

SITTING BULL INTERESTED IN THE EDUCATION OF AN INDIAN BOY

By Bear Soldier.

About September 1886, a representative of the Hampton Normal School, Hampton, Va., came to Standing Rock Agency, for the purpose of procuring number of Indian youth to attend said school. The gentleman was Mr. McDowell.

Among the number of prospective students, was a young lad living in the vicinity of Sitting Bull's camp, who, although was well up in the three R's was apparently destined to become a future leader among his people, were he given a chance to acquire higher education. This was Antoine DeRock-braine.

Sitting Bull was always interested in this lad, for he could read very intelligently, the daily papers, magazines and periodicals and would often translate them to the chief who learned quite a lot therefrom.

When Mr. McDowell had a conference with Agent James McLaughlin, in connection with his mission, the Agent recommended Antoine, very highly, as the most prominent young lad on the reservation and urged that he be given the chance to go.

The next day Agent McLaughlin and Mr. McDowell drove out to Bullhead, a distance of about forty miles to see Antoine. They arrived there and Antoine was interviewed. They both expressed themselves of their hearty endorsement for his enrollment at the Hampton School.

Antoine felt rather indignant, feeling that he has completed the eighth grade and did not think that there anything more for him to learn, in book learning. Then Agent McLaughlin pulled out a package of cigarets and handed it to Antoine with the advice that he consider the proposition over night and should he decide to go for him to report at the headquarters when the party of prospective pupils were to start. He left him and went home.

Some after they had gone, Sitting Bull came in his usual visits and hearing of the matter, advised Antoine to take this grand opportunity and