

the local Indian Agencies at Standing Rock, Rosebud, Pine Ridge, and elsewhere. They sought freedom from what they could not but regard as unparalleled injustice and tyranny, from being always hungry, as they undoubtedly were whenever they visited us as the ranch. In many other ways was the grim truth of this substantiated, as, for example, in the pathetic letter (*Recent Indian Wars, by James P. Boyd, A.M.) of Chief Hollow Horn Bear to President Harrison and received by him on December 4, 1890.

Great Father:

This day I will write you a letter with a good heart. When we gave up the Black Hills you told us in that treaty that a man would get three pounds of beef a day. The meaning was three pounds for one man. Besides, you said we could get food just like the soldiers. You did not, however, give it to us at this rate.

Great Father, we are starving, and beg you therefore, to give to us just so, as you have promised. Thirty men of us; yet us get for 18 days (only one cow) to eat; that is the reason I mention it. And if you do not well understand, you send me (Hollow Horn Bear) travelling money, and I will come with five men.

Great Father, if you do not want to do so, then please let us have a soldier for our father (Agent) when our present father's term is out.

Great Father, please do us this favor.

Signed by 102 Sioux Indians.

So palpably did these conditions push themselves to the front, so poignant became the situation, so well-known to us ranchers of the region, that Roosevelt - the matter forcefully called to his attention while on a visit to the Bad Lands - became deter/353 mined to take a hand. The righteous soul of this great humanitarian and lover of justice was immeasurably outraged. Returning to Washington, he promptly took the matter up with the Civil Service Commission, of which he was then a member, with the ultimate result that a thorough overhauling of the conditions obtaining at the Standing Rock and other reservations was instituted with marked benefit to the Indians.