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Major McLaughlin watched Sitting Bull through the eyes of his Indian police and saw that the time was approaching when he must be arrested. His knowledge of the Indian told him that an attempt to make the arrest by the military would precipitate serious trouble, the trouble would be minimized by treating the old medicine man-who was then trying to force the military to some act that would warrant his taking his people off the reservation-as though he were merely guilty of a breach of the agency rules and subject to arrest by the Indian police. In the end Sitting Bull himself precipitated action by authorities by preparing to leave the reservation.