

WHITTAKER & McILLREE

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

Norman W. Whittaker, K.C. J. Raymond McIlree

TELEPHONE GARDEN 5832

CABLE ADDRESS "WHITMAC"  
CODES: WESTERN UNION - ABC 5TH EDITION

D-11  
Indians  
McIlree Re Sitting Bull

Suite 608-10 Central Building

Corner View and Broad Streets,

Victoria, B.C.

January 6th, 1948.

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W. S. Campbell, Esq.,  
C/o The University of Oklahoma,  
Norman,  
Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Campbell:-

My apologies are due for not answering your long and very interesting letter of the 23rd of last June. This arrived just as I was going on a week's holiday, and I have since been too busy to attend to the matter.

Old Fort Walsh, Alberta, is being restored as a sort of Museum, and present expectations are that the robe will be exhibited there, which is a good place for it, for it was there that Sitting Bull and the Police had their conference. Strangely enough, a retired Colonel of the U. S. Army, who is now living here, gave me a reproduction of what is apparently a posed photograph of Sitting Bull quite recently, together with a photograph of Chief American Horse, also a Sioux, and of Chief Wolf Robe, a Cheyenne, which will also go with the robe.

My father's diary shows that the arrival of Sitting Bull and his band caused quite a lot of excitement, and trouble was expected; but when the Police met him they were delighted with him, and found that the last thing he wanted, or ever had wanted, was trouble. He was in a pretty bad way, for a flash flood had recently destroyed a lot of his lodges, ponies, etc.

The American Indians certainly had a bad time of it, and for some time previous to Sitting Bull's arrival a large number of them were wandering around the Canadian Plains, homeless and destitute, but not daring to cross the line again. The Canadian Indians were also at very low ebb because of the disappearance of the buffalo, and when the Police reached the Territory of the Blackfoot Confederation they hastily reported that it would soon be a case of "feed 'em or fight 'em". As a result, the Government decided to feed them, and seem to have acted with unusual speed.

I am much obliged for your assistance, and needless to say, your letter will go with the robe.

Yours very truly,

J. P. McIlree

JRM/MAH.