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Professor W.C.Campbell:

Yours ,15th,is at hand,and glad to get tthe same. Your book Sitting Bull was sent to me some two months ago,and,as time allowed,I read it carefully.And just as the reading was completed,Dr. O.G.Libby of our University sent me a copy asking me to carefully read it and make notes on margins,or inserted leaves--unaware I'd read it. So I read it again carefully,and made notes in margins for him. He had previously sent a review for me to read & ~~make~~ suggest changes; & no change was suggested except that without toneing down anything whatever,he might insert a half dozen words indicating that certain things were done by the Bureau,at Fort Yates ,instead of leaving the impression that Fort Yates did the things .And I further said that McLaughlin was expected to accomplish these things,which had to be accomplished at Fort Yates,and that if McLaughlin has been inadequate for putting across such things,someone else would have been sent here to Fort Yates in his place.

This does not detract from the position of the book that McLaughlin took the matter personally---as he did most all things---,and felt keenest possible personal and even vindictive antagonism against Sitting Bull . The last margin note in Dr. Libby's copy reads "The book is so good that one can't think what to say___ so better ~~to~~ say nothing." The "slips",if they are slips,are incidental.The book is the kind of an adequate and well balanced book that I have been obsessed with longing to see and read.

When in Chicago,in December,1922,and lecturing to about 400,largely authors, newspaper men,professors, military men &c.--when I was urged to allow a 2nd edition of "Sitting Bull-Custer",the actual reason I refused was my feeling that a wider sale of the book would lead to vindictive attack,which the limited edition escaped,and that it was better to let matters rest,until the virulent conspiracy to down this great man,or if not fully down him,to kill him with mild praise---~~to~~ to rest until this storm had followed its own inevitable suicidal course to its grave.And I also felt obsecced woth the idea that the next thing must be an adequate life of Sitting Bull,not by me ,but by some person making full research and writing fully uninfluenced by me,and making his own findings,which I felt would sustain my high regard for this very great man.Such a book has now come,and ofcourse I am delighted.

In a second edition you will add a few things,no doubt.And would it not be well to insert a half dozen lines incidentally,in a proper place,to the effect that the immediate URGE to default in the treaties was the fact that the U.S. must have gold for paying interest on its bonds, at home and abroad,and for staying on the gold basis,in the interests of foreign commerce.We oldtimers realized this well. This generation does not know that fact,which led to Black Hills,Virginia City &c.

To Maj.A.B.Welch,with a few others,objecting to the book's description of Chief John Grass,I said "Well,Major,the book is correct. Chief Grass gained his prestige among Indians by reason of you .You was known to some of the chiefs,and all of them knew of you,and they liked you.So they decided to hold that great assembly of tribes,and first recognize him as an Indian Chief---not merely an agency chief---,and then have him adopt you ~~as~~ as a warrior ,as his son and successor.All the ceremonies were valid,and in full .I was present,you know,and made full records of everything--and I understood it all in Indian". The Major said no more. I could have said much more,of Chief Grass not entirely trusted by Indians even after this,of his delirium before death(while the Maj.was in France) and what he said.Of the funeral unattended by Indians &c. But spare that.

A. McG. Beede

Yours so good it bothers to write. Jan 1st write from office

Among the Black Hills & Mandan mine & the Sioux Parkell were exhibited