

p.44

Afterward came your dispatch, dated Washington, February 2, stating that "the agreement without either of Shannon's amendments submitted to Congress; it must be signed as submitted, or not at all." This instruction was carefully noted and has been cheerfully obeyed.

Governor Edmunds was obliged to go to Yankton, leaving me and the interpreter here with instructions to endeavor to gain the consent of the Brules to the favorable propositions offered them.

I regret, however, to be obliged to report that although much diligent effort has been made they still maintain their first position, and will not agree to take the separate reservation assigned to them and designated in the last clause of the agreement forwarded to the Department.

Recent information is to the effect that a majority of the chiefs, satisfied that the proposals offered are beneficial, are willing to agree, but are deterred by a few chiefs and a combination, called among them "the soldier band," and that this combination was created through the bad advice and influence of sundry white men.

p. 47

These Indians have lately, as you are aware, entered into an agreement with the commissioners appointed by the Government for the surrender of a certain portion of their reserve upon the payment of a consideration by the United States.

Congress failed to ratify this agreement, and it is the current rumor that it is the intention of the Executive to throw open parts of the reserve, notwithstanding the absence of such ratification and without the payment of the consideration offered by the commissioners. The newspapers argue for such action on the ground that as the reserve was set apart by Executive order the Executive may of its own motion throw