

lived far from the agency. The title given to these employees to make it look better on paper, was "Indian police."

Because Sitting Bull was independent, McLaughlin called him a disturber. Sitting Bull was a man of a great deal of zeal and had a number of followers who stood by him through thick and thin. McLaughlin did not like this; he wanted them all to be subservient to him.

I do not think the ghost dancers ever expected to go on the war path. All of McLaughlin's dispatches and reports to the government urging the importance of taking Sitting Bull in tow had a very inadequate foundation. The governmental authorities themselves were made to believe that the situation was a great deal more serious than it was. By this means McLaughlin was laying a foundation for what was to follow. To realize that there was little real cause for alarm, one need only remember that the horses and guns had been taken from Sitting Bull's band years before. The only guns left them were of archaic patterns and practically valueless.

Captain Fechet could just as easily have gone to bring Sitting Bull in personally in December, 1890 as to have sent the policemen, but it would look much better in reports if the Indian police got Sitting Bull out of the way, as had apparently been determined upon. The Sitting Bull band would not resist anyone else as much as they would their own people, because to have the Indian police sent after them looked to them an insult they were not called upon to bear. The very fact that Captain Fechet with his Gatling gun was just over the hill is sufficient to show that McLaughlin expected a conflict and, in fact, that he really wanted an excuse for one.

When Buffalo Bill had been sent to the agency a short time previously to bring Sitting Bull in, he had been purposely sidetracked. The point I want to make is that the one in authority did not want Sitting Bull brought in alive.

This little bit that I am giving you now is not the order of sequence in Sitting Bull's life; but it is information that must be kept in mind if one is not to be led astray by the prejudiced opinion of Major McLaughlin. It is unfortunate that McLaughlin's view of Sitting Bull expressed in this book should have become the commonly accepted view of the public. McLaughlin's stories and dispatches were printed and backed up by his long service; the Indians had no one to present his side of the case and there were no impartial observers on the ground to express it. If the religious motive partially responsible for McLaughlin's opinion of Sitting Bull had been exposed, however justly, the usual cry of religious intolerance would be raised.

I note that you were a Rhodes Scholar. My older son was one also, finishing at Oxford in 1923. He is now teaching in the department of physics at Harvard, my alma mater.