

burdened North Dakota, I am, sincerely,
E. R. OLIVE.
Minnewaukan, N. D.

IN THE INTEREST OF TRUTH

To the Editor of The Fargo Forum:
A friend has sent me a copy of The Fargo Forum—issue of Dec. 20, 1931—and calls attention to the contribution of Mrs. W. K. Williams, Washburn, on the subject of the killing of Sitting Bull and to Red Tomahawk's story said told by him to your contributor a short time before his death.

Having some regard for the integrity of history, I protest against this sort of historical writing, and particularly to its acceptance and publication by the leading newspaper of the state. I refer to the general statements at the beginning of the article wherein Sitting Bull is held up to scorn as a coward, a bluff, a leader in massacre, etc.

An Old Relash

Between the gratuitous observations of The Forum by way of headlines and introductory comment, and the lead-up of the author, we are compelled to endure, once more, a relash of the same old slanders against one of the greatest Indians of his time.

It seems to me that a sense of decency, to say nothing of a proper regard for our vaunted sense of fair play, should induce a lay-off on the campaign against Sitting Bull. For it should be remembered that, as to that defenseless redman, it has been a wide open season since that bleak winter morning 41 years ago when, with the connivance of the United States government officials, he was murdered ruthlessly at his home on the Standing Rock Indian reservation. And, as though bringing about his death were not enough, the hue and cry against the man—his name and reputation—has continued unabated.

Handed Out Epithets

"Sitting Bull the Coward," "Sitting Bull—Crafty Coward," "Sitting Bull the Fanatic," "Sitting Bull Crafty Medicine Man," these are some of the epithets handed out by The Forum in presenting the story of Mrs. Williams. And the lady adds a few of her own: "Sitting Bull, 'a youth with more cunning than soldierly instinct,' 'A strange combination of fanatic and savage, in later years something of a bluff and a coward.'" And so on.

I insist that the statements of The Forum together with those of Mrs. Williams and the countless other contributors of the same kind of stuff are without warrant or justification. They are, I believe, rather a mischievous perversion of truth; a familiar phase of the "me-too" campaign of misrepresentation that, for more than 40 years, has been maintained against this victim of Indian treachery and white man's savage injustice.

Exalted! Glorified!

In the main chapter we are permitted to read the story of Red Tomahawk. So far as I have been able to discover this man's only claim to fame is that he fired the shot that blotted out the life of his brother tribesman, Sitting Bull. And because of that episode he has been exalted and glorified for 40 years!

And he tells his own story. It is, I believe, the first time it has been published. No doubt it is correct. Stripped of all the glamour it reveals not the hero of the white man's delight, but rather—Red Tomahawk, Indian renegade and murderer.

He tells of breaking in the door of Sitting Bull's dwelling house, of dragging Sitting Bull, naked, from his bed while the latter's wife looked on, and of how he shot his victim, and how later, finding Sitting Bull's young son, Crow Foot, hiding beneath a mattress in the house, dragged the boy out, knocked him down and had him shot dead by two of his men.

Murdered a Boy

Then, concludes Tomahawk, "we

the result of an automobile accident two years ago when his daughter, Ruth, 15, was injured in a collision with a car driven by Larson. The girl was riding a bicycle.

"FARGO MAN" WANTED

Bismarck, N. D., Jan. 27. (AP)—Burleigh county authorities hold a warrant for H. M. Carter of Fargo, charging him with obtaining money under false pretenses. The charges grew out of alleged misrepresentation in the sale of playground equipment to a Burleigh county rural school.

The name is not listed in the Fargo-Moorhead city directory.

threw him out of the house." This refers to the murdered boy.

Such is the exploit for which this man has been heroized these 40 years by the civilized white brother and—sister!

The Forum calls it "An Epic of Indian Police Courage." I call it a story of fiendish savagery directed by a renegade Sioux against the person and family of one of the greatest and worthiest men of their common race.
—P. E. BYRNE.

Bismarck, N. D.

THOSE SCHOOL OFFICERS

To the Editor of The Fargo Forum:

I have been figuring a little on the salaries of the directors of our county schools. The salaries or compensation usually allowed to school directors amounts to about \$75 per school district, on an average per year. As there are 116 school districts in Cass county that would amount to some \$8,600. And as there are 53 counties in North Dakota and if each county has as many school districts as Cass county, that would be \$455,800 just for school directors. And that is not included in "other expenses" either, \$455,800 is quite some considerable amount of dough. Of course there may not be as many school districts in North Dakota as I figure, and there may be more. The tax reducing association had better give this scrutiny.

In many districts free books, pencils, stationery, nearly everything is provided for the pupils, without one cent expense to the parents. Seems as if some of those parents might square up things a little by serving as school directors just for the glory and honor there is in it, without any real pay. Look at the amount of money it would save the taxpayers.

Mrs. S. M. Francis

Erie, N. D.

Editor's note—Officers in common school districts get these salaries, fixed by law:


Directors, \$2 a meeting, four meetings a year. Not more than \$8 each a year. Docked for non-attendance. Allowed not to exceed \$7 for attending conferences ordered by county superintendents. Three directors in each district.

Clerk—Not less than \$10 in one-school districts, \$5 added to minimum for each additional school. Not more than \$50 in year.

Treasurer—Not less than \$5; not more than \$25, a year.

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