

Exhibit A.

Standing Rock Agency, N. D.,
Nov. 21, 1890.
4-p. m.

John M. Carignan, Esq.,
Grand River, S. D.

Dear John:

I send you this (to be on the safeside) to say that a dispatch has just been received here, stating that it is reported that fighting between U. S. Troops and Indians, commenced at Rosebud Agency yesterday. I do not believe it, as neither myself nor the Commanding Officer have heard from our respective Departments. It was a private dispatch to Ft. Slocum from New York. Well, I do not want to create any suspicion in the minds of the Indians and have selected "Take the Hat" to carry this letter to you, with the impression that it contains important papers for your signature. I think it best that you come in at once, and as tomorrow is ration day it will cause no suspicion. I would have sent teams for your chief household effects and clothing, but do not deem it prudent to arouse the suspicion it would cause.

I have sent a team to Bull Head with some building material with a letter to Mr. Shields and the other workmen to come in. Should there have been any fighting at Rosebud yesterday it would be known to the Indians by courier by tomorrow night.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Jas. McLaughlin,
Agt.

Do not speak of this report to any Indians, and be careful to do nothing that may arouse their suspicion.

J. McL.