

March 17, 1933.

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Dear Sir:

I was pleased to see your review of my SITTING BULL in the Anthropologist. All things considered, you were very fair and kind to me. The omissions you mention I would explain by the fact that the book (originally planned in two volumes) had to be cut in two because of the depression. A great deal had to be taken for granted in the one volume. Had I published the original version, the necessary background and organization of the Sioux, with its late developments, would have been given fully. Some of these omissions will be made good in my forthcoming book on Sioux wars from the Indian point of view.

I must take issue with you upon one or two points, however. My information does not support your contention that war chiefs and civil chiefs were identical. Sometimes they were, oftener not. The war chief was a leader, the civil chief very often a figurehead who delegated such authority as he had to under-officers. Occasionally a man like Crazy Horse fulfilled both functions, but this was by no means the rule. Individual partisans, officers of a Society, these were generally the actual leaders in war (whether small parties or large). Having collected the stories of most of the important fights of the Sioux from 1862 onward, from eye-witnesses, I believe I can speak with confidence on this matter. Chieftaincy was an honorary position, rather than a post of power.

As to Sitting Bull's Soldiers, my information (coming from the survivors of that body) shows that it was not an akicita body at all, but a special corps formed (perhaps in imitation of the Red Coats) to control the Indians in Canada.

As to Red Cloud's skirmishes: Red Cloud was a band chief and a well-known warrior, but he was not the leader of the Oglala in any of the great conflicts with the white man, neither the Pettegannet fight, the Wagon Box fight, the Hayfield fight. He was present in the second, but Crazy Horse organized the party and led the Oglala present. Red Cloud was an orator at the councils with white officers and afterward paraded around the States making speeches - a sort of clerical Hiawatha in a frock coat - but the most hostile chiefs naturally never had any part in those affairs, and so have been cast in the shade. If Red Cloud was a greater warrior and warchief, as you say, you will perform a great service for history if you will publish an account of his exploits in detail. Moreover, the treaty he signed (which appeared at the time