, and who are always the victims of an outbreak, are unanimously in favor of a peace that shall be lasting and mutually beneficial. They are men who have lived long among the Indians, and their assistance and agency are important and valuable both to the government and the Indians.

Although the Indians, as might naturally be expected, were reluctant to allow the proposed road to pass through the best of their remaining hunting grounds, yet when informed of the wishes of the government, and of our disposition to give a liberal equivalent, they acquiesced in our request in a full council, after a full expression of sentiment had taken place on both sides. The only change they suggested to the proposed terms consisted in the request of having their annuity goods distributed semi-annually, that is to say, at a specified time in the spring and fall. This proposition met our decided approval, as we believed it would greatly benefit the Indians.