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ANThROPOLOGY

February 11, 1930.

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

Dear Professor Campbell:

Your letter of February 1, addressed to me at the Bureau of American Ethnology, Washington, was forwarded to me here by Charles W. Gilmore of the National Museum, after he had opened it by mistake and found it was for me. Someone over at the Bureau of Ethnology I suppose had thought that it had been intended for C.W. Gilmore at the National Museum and sent it over there, and he sent it on to me.

It happens that I have never been connected with the Bureau of Ethnology, but a work of mine, "Uses of Plants by Indians of the Missouri River Region" was published by the Bureau, years ago.

If you consulted "American Men of Science" or "Who's Who in America" you would have found where I was last before coming here, for I just became connected here last summer.

I should be very glad if I could be of any assistance to you in your present quest, but I fear I can offer nothing, for I, of course never knew Sittingbull; and I have never known even any person of Sittingbull's division of the Dakota nation, which was the Hunkpapa division, if I am not mistaken. I suppose if you have had help from Dr. Beede, of Ft. Yates, that you have the Dakota Indian play which he recorded in English, a play which he says he has seen enacted by Dakotas, I mean the play called "Sittingbull and Custer".

Some time last year I had the pleasure of reading your book "Happy Hunting Grounds" and of writing a favorable review of it for Bertha Chapman Cady. I do not know where she published the review. Possibly you saw it; I never did.

Since we are on the subject of the book may I ask some questions about it? I have seen very little of living buffalos, and none at all of them wild and free. But I have heard that they did not bellow as the old world cattle do. See Colorado Magazine, Vol. 5, no. 2, April, 1928.

In two places in the book you tell of the bellowing of buffalo.

On page 193 you tell of a braid of sweetgrass being laid on the fire. I have many times seen incense made in ceremonies in which I have assisted, and I have burned incense myself in participation in these ceremonies, and the method is to pinch off a little from the end of the ~~dried~~ braid and sprinkle it in powdered form on the coals. Positively no species of willow was ever smoked by Indians. Several different substances, leaves and barks, were used for smoking, but not any willow. On page 159 you tell of the smoking of a mixture of tobacco and the bark of a willow. In the region there spoken of the smoking material would be the inner bark of a species of dogwood.

On page 47 you tell of buffalo robes decorated with straw. I never heard of the use of straw for such a purpose, and it does not seem to me that it would be a substance durable enough to be worth putting on a robe, for it would be worn and torn and shabby almost at once.