

in their belts of cartridges, which were strapped outside their blankets.

Major Whiteside brought the men up in battle line, and when they came within about rifle-shot reach, one of the hostiles, an Indian, who was later recognized as Big Foot, came forward on foot and unarmed and signalled that he wanted to speak with the Major. Dismounting, the latter walked out and met the chief. As they came forward Big Foot extended his hand in token of peace.

"I am sick. My people here want peace and—"/page 582

Major Whiteside cut him short with: "I won't talk, nor will I have any parleying at all. It is either unconditional surrender or fight. What is your answer?"

"We surrender," said the chief. We would have done so before, but we could not find you, and I did not find any soldiers to surrender to."

Then at a signal his warriors raised a white flag. In less time than it takes to write it, the military had their prisoners surrounded and a courier was hastened into Pine Ridge Agency for the other four troops of the Seventh Cavalry and Lieutenant Taylor's scouts to help guard and disarm the party. There were 150 warriors, all perfectly armed, and 250 squaws, together with many chil-/page 583/ dren. They seemed to be all well fixed for war, except that some of them were without ponies. Major Whiteside had 2,500 soldiers.

Sunday, December 28th, at eight o'clock, they were ordered to be in readiness to move. At that hour the cavalry and dismounted troops were massed about the Indian village, the Hotchkiss guns overlooking the camp not fifty yards away. Colonel Forsythe ordered all the Indians to come forward away from the tents. They came and sat in a half-circle until counted. The dismounted troops were then throwing around them. Company E, Captain Wallace, and Company B, Captain Varnum. The order was then given to twenty Indians to go and get their guns. Upon returning it was seen that only two guns were had.