

the following telegram:

Headquarters, Department of Dakota,  
St. Paul, Minn., December 12, 1890.

To the Commanding Officer,  
Fort Yates, North Dakota.

The Division Commander has directed that you make it your special duty to secure the person of Sitting Bull. Call on the Indian Agent to cooperate and render such assistance as will best promote the purpose in view.

By Command of General Ruger.  
N. Barber,  
Asst. Adjt. General.

Promptly troops began to move out of Fort Yates. At midnight of the 14th, Captain E. G. Fechet marched with "F" and "G" troops, Eighth Cavalry, a detachment of artillery, one Gatling gun and a Hotchkiss breech-loading rifle, a four-horse spring wagon and a Red Cross ambulance.

And in passing, it might be asked: Why all this fine military bluster for the purpose of capturing one man whose available force at that very hour consisted of but one hundred and sixty-one Indian persons, men, women and children?

Captain Fechet made about forty miles that night and arrived at a point within two miles of Sitting Bull's cabin, on the Grand River. From there the troops advanced in formation to within twelve hundred yards of the camp and could see it.

A strange fatality here summons attention.

The troops had been anticipated by a body of over fifty Indian police who had been mysteriously rushed ahead of them.

Who then, we may ask, ordered these police out? If it was the Indian Agent at Standing Rock, to whose orders they were generally understood to be subject, did he do so on his own responsibility or under orders from higher authority in the background? Was the move instituted independently, or in cooperation with the commanding officer at Fort Yates; and, in any event, how did it come about that the police were allowed to supersede the military? Above all, we may ask, was it due to mere coincidence that this body of police was led by, and in charge