



the desire of Commissioner Sells that the Indians be allowed to conduct their deliberations without any interference either from government officials or others and the results of this council demonstrate that his confidence in the ability of the Indians to carry on the council properly was not misplaced.

Assistance and advice as to the claims was given the council by Dean Ashley who has been missionary among the Sioux for 45 years and who was present when some of the treaties were signed by the Indians.

THE CLAIM THAT IS MADE.

The Sioux Indians have been trying for many years to get their claim against the government considered, but this is the first time that a full council of all Indian tribes and bands interested has met with duly elected and accredited representatives.

The claims were considered by the council and formulated for presentation. The substance of the claim is that at the time the treaties were signed with the various guards in the '70s, only a small percentage of the Indians were really present and took part in the deliberations, that many of those who signed the treaties were not duly selected to represent the Indians, that the treaties as reported to congress by the commissioners and as approved by congress had not been fully explained to the Indians and that the compensation given the Indians by congress for the vast territory ceded was only a small part of what the Indians were promised.

There are living today a consider-

able number of Indians and white people who took part and heard these treaties made, and the concensus of opinion seems to be that they have a valid claim.

Before anything can be done to allow this claim it is necessary for congress to pass a law authorizing the claim to be considered by the court of claims. Such a bill has passed the Senate and is now pending before the House, but may not pass at this session on account of the reluctance of congress to consider anything but war measures. Commissioner Sells has authorized this council to send a delegation of three to Washington to report the result of their deliberations and present their claims and every effort will be made to secure the early passage of the bill and secure the adjudication of the claim.—*Sioux City Tribune.*

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