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ANTHROPOLOGY

March 5, 1930.

Prof. W.S. Campbell,  
University of Oklahoma,  
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Professor Campbell:

I have your letter of February 16 and of February 28. I am glad you found interest in the reprints I sent. Thank you for your suggestion for a paper in the National Geographic Magazine. I think also that would be an interesting subject, and an illuminating one. I will have it in mind if I can find time to do it.

As to the origin of the Dakota word signifying "white man" I can only give you what I was told of it by A. McG. Beede, of Fort Yates, North Dakota. He said the "wasicu<sup>n</sup>" is an archaic Dakota word for the peculiar, quivering, unstable appearance of unevenly heated layers of air over the prairie. He said the Dakota applied this term to white men when they came to know them at first, for the unsettled, unstable state of their being foreigners from another country, having apparently no country of their own, and drifting over the Indian countries, the Dakota and all other Indian countries indifferently, like the unstable appearance of the dancing layers of air.

In my questions about matters in "Happy Hunting Grounds" I had no intention nor desire to raise any controversy, but I wished to know. I never had a chance to be acquainted with the buffalo, - there were no buffaloes in my state, Nebraska, within my lifetime. And I had been told, or had read, that they do not bellow. I wished to know. Now about smoking. I do know something about Indian uses of plants at all events, for I was a botanist first and then an ethnologist, and I have made Indian botany, - the whole subject of their botany in all its relations, not alone their economic botany, and I must say that no willow is or was smoked by any Indians. Several other things were smoked: species of dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) and (*Cornus stolonifera*), leaves of *Rhus glabra*, leaves of *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, and a few other things, but no species of willow. Some white men ignorant of plants have confused the kinnikinnik (*Cornus stolonifera*) with willow. But they are very distinctly different, and of different botanic families.

I am sorry I am unacquainted with your Prof. Smith. I have been in Peyote meetings by invitation of some of my friends who were members of the cult.

I shall look forward with interest to see your biography of Sittingbull.

Yours sincerely,

*Melvin R. Gilmore*