

GEO. BIRD GRINNELL
238 East 15th Street
New York, N. Y.

January 28, 1929

Mr. W. S. Campbell
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Your letter of January 8th came in my absence, which delays an acknowledgement. As I have suggested in various notes that I have written, it is my belief that the stories commonly printed in connection with the fights between Indians and troops on the western plains between 1870 and 1880 overestimated the armament of the Indians. Usually the reporters of those battles tried to give the white fighters as much credit as they could, and made the most of the Indian armament, because to defeat a well armed enemy is more creditable than to defeat one that is poorly armed. In the fightings during this period -- so far as I can learn -- about one-half the Indians carried bows and arrows, one-third muzzle-loading rifles, and the balance various sorts of breech-loading rifles. The white people, on the other hand, had the best weapons and ammunition that could be secured. They were able to pay for better arms than the Indians.

The statement to which you refer as made by military men, that the Indians in the 70's paid as high as \$100 in furs for a magazine rifle, I think is not true. So far as I can learn, by inquiry, the Winchester repeating rifle in those days sold to white men for about \$25. If this were the case in the east, it is quite probable that a repeating rifle, by the time it got out to a western store, might have sold for \$35 or \$40. This to a white man. An