

Passing eastwardly the creeks emptying into the White Earth River, the Wounded Knee 15 miles, the Porcupine Tail Creek 25 miles, the Medicine Creek 35 miles, the Corn Creek 35 miles, and the Bear-Running-through-the-Lodge Creek 45 miles, were found to be streams of living water, with a fair proportion of arable land on each, with good grass and abundance of pine timber in the ravines on either side of the valley. This pine country extends in a direction nearly east and west from the eagle's Nest Butte on the east to Camp Robinson on the west, 100 miles, and will furnish timber for 10,000 people for 100 years to come, and is one of the advantages which recommend this country for and Indians settlement.

The Pass Creek, 15 miles east of Eagle's Nest, and the Bad Lands Creek, 30 miles east of the same landmark, can be utilized as stock country, but are distant from timber; yet it is recommended that these creeks be embraced in the territory of the Ogallalas under Red Cloud. This territory, nearly 100 miles in extent east and west, would contain all the land available for settlement south of White Earth River on the Sioux Reservation, and not assigned to the Brules under Spotted Tail, and would furnish comfortable and profitable homes for the tribe.

It is thought best that the agency should be placed on the Wounded Knee, as the big White Clay is near the western border of the Red Cloud land. And as the selection of a site for the agency is a matter of lasting importance, it is recommended that this be referred to the Indian agent and the commanding officer of the post.

After returning to the forks of White Earth River, the commission examined the valley of that river to within 20 miles of the Missouri, their attention having been called to this valley by the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs. This valley the commission condemned as a home for Indians from the badness of the water of White Earth River (the only water), the sterile soil, and the sparseness of the timber.

The commission were fully aware of the great expense in the matter of transportation in placing the Indians, Spotted Tail 70 miles and Red Cloud 150 miles from the Missouri River, and in council on the 1st of August at the Forks of White River, in accordance with instructions received by the commission and as a compromise, it was explained to Red Cloud and chiefs assembled that \$20,000 would be paid them in cattle if they would remain on or near the Missouri River at some new location.

This proposition they received in perfect good nature, but answered that they could not do so; that they could not do anything to make a living on the Missouri; that they had selected the White Clay country for their home while in Washington last fall; that their people were unanimous on going there, and nothing else would content them. These promises, which it appears were really made the Indians, seemed to bar any chance

of inducing them to remain on the Missouri. And in fact after a faithful examination of the country the commission were forced to the conclusion that if these Indians, excepting in small numbers, were located on the Missouri they must be paupers dependent on the government forever; whereas if located upon the lands recommended, and supplied with stock and reasonably and honestly assisted, within ten years they have a fair and good prospect of becoming self-supporting, and on an economical point of view it should not be lost sight of altogether that for these Indians to become settled and ultimately self-supporting, with homes of their own, they must have houses; and on the Missouri the materials for houses would have to be obtained from some other locality, and the cost would be greater than the cost of transportation of supplies; hence a removal to a locality where building material can be had ready to their hands would in the end be more economical.