5-1142

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

#1

Standing Rock Agency,
Fort Yates, North Dakota.
December 14, 1928.

Mr. W. S. Campbell,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Your letter of November 3, 1928 addressed to Supt. Ernest W. Jermark of Pine Ridge has been referred by him to me. Your letter referred to Sitting Bull. I presume to be something of an authority on Sitting Bull because I have charge of this reservation where he lived and died and where he is buried and I know many people who knew Sitting Bull.

I have not the time to tell you what I know about this man. Too much has already been written of him in a laudatory way. He was a typical demagogue. He kept his ear to the ground and if there was any trouble anywhere he was the one to take the side of the disloyal, what would now be known as the bolshevik element, in every case and he always made their cause his own. He was not even a chief of importance but was a medicine man and a sub-chief. He was not even a pleasing personality, neither was he a soldier. The real soldiers amongst the Indians such as Gall despised him.

I have the most authentic description of the fight when he was killed that has ever been written and I secured it from a policeman who was in the fight with the hostiles. Sitting Bull had little power over the Sioux but what he did have was as a medicine man.