

September 24, 1929.

Dr. Robert H. Lowie,
University of California,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Dr. Lowie:

As you may remember, I am working on a biography of the Sioux leader, Sitting Bull. During the past month I visited the Dakotas and spent some weeks in field work among the old men under auspices which insured pretty free speaking on their part. In fact, the nephew and adopted son of Sitting Bull (One Bull) became so interested in my project that he devoted long days to talking with me, and even conferred upon me the name of his own father. The result of my reconnaissance is to make me realise the really great scope of my study, and I have put in for a grant in aid to the Social Science Research Council.

Now I am unofficially informed that certain members of that Committee are a little inclined to oppose the grant because the book on Sitting Bull would be remunerative. I hope it will be. But the fact is, as you from your great experience of field work know, that gathering the materials for such a volume is a very lengthy and expensive process for a poor professor whose home is a long way both from the records in Bushi-Yon and the Indians in Dakota. As a matter of fact, the chances are the book will hardly pay expenses. I have already spent more than a year on it, and have a great deal to do yet.

I am asking to be relieved for travelling expenses and fees for interpreters and informants. Considering how much fresh material I have already gathered, how much of the printed records will be corrected by my findings, and how little work has been done on the Dakota Indians in recent years, I believe my request is modest enough.

I have taken great pains to verify my findings up there, checking everything by more than one informant, and through different interpreters. But I feel that I have only scratched the surface, after all. Now, with the entree I have established, I feel sure I can make a killing both on the historical and ethnologic sides.

You are the great authority upon Plains Indians. You know all about field work among them. A word from you to the members of that Committee would do wonders, I feel sure. I shall be very happy if you can say it for me.

As an earnest of the work I have been doing, I would like to offer the texts and translations and explanations of a score of songs composed by Sitting Bull which I have collected, for publication in the American Anthropologist, if you think it worth while.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. CAMPBELL.

P. S. - M. G. Smith, formerly of Colorado, and now Head-and-tail of the Department of Anthropology here, went to Dakota with me. I believe you know him.

WSC.