

Sitting Bull Illustrates to the Silent Eater of the way the Indians tried  
to Stand in with the Indian Agent.

By White Bull

When Sitting Bull took up a claim as a permanent home on the Grand River, the old organization that did much to uphold his chieftainship in the days gone by, was reorganized. Survivors of this society comprised the membership, the leaders of which were Strike Kettle, Pass Beyond, Hungry Crow, Catch the Bear, Black Bird and several others. At the reorganization Sitting Bull was called upon to speak his mind about the attitude of the Indians toward the Indian Agent. He said:

"Ever since I have returned to my people, the Hunkpapa, I realized the most nonsensical manner in which our relatives are striving to stand in with the Indian Agent. I may be foolish but being an Indian -- an Hunkpapa and not a foreigner, I believe in upholding the rights of the Indian.

When I was a boy, we used to play a game called Cankakomnipi--"Keeping the top in motion". We had tops made out of buffalo horns, come from wood and some from pipe stone. In spinning the top we held the top between the fingers and turn it quickly to the right--then as soon as it is in motion we used a whip i. e. a small graceful stick about two feet long with a strip or strips of buckskin tied at the end for a lash. Every Indian boy knows how to spin a top. We would clear the snow away from the base ground, leaving enough snow in which we could spin our tops and we would try to see who could spin and trive his tip in motion the farthest. But the best contest was, we would clear a place on the ice or on the snow covered ground which we made smooth. We would then break off some willow brushes and placed these in a circle like a corral. The inside of the circle was cleared away with nothing but ice on the surface. The inside circle was about four or five feet in diameter. We left an opening on one side about a foot wide.