

## INDIANS: TREATIES

Once the public were informed that the Army had violated the Treaty of 1865 (though as a matter of fact none of the hostile chiefs had ever signed that document) the military were discredited, and in framing the Treaty of Laramie in 1868 the visionaries had a field day. They made a great pretense of negotiating the treaty and allowing Red Cloud and the other chiefs to have a say in framing it. As a matter of fact, the treaty was not properly explained to the Indians; there was no negotiation; they simply touched the pen and took their presents, satisfied by the withdrawal of the troops from the Powder River country. They set no great store by scraps of paper, such agreements being entirely alien to all their ways of thought. But they had seen the troops pull out and the forts dismantled, and they were told they could have their traders again. That was what counted.

As a matter of fact, the treaty ran to some seventeen articles and provided for peace, for the punishment of offenders white and Indian, established a Sioux reservation corresponding roughly to ~~the~~ Dakota Territory west of the Missouri River, made provision for individual land-holding by Indians, alienation and descent of property, schools, farming tools, agency employees, medical care, annuities and livestock, a census of the Indians, construction of railroads, wagon roads, and mail stations. The treaty abrogated all previous treaties with the Indians and was framed to provide that thereafter no treaty would be valid unless signed by three-fourths of the adult males of the Sioux. This fantastic provision, which took no account of Sioux customs, was to make plenty of trouble for everybody in the years to come.

But the framers of the treaty, not satisfied with giving the Sioux such a huge reservation, put one over on the Army and the Western frontiersmen in Article 11 and Article 16, as follows:

"Article 11. In consideration of the advantages and benefits conferred by this treaty, and the many pledges of friendship by the United States, the tribes who are parties to this agreement hereby stipulate that they will relinquish all right to occupy permanently the territory outside their reservation as herein defined, but yet