

than a whole mass of Indian tales delivered fifty years after such conferences, from hearsay.

Miles was fair to the Indians and always took their side, except when actual fighting was going on, and then he always fought them fairly.

There were few Indians at the two councils October 20, 21, not more than five at each one, including the interpreter, Brugher, a half breed who afterwards joined Miles and was with us for years. Him I knew well.

"Do you recall anything of your impressions of Crazy Horse?"

No, I never saw Crazy Horse

"Do you recall whether the Indians were in tipis or in Army tents at Fort Buford?"

I do not remember.

~~Now, my dear sir,~~ I desire to give a tribute to the fighting Indians of the plains. They would fight until convinced they were beaten, then they would withdraw. The Indian might fight today, tomorrow he might surrender. Then, if pressed by interest, or desire, or hunger, he might enlist as a scout. He would not enlist for more than three months. During that time he was always to be depended upon in every way. But the day after his enlistment expired, look out for him. Many enlisted time after time, for three months each time, and I never knew of a single case of treachery while an Indian was serving his enlistment. These remarks apply to all the tribes comprising the Sioux nation, to the Cheyennes and the Arapahoes, to the Creeks, the Crees, the Blackfeet, to all the plains Indians; but not to the Apaches.

By the way, have you in your library, "Soldiers of the Plains," by P.E. Byrne? I would advise that you read it. I can loan you my copy, if you desire.

Regarding the fighting ability of the Indian, I'll quote a remark of Benteen: "-- Indians; good shots; good riders, and the best fighters the sun ever shone on."

~~Trusting these answers may prove of benefit,~~

Very truly yours,

*W.H.C. Bowen*

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Late Col., U.S.A., retired  
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