

University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.
May 2, 1930.

Bullhead

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Mr. Francis Bullhead,
Bullhead, So. Dakota.

Dear Mr. Bullhead:

I want to tell you something that is very important. That is why I am writing this letter.

A book has been printed in the East called AMERICAN. And now everybody is reading it. This book is the life story of Chief Plenty Coups of the Crow Indian tribe. It makes him out to be a very great man, and people are saying in the newspapers that he is the greatest chief who ever lived.

I do not think the Dakotas ought to let that claim pass unchallenged. I believe Sitting Bull was a much bigger man than Plenty Coups. Now I am going to try and tell all about him, and I need the truth--all of it. For many years the Dakotas have suffered injustice and hardship, and their true story has never been told. Now is the time to strike. Now is the time to let the world know the truth.

My book is not going to knock anybody. All I want is the truth. My book will be to the glory and credit of the whole Dakota nation. I want you to tell the old men about this, and ask them to give their aid. I want to learn the truth about Sitting Bull's life-- all of it. I wish the Indians would drop their differences, and all pitch in and help make this book a great and true story of their nation and their chief. You can explain this to them, and help them do it.

You know the white men say that Sitting Bull was a coward, and would not stand up and fight the white soldiers and the white settlers. I know this is false, but I need to have the facts to make others believe me. So I want you to go to work right away and get the old men to tell more about those fights of Sitting Bull and the white men. I want the story of every battle he was in against the white men. For unless I can show that he was brave in fighting the white men, I cannot make them believe he was a great leader and a brave man. For the white men know very little about his wars with other tribes. I want you to tell Circling Hawk this, and get him to help.

In this letter I am sending you some questions. I hope you will get the full answer to them.

One other thing: your father was the leader of the Indian Police. I think you are the man to get the statements of the living policemen about the last fight when Sitting Bull was killed. I would like to have you get them together and have a talk and get them to agree on a statement of the facts.

or