

*This story originated at Fort Berthold, N. D., during a
starving time mentioned by Matthews (see his book
in the Library of Congress) in the '60s - in a short
form. Sitting Bull got hold of it, & it assumed
much larger form. I got it, mainly, from old
associates of Sitting Bull, and it was somewhat
enlarged by me, though all the essentials
are in the Sitting-Bull Camp version of the
story, A.M.S. Bender*

THE TERRIBLE RAT

There was an Indian Agent who was rich. He had made money by stealing horses from the Indians, and selling them to his friends.

He had made money by stealing food sent up the river by the Great Father for the Indians, and selling it to his friends who were digging gold.

He had made money by selling flour, coffee and sugar to his friend the storekeeper, and the storekeeper gave the Indians one cup of sugar for a buffalo skin, and he dipped the cup in water so it would not pour out so much sugar.

The Indian agent kept his money hidden away in a money-house down the river so the government inspector would not find it and make him give him half of it.

THE INDIAN AGENT DIES

The Indian agent died. He was sick with stomach trouble because he ate too much. The white doctor, Foolish Grasshopper, did not have a good medicine for this kind of sickness. The old Indians had a good medicine for this kind of sickness, but they did not have this sickness, after the white people came and stole their food. The Indian Medicine Men could have cured the Indian Agent, but the white doctor, Foolish Grasshopper, drove them away. So the Indian Agent groaned and died.

HE STARTS FOR THE SPIRIT VILLAGE

When the Indian Agent was dead he started for the Spirit Village, leaping and whistling and dancing along, and every time he leaped and whistled, he went along as far as he could see.

When he was dead, he was deathly hungry, and so he wanted to get somewhere and find food.

HE EATS UP A SPIRIT MAN

On his way the Indian Agent met a Spirit Man, dead a long time, who was outside of the Spirit Village because he killed a man who was not an enemy.

When the Spirit Man heard the Indian Agent coming, he said, "Wah! It is the Indian Agent coming in a hurry. Wah! I am staying outside of the Spirit Village four thousand moons for killing one man. The Indian agent has killed a graveyard full of