

Colonel Otis sent out a scout, named Jackson, with a reply to Sitting Bull's note, stating that he intended to take the train through to Tongue River and would be pleased to accommodate the Indians with a fight at any time.

The train proceeded, the Indians surrounding it and keeping up firing at long range. After proceeding a short distance, two Indians appeared with a flag of truce and communication was again opened with the hostiles who stated they were hungry, tired of the war and wanted to make peace. Sitting Bull wanted to meet Colonel Otis outside the lines of escort, which invitation, however, however, Colonel Otis declined, though professing a willingness to meet Sitting Bull inside the lines of the troops. This the wary savage was afraid to do, but sent three chiefs to represent him. Colonel Otis made them a present of one hundred and fifty pounds of hard bread and two sides of bacon, said that he had no authority to treat with them, but that the Indians could go to Tongue River and there make known their wishes regarding surrender. The train moved on and the Indians fell to its rear, finally disappearing altogether.

On the night of the 18th of October Colonel Otis met Colonel Miles, with his entire regiment who, alarmed for safety of the train, had advanced to meet it. Colonel Otis succeeded in reaching Tongue River, delivered his supplies and returned safely with his wagons to Glendive, on October 26th.

Shortly after meeting Colonel Otis and learning from him the immediate situation Colonel Miles, with the entire 5th Infantry, started after Sitting Bull, overtaking him near Cedar Creek, Montana, north of the Yellowstone. Colonel Miles met Sitting Bull between the lines of the troops and of the Indians, the latter having sent a flag of truce to Miles, desiring to communicate.

Sitting Bull simply desired to hunt buffalo and trade for ammunition; he would agree that the Indians should not fire on the soldiers, if unmolested; in short, he wanted simply "an old-fashioned peace" for the winter.