

scarcity of food and horses. As the prompt transport of these people to Buford seemed to me of the utmost importance, I purchased some articles of subsistence for them, and forwarded the same in small quantities to their camp, from time to time. I returned to this post on the 19th instant, and forwarded on the 23d instant, Capt. S. Snyder, Fifth Infantry, with his company, F, and all available transportation to Wolf Point, for the purpose of assisting these Indians on their journey downward. This transportation had to proceed 15 miles beyond Wolf Point, and the band was brought into this camp, on its way to Buford, this day. They are being conducted from here to the latter post by Captain Read, with detachment of his company, F, Eleventh Infantry, who has charge of the transportation and rations while en route. The band consists of 51 lodges, (p. 104) over 300 people, among whom about 70 or 80 full-grown warriors, surrendered to me, with 5 guns and 13 ponies. They came direct from Woody Mountain and down Poplar Creek. They report no game across the line, and the Canadian authorities unwilling to support them. They say that the commanding officer of the mounted police force advised them to go to me and surrender. These people are in the most pitiable condition for want of food and clothing, they having eaten nearly all their ponies on the journey. They will leave to-day under charge of Captain Dewees, Second Cavalry, who, with his company, A, returned from Buford to this post on the 23d instant. All my available transportation and some hired citizen teams go with these bands.

In addition, I respectfully state that on the 22d instant I sent Scout Joe Culbertson with ten of the enlisted Indian scouts to take up the trail of Sitting Bull and his followers on the Porcupine, and to follow the same to the line so as to obtain absolute knowledge of the fact that he has again entered Canadian territory.

As already stated in my dispatches, I believe that by a march to the line with my column, and the assistance of the officer in charge of the mounted police force of Canada, the surrender of Sitting Bull can yet be accomplished.