

"Standing Rock Agency, Jan. 23, 1891.

"As the body of Sitting Bull was taken to the Military post of Fort Yates upon its arrival from Grand River this paper is respectfully to the commanding officer of Fort Yates for such information as he may be pleased to make concerning the matter to assist me in replying to the commissioners letter.

James McLaughlin,

U. S. Indian Agent."

Officially, Col. Drum was not called upon to go into the matter. It was so absurd that he might have laughed at it and paid no attention to it whatever, but, courteously enough, he passed it on, referring it to the post surgeon for a brief statement of the facts in the case. The post surgeon made this report:

" Post Hospital,

Fort Yates, N. D., Jan. 23, 1891.

"Respectfully returned to the post adjutant.

"I received the body of Sitting Bull about 4:30 P. M. on the 16th of Dec. 1890 and it was in my custody until it was buried on the 12.

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17th. During that time it was not mutilated or disfigured in any manner. I saw the body sewed up in a canvas, put in a coffin, and the lid screwed down and afterwards buried in the northwest corner of the post cemetery in a grave about eight feet deep, in the presence of Capt. A. R. Chapin, assistant surgeon U. S. A., Lt. P. G. Wood, 12th Infantry, post quartermaster and myself.

H. M. Deeble,

A. A. Surgeon, U. S. A.,

Post Surgeon."

This was forwarded to me with the additional endorsement.