

W/L 51

Telegram

Fort Yates, N.D.

December 15 1980

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.

Indian Police arrested Sitting Bull at his camp forty miles south west of Agency this morning at daylight. His followers attempted his rescue and fighting commenced. Four Police men killed and three wounded. Eight Indians killed including "Sitting Bull" and his son "Crow Foot" and several others wounded. Police were surrounded for some time but maintained their ground until relieved by U.S. Troops who now have possession of Sitting Bull's camp with all women children and property. Sitting Bull's followers, probably one hundred men, deserted their families and fled west up Grand River. Police behaved nobly, and great credit is due them. Particulars by mail.

McLaughlin

Agent. "

(Above is copy of telegram in copy-press record, belonging to Major McLaughlin. You saw this book while in my office. Other items from various reports made and contained in same copy book, enclosed) Welch

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Standing Rock N.D. (No date)

(The next communication however, is dated Dec 16th)

" Dear Col. Drum  
Commanding  
Dear Sir :

I send the bearer Mr A.C.Wells, Agency Farmer, with a party of twenty Indians to look after the abandoned property in the Grand River settlements and to bring in our dead and wounded police also invite all loyal and friendly Indians to come into the Agency and go into camp near here for the present, and, if it meets with your approval, to bring the wives and children of those who have fled along with ~~him~~ him, as this may induce the men to come in and join their families and in this way a number of them will doubtless abandon their foolish course in fleeing from their homes.

Please instruct Mr Wells in regard to the matter as you may deem proper.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your Obd. Servant,

James McLaughlin  
U.S. Ind. Agt.