

July 24, 1929

Dr. Tyler Dennett,
State Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

May I introduce myself and ask your assistance?

I am engaged upon a life of Sitting Bull, the celebrated Sioux (Dakota) Indian leader, and wish to ask what materials there may be in the State Department which might help me in clearing up certain points of his checkered career.

Some of these points are as follows:

- (1) Negotiations or correspondence between Canada and the United States with regard to the sale of arms and ammunition to Sitting Bull and the hostile Sioux by the Red River Half Breeds of Canada, 1862-1876. I find in the War Department reports that General Hamney complains of this officially, and captured several camps of these Breeds south of the line in his expedition to Mouse River. Also, there were later complaints regarding this during the Sioux wars, 1874-6.
- (2) Negotiations between Canada and the United States looking to the surrender of Sitting Bull, 1877-1881. I have the report of the Commission of General Terry, who visited Sitting Bull in Canada. But there must have been a number of papers leading up to the sending of the Commission.
- (3) Negotiations between Canada and the United States with regard to invasions of the Sioux under Sitting Bull, 1877-1881, who crossed the line into the States to hunt and raid. This led to Miles' campaign, 1879.
- (4) Papers relating to the surrender and return to the States of Nez Perce refugee Indians, who escaped when Chief Joseph surrendered to Gen. Miles. I know that a delegation of friendly Nez Percés under the leadership of the Government Scout and interpreter, Ben Clark, left Fort Leavenworth and visited Canada in the summer of 1877 to secure the return of these refugee Indians. I am extremely anxious to find Ben Clark's report on this expedition, and any other papers referring to it.
- (5) Papers relating to the refugee Minnesota Sioux in Canada, who found asylum there following the Minnesota Massacre in 1862, and remained to have contact with Sitting Bull, 1877-81.