he claimed, in fact never wrote him any letter at all, or made him any such promises as he had stated, or authorized any such promises to be made by anyone. That the Great Father recognized the most industrious Indian who was endeavoring to benefit his condition and set a good example to his people as his biggest chief, and that he would receive his share of rations and supplies like the other Indians. After hearing the agent's reply he was considerably crestfallen, and said he was greatly surprised at the very beginning. Major McLaughlin then told him the rules and regulations governing the Indian service, and informed him that they would 452(picture on 451) be strictly enforced, and it was better for him to get the right idea from the start than to coninue to labor under such foolish ideas as he had just expressed. The agent then had a field of twelve acres plowed for Sitting Bull and his people, and notified him that he must commence planting on the following day, and at the appointed time he reported with his people ready for work. Here he came upon another disappointment. Instead of bossing the job for his own band the major staked the field off into patches of equal size for each family, and Sitting Bull was compelled to plant his own plot. Major McLaughlin visited him in the field while at work and found him using a hoe rather awkwardly, but in two days the field was nicely planted. He told the major that he had determined to become a farmer in earnest. No man in all of the Indian country was so capable of forming so just an estimate of an Indian as was Major McLaughlin, and here is his opinion of Sitting Bull, when he became an agency Indian in 1883: "Sitting Bull is an Indian of very mediocre ability, rather dull, and much the inferior of Call and others of his lieutenants in intelligence. I cannot understand how he held such sway over, or controlled men so eminently his superiors in every respect, unless it was by his sheer obstinacy and stubborn tenacity. He is pompous, vain and boastful, and considers himself a very important personage. The late hostiles at this agency are doing well and are among the best disposed and most industrious farmers here, the noted war chief, Call, being one of my Indian district farmers."