


University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.
May 2, 1930.



Mr. Francis Zahn,
Fort Yates, N.D.

My dear friend:

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of a new book, THE LAST FRONTIER, by a friend of mine down here- an old man who died two weeks ago. It has a good deal to do with your country, and seems to be very interesting, so I thought I would make you a present of it to add to your library. I hope you will like it.

Now, my friend, I want you to help me some more. I will tell you why.

Recently a man in New York has published a book called AMERICAN. It is a life of Chief Plenty Coups of the Crow Indians, and the claim is made that he was the greatest of the Indian chiefs. I know better, and so do you. Sitting Bull was a far greater man.

Now, I don't think you Dakotas ought to let this pass. It is up to us to get the truth about Sitting Bull, and show him as he was, so that everyone will realise that Sitting Bull and nobody else is the most famous of the American Indians. This is your chance to show how great the Dakotas were, and I want you to work hard to help me. Tell the old men about this, and ask them to explain what it was that made Sitting Bull great. I want to know everything you can find out about him, especially his war record, both against the Indians and the white men, too.

You know that the white men in the past have told many lies about Sitting Bull, saying he was a coward, and never fought with the white soldiers or settlers. It is necessary that I get the truth about this in every detail. Please help me.

I am sending you herewith a few pages which will suggest some of the stories I need. I hope you will pitch in and get the old men to talking, and send me the information soon.

I may say that the Guggenheim Foundation has agreed to help me with my work, so there is going to be a big stir when this book comes out. It will help the cause of the Indians, and show the glory of your people. Now is the time to strike.

I want you to know that I am not knocking anybody in my book. It will be to the glory of the whole Dakota nation. I am not taking sides. All I want is the truth. I hope every reliable old man will help me now. If they do not, the white men will all believe that Plenty Coups was the greatest Indian who ever lived.

Yours truly,
W S Campbell