

parties and wagon trains in the vicinity of the Belle Fourche and the boundary line of Wyoming.

On the 11th of January, 1877, information was received from Inspector Walsh, commanding the detachment of mounted police at Cypress Hills, Canada, that one hundred and nine lodges of the American Sioux had crossed the Canadian boundary near Wood Mountain, and were camped on the British side, and that they declared themselves to be desirous of peace and to have no intention of returning to the United States to carry on war. Later the number was reported to have been increasing to over two hundred lodges, and they had been joined by Sitting Bull. On the 20th of June 1877, the honorable Privy Council of Canada, with the approval of the governor-general, officially notified the United States Government of the presence of these Indians within the British Possessions, stating that owing to their destitute condition permits for the purchase of limited quantities of ammunition had been granted them, /p.16/ but that their presence was a source of grave apprehension and anxiety on the part of both the Indian and white population of that part of Canada, and requesting the United States Government, without delay to "Take such steps as will induce these Indians, and any others who may similarly cross the boundary-line, to return to their reserves in the United States territory."

In accordance with this request a commission, consisting of General A. H. Terry and A. J. Lawrence, esq., was appointed by the President in September last to proceed to Fort Walsh and negotiate with Sitting Bull for his peaceful return to the United States and settlement at some agency. At the council held on the 17th of October, Sitting Bull and his chiefs declined all proposals made by the commission, and announced their desire and intention always to remain within the British Possessions. After the