The Passing

RANKS OF PLAINS FIGHTERS THINNER AS YEARS GO BY

The Death of Red Tomahawk Brings to Mind Events of Early Dakota History

By FRANK FISKE
(In the Minneapolis Journal)

The recent passing to earthly abode of Red Tomahawk at the age of 83, renews interest in the last "Indian trouble" in the Sioux country that ended with the killing of Sitting Bull on December 15, 1890. Red Tomahawk, picturesque Sioux, tall, lithe, forceful, remained to the last a friend of the white people. While other leading Indians regretted, in the end, that they had taken a stand for the new order of things forced upon their people by a conquering race, there is no one who heard Red Tomahawk express regrets that he had joined the side of the whites whom his people considered to be foes, usurpers and destroyers.

The Sioux Indian War Dance Pl

Sitting Bull Photos by Frank B. Fiske

Like all young Indians of his time and environment, Red Tomahawk took the warpath and won glory on the fields of battle in which the Sioux engaged with the Crows of Montana and the Arickarees of northern North Dakota.

There was the time when a large party of Sioux warriors under High Eagle, Crazybear and Crossbear went into the country of the "Rees" looking for a fight. Nearing the enemy camp, the Sioux chiefs sent forth a small party to engage and draw forth the Rees into ambush. But the Rees soon discovered the ruse and put back in haste to their camp, which was near old Fort Berthold. The whole Sioux warparty then took the chase in an attempt to cut off the Rees, but to their surprise many warriors issued forth from the camp and soon the tide of battle was turned and the Sioux were in full retreat. As the battle raged some of the Sioux ponies were shot from under their riders. This slowed up flight and complicated matters alarmingly. Then four of the bravest of the Sioux volunteered to act as a rear guard, and so vigorously did they fight that the onrushing Rees were checked sufficiently to enable the Sioux to escape. One of these four men was Red Tomahawk.

When Sitting Bull became interested in the "Coming of the Messiah", and was gathering his people for the time when all white people would be removed from the earth, Red Tomahawk was serving as a policeman at the Cannon Ball district, sixty miles north of the camp of the hostiles.

The late Major James McLaughlin was Indian agent of the Standing Rock reservation, and was anxious to quell the restless and dangerous attitude of Sitting Bull and his followers. His policemen, Sioux Indians who had offered themselves as soldiers for the enforcement of law and order on the reservation, were held in readiness for the time when it might be necessary to strike boldly into Sitting Bull's camp and break up the last gesture of defiance to the rule of the United States government by Sitting Bull or other so-called recalcitrant Indians.

The news of the impending trouble spread over the world a the interest in the outc within a radius of sev miles about the Indian alarmed and many left for distant points of sa timers knew what an I meant. And with Sitti head of it anything cou

Army men and scout cussed ways and mean the Indians to time scout, Buffalo Bill C Fort Yates with perm after Sitting Bull.

Bill was well provid liquor and with Pony E a few other scouts and ting Bull, he left the fo tile camp on the Gra South Dakota, a distar five miles.

Had Buffalo Bill hur have reached the camp, delay and another, he w late. He was within the Grand River when revoked by President B rison after urgent telegr sent by Major McLaugl ington protesting agains of Buffalo Bill.

It was a hard blow since he was deprived o Had he brought the chie of Buffalo Bill would hav ly enhanced and his s vastly impovred. He m it, and maintained until he could have brought S the agency. He might as they were great frie Bull had traveled with Show, and would have value it might have b friend, Bill, by the p Major McLauglin decla falo Bill's plan was that he was certain to

On the morning of 1890, 39 Indian policem ting Bull's camp. Whi dark, Sitting Bull was Bullhead, captain, an hawk, sergeant of Sitting Bull was told t der arrest and must go He made ready to go.

and at this writing it does not appear