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bloodshed at that time; but the question arose as to whether I had authority to make the arrest or not, being subject to the military, to settle which I telegraphed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on December 4th, and on 5th received a reply which directed me to make no / ⁴ arrests whatever, except under orders of the military, or upon an order from the Secretary of the Interior.

My reason for desiring to make the arrest on December 6th, was that it could be done then with the greater assurance of success, and without alarming the Indians to any great extent, as the major portion of them would have been in for rations at the Agency, forty miles distant from where the arrest would have been made, and I also foresaw, from the movements of the military, that the order for his arrest would soon be issued, and that another ration day (two weeks more) would have to elapse before it could be so easily accomplished.

On December 12th the following telegram was received by the Post Commander of Fort Yates, who furnished me with a copy: -

"Headquarters, Department of Dakota,

"St. Paul, Minn., December 12th, 1890.

"To Commanding Officer, Fort Yates, North Dakota: -

"The Division Commander has directed that you make it your especial duty to secure the person of Sitting Bull. Call on Indian Agent to cooperate and render such assistance as will best promote the purpose in view. Acknowledge receipt, and if not perfectly clear, report back.

"By command of General Ruger.

"(Signed)

M. Barber,
"Assistant Adjutant General."

Upon receipt of the foregoing telegram, the Post Commander sent for me, and held a consultation as to the best means to effect the desired arrest. It was contrary to my judgment to attempt the arrest at any time other than upon one of the bi-weekly ration days, when there would be but a few Indians in Sitting Bull's