

R. J. C. Irvine, Eleventh Infantry, who accompanied the command of Capt. O. B. Read, Eleventh Infantry, and whose conduct was in keeping with that of the other officers and worthy of highest praise.

During my administration of affairs at this post, it has become necessary to incur many expenses and issue many rations; but, as I have striven to pursue the most economical way while pursuing the one great object marked out for me, in which pursuit I have been somewhat successful, I trust that my action, which could in no instance be submitted for the previous approval of the department commander, may be approved.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GUIDO ILGES,
Major Fifth Infantry, Commanding Post

Maj. SAMUEL BRECK

Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of Dakota, Saint Paul, Minn.

Old Bull?
About the 11th of December, Sitting Bull, with whom negotiations had been kept up through the interpreter, Allison, crossed the boundary with the main body of his adherents and with the avowed purpose of surrendering at Fort Buford. He proceeded to the mouth of the Milk River and established his camp. Finding game in that vicinity his people ^{suggested in writing} he sent a number of his chiefs and soldiers to Buford to continue his negotiations for surrender and to make various excuses for not coming in at once. These Indians arrived at Buford on the 24th of December. The principal reason given by them for not surrendering immediately was that the Indians collected at Poplar River were very averse to a surrender, as were a portion of those who were at the Milk River, and that should the two camps unite those who were averse would form a majority of the whole. They desired that the camp at Poplar River should be gotten out of the way so that "the road might be clear" for them. It was the opinion of Allison that should measures be taken to capture or to compel the surrender of the Poplar River camp no evil effect would be produced upon the minds of the Indians at Milk River; that they would understand/p.106.
From this point