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PERMANENT WILD LIFE PROTECTION FUND

FOR WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGN WORK DURING THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS.

S.B.
last buffalo
hunt -

Stamford, Conn.

Aug 1. 1929.

Mr W. S. Campbell,
University of Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:-

My first information regarding the destruction of the last real herd remnant of the great northern herd system of American bison was given me in Miles City, in May 1886, by J. W. Davis, a hide buyer of Minneapolis. He merely said:

"The last 1200 buffaloes of the great northern herd were wiped out in western Dakota by a big band of Indians under Sitting Bull, from the Standing Rock Agency."

Afterward, this statement was corroborated, (by letter), by "Vic." Smith, a famous scout and buffalo hunter, who wrote me that he was actually "in at the death" of that last herd unit. He said that when it got down to about 1100 head, at that juncture (October, 1883.) Sitting Bull and his whole band of nearly 1000 braves arrived from the Standing Rock Agency, and in two days time slaughtered the entire herd."

Speaking for himself and others who participated in the slaughter of that last herd, which originally had contained "about 10,000 head", Smith said:

"When we got through the hunt there was not a hoof left. That wound up the buffalo in the Far West, only a stray bull being seen here and there afterwards."

In September, 1886, I met Vic. Smith, and we had a long talk about the fate of the great northern buffalo herd.

The above is all the information that ever came to me about Sitting Bull's last buffalo hunt.

Yours very truly,

W. Hornaday.