

he wished to keep the letter, a medley of French, Indian, and English, so he could study it and translate it correctly, to which Sitting Bull consented. Aaron took the letter to Bismarck, where he had it photographed. He then sent a copy to me, and I sent it to Washington.

Sitting Bull remarked to Aaron when he explained the letter, "They must think I am a fool."

Aaron showed the letter to Major James McLaughlin, the agent at Standing Rock Agency, who refused to issue the pass.

I went to Duck Lake as requested. I was accompanied by a Red River half-breed of good repute on both sides of the international line. Arriving at Duck Lake, I conferred with the officer in charge about the purpose of my mission. The officer, in consenting, said, "Yes, but is it safe for you to go among the hostile Indians?"

I told him, referring to my companion, the Red River half-breed, that I had a man with me who could escort me safely among them.

I discovered that many Sioux Indians from the United States were participating in the rebellion. They had fled from the United States after the Minnesota Massacre and, not daring to return, had become Canadian subjects.

I reported my findings to the United States authorities, who directed me to effect the arrest of every Riel emissary entering the United States. Being alone, with no police, I asked for a troop of cavalry. I was provided with a troop of the Seventh Cavalry under Captain E. J. Mathey, with whom I conferred about a plan of procedure. I told him I had in my service trustworthy men, whose friends and relatives extended all the way to the scene of the rebellion in Canada. I told him I intended to take large chances in intercepting the emissaries. I also told him that, although I had no funds, I must act immediately. I said, "I shall furnish rations to the Canadian Indians who send me word the emissaries are coming."

Receiving the desired information, I gave coffee, pork, and flour to the informants.