

condition of things at many agencies which he had visited officially. I quote from this letter, dated Chicago, Aug. 20, 1891:

(omitted)

9.

207

It was in the early and strenuous days of that winter that there floated into the agency from the outside world a story that was at once funny and exasperating. Some string-fiend had sent out a fake to the effect that arrangements had been made, or were being made, for putting the remains of Sitting Bull on exhibition. When I heard of the story first I paid no attention to it. I had been present at the burial of Sitting Bull and I knew that his grave had not been disturbed. But absurd as the story was it attracted attention in the east and there are perhaps some people who still believe there may have been something

10.

208

in it. In any event the fake was not permitted to get past without being officially noted, and I was not much astonished -- considering the other absurd things that had been called officially to the attention of the department -- to receive one day an official communication concerning it.

At that time Dr. T. A. Bland, an enthusiastic, if not always discreet, friend of the Indian, was at the head of the National Indian Defense Association. In that day the friends of the Indian in the east got much of their information as to the events in the camp of the people they would befriend from the public prints. The writers of Indian news generally got their information as to the Indian from imaginations that were not much exercises. But when the chief officer of the Indian Defense Association addressed a communication to the Indian Office it had to be given official attention. Dr. Bland hears, or read, that Sitting Bull was to be used for post mortem show purposes and he wrote the commissioner of Indian Affairs a letter which was referred to me for a report. Here is the letter: