



Reservation Agent C. H. Powers addresses solemn Treaty Council members. Council draws up resolutions and petitions, has no real power. According to Sioux etiquette, speech must be long, dignified and delivered through an interpreter. Only woman present is a secretary.

and apathy. They live, practically all of them, in the state of South Dakota, on the west side of the Missouri River, the dark, turbulent stream their forefathers named the Big Muddy. This area, comprising the full western half of the state, was once promised them as a permanent homeland. Today the Sioux, numbering around 40,000, occupy five shrunken pockets of this homeland.

The five reservations, each populated by different subtribes and tribal mixtures, are the Cheyenne River, Lower Brulé, Standing Rock, Rosebud and Pine Ridge. How much longer the Sioux will hold this land is a question. There are men in Congress who advocate a cut in Federal spending by abolishing Indian reservations. It is time, they say, that the Indian got out to root, hog, or die, like everyone else. The Sioux, who have in their long experience as wards of the Government heard plenty of talk from Washington, very little of it good, face this prospect with weary passivity. Whatever is taken from them, wherever they are forced to go, the earth cannot be whisked from under a man's feet.

Pine Ridge, largest and most populous of the five reservations, is entered on the east from the lower end of the Black Hills. Where the land begins to flatten out into grassy plains the land tapers off into a gentle level of pine-covered land, hence the name. It is a pistol-shaped land, with the muzzle pointed eastward, the Rosebud Reservation; its southern border is the border of Nebraska. Pine

Ridge is the home of the Oglala tribe, most storied of the Sioux. There are about 10,000 of them on the reservation today, plus a sprinkling of Brulé tribesmen. The Oglala were outstanding warriors. Two of the greatest Sioux heroes, the war chieftains Red Cloud and Crazy Horse, were Oglalas, although Sitting Bull, most renowned of all Indians, was a Hunkpapa Sioux, who spent his last days at the Standing Rock Reservation north of here. He was killed in 1890, shot in the doorway of his family tepee



Dave Red Star, head of the Treaty Council, confers with Agent Powers on Council business.

by Indian police sent to arrest him. An old man, whose hatred for the white man was implacable, Sitting Bull had been fanning up a last insurrectionist movement. He is buried at the Standing Rock Agency.

A lot of Sioux, especially at Pine Ridge, object to the fame of Sitting Bull. It is, they say, incommensurate with his achievements, and they blame it largely on the fact that Sitting Bull tramped for a while with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and trumped up a name as the war chief who annihilated Custer. The record shows that it was not Sitting Bull but the Oglala chief Crazy Horse who led and directed the attack that liquidated this vainglorious young brigadier and his unfortunate command on the banks of the Little Big Horn in the summer of 1876. The Indians call it the battle of Greasy Grass, and they are sorry it ever happened because, although an undisputed military victory (not a massacre, except to the journalists of the time), it turned out to be not Custer's "last stand," but their own. The Army really went for them after that, and the Sioux were so badly smashed that they never effectively got their forces together again.

Sioux is not their real name. It is a sobriquet that time and usage substituted for their true name of "Dakota," a word which in their language means "friend" or "ally." Back in their early history these Indians lived in the forests of Minnesota. Their foes, the Chippewas, referred to them with fear and respect as "the