

United States Post Office

CLASS

Mandan, North Dakota,
September 27th, 1929.

Dictated

#10

Dear Mr. Campbell :

I have your kind letter of the 9th inst and am glad that you are recovering from your fever. I have made considerable investigation re the hide tipi and learn new stories connected with it.

From a source which has always been good, so far, I learn that the tipi was made of cattle hides by the full blood sister of Sitting Bull. This woman died before the death of Sitting Bull, in 1890. This woman has a son still living. At her death the tipi went to her daughter, and then to her daughter, who is the present wife of the younger Fast Horse. Has been used many times as a Wahkiyan, Tieti, or Soldier Society lodge, which generally stood toward the center of the circle of lodges. Their last great buffalo hunt was in 1883. I own the original of the order permitting them to go upon this hunt. A.C. Wells was in charge of them. He still lives and I had a long talk with him a few days ago. Of mixed blood; his father was killed in Minnesota during the massacres, he was himself taken prisoner and several Yanktonaise made coup upon him and he carried the wounds still upon his shoulders and arms. Came to Standing Rock at request of Major McLaughlin and is still in the service off and on.

Just forwarded an order to Houghton-Mifflin Company for your "Dobe Walls," and anticipate great pleasure in reading it. The southwest always was of great interest to me. I have quite a wealth of material concerning our own northwest Fort Union where McKenzie reigned supreme. "The three musqueteers" - Fink, Talbot and Carpenter and their fight for an Indian woman is a saga.

Had a conference with the Mandans and Hidatsa last Friday relative to a big fall ceremonial, at which time they promise me their traditions of the Creation, Separation of land and water, Creation of Grass and Animal Nations, Origin, Flood, First Man and Lord of Life and those relating to the Okipee of Catlin-the Ark and Big Curb of Maximillian, etc. Never before officially given, they claim, although much has leaked out by story tellers "who did not know all and did not have the right to talk about it." Expect a colorful time with them.

Yours cordially,


A. C. Wells