

22/09/21

Hello Jay:

Please find enclosed copies of  
the Terry Commission reports,  
Canadian & U.S., as promised.

Hope you enjoy the read.

Thanks again for your  
N.B. &.

Clay  
Font with N.H.S.

I am happy to inform you that after a ride of 700 miles, I have been lucky enough to bring all the horses I took with me back, not much the worse for their trip.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) JAMES F. MACLEOD,

*Commissioner.*

The Hon. R. W. Scott,  
Secretary of State, Ottawa,  
Canada.

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NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS,

FORT MACLEOD, 27th October, 1877.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that, pursuant to instructions contained in your letters of the 20th and 24th August, together with Mr. Meredith's letter of the 28th of the same month, which I received the mail before the others, I proceeded, immediately after the conclusion of the treaty with the Blackfeet, direct across the country to Cypress Hills to meet the Sitting Bull Commission. Upon my arrival there I found that the Commissioners were expected at the frontier on the 5th, and that Inspector Walsh had gone to Sitting Bull's camp to try and induce him and the other Sioux Chiefs to come to Fort Walsh to meet the Commissioners. I remained at Fort Walsh for two days, awaiting the arrival of the Commissioners, when I received a letter from General Terry, saying that they were detained at Benton, as their escort was engaged in conveying supplies to General Miles, who was at the time engaged with the Nez Perces Indians. I at once started for Sitting Bull's camp, but, after proceeding to the foot of the mountain, about sixty miles from Fort Walsh, I met Inspector Walsh on his way back with Sitting Bull, and about twenty of his people. Walsh reported to me that he had great difficulty in inducing them to leave their camp, and that they were continually stopping to smoke and reconsider their decision to come. The fact that about 100 Nez Perces men, women and children, wounded and bleeding, who had escaped from the United States troops, had come into their camp the day before they had left, appeared to have a great effect upon them; and they were evidently afraid that the American soldiers would not be prevented from crossing the line to attack them. In the morning before starting I had a "talk" with them, when I told them, amongst other things, that they need have no fear of the Americans, that when they passed that line there was a wall raised up behind them that their enemies dared not cross, and that as long as they behaved themselves they might rest satisfied they would be protected. They appeared to be re-assured, and we had no further difficulty during the two days we were on our way to Fort Walsh, but upon our arrival there they refused to enter the fort. Sitting Bull saying, that he had never been in a fort, and that he would rather camp outside. However, upon my giving him my word that there were no Americans inside, and getting all our men outside the gate to shake hands, he at last consented, and told me how he believed everything I had told him. That evening I got a letter from General Terry, informing me that the Commission would soon start from Benton, and they hoped to be at the line about the fourteenth. I at once started for the Boundary with the escort, and on the evening of the fifteenth met the Commission, composed of Generals Terry and Lawrence; Secretary, Colonel Corbin; Aide to General Terry, Colonel Smith, together with several newspaper correspondents, who accompanied them. We at once started North, and reached Fort Walsh the next evening at sundown. Inspector Walsh reported to me upon my arrival that he had great difficulty in getting the Indians to remain; they said they had come up, as they understood the Queen had desired them to come, but that there was no use their seeing the Americans, as they could not believe anything they said; that no matter what terms were

offered they would not accept them, as they had no confidence whatever in the promises of the Americans generally.

The conference took place on the afternoon of the 17th. There was a doubt at first as to whether the Indians would shake hands with the Commissioners, as is usual before commencing a "talk," but that was soon settled by the entrance of Sitting Bull, who shook hands warmly with me, and then passed the Commissioners in the most disdainful manner. They all listened in silence to General Terry, while he made known to them the desire of the American Government that they should return, and the terms offered; but it was evident from their manner and the tone of their speeches in reply, that they had come determined to believe nothing that was told them. The terms offered were the same as your letter of the 20th August had led me to expect, viz.: the surrender of their arms and horses; in fact terms identical with those which had been granted to the Bands who had surrendered to the American troops. I do not think it is to be wondered at that the fear expressed in your letter has been realized, and that the Sioux have rejected the terms proffered. Enclosed I beg leave to send you a statement of the proceedings at the interview.

After it was over I had a private conference with the Indians with the object of setting before them the position they stood in with reference to both the American and Canadian Governments, and of obtaining from them the information indicated in your letter of the 20th August.

Enclosed I also send you a statement of that interview. From this it will be seen that they claim to have been driven off their land by the Americans, who, they say, were always the aggressors and never kept any promise made to them. It is almost impossible to procure from Indians any distinct statement of facts, they always deal in generalities, and although during my interview with them I was continually trying to keep them to the points I wanted information upon, I could get no more satisfactory statement of their grievances than the one enclosed.

It is a matter of common notoriety all through the western country, that the Indians are systematically cheated and robbed by the agents and contractors; the former on a salary of \$1,500 a year, have many of them been known to retire with fortunes after two or three years incumbency of their offices. The Indians know of these scandals, and, as a consequence, have lost all faith in the Government under which such frauds are perpetrated.

I think the principal cause of the difficulties which are continually embroiling the American Government in trouble with the Indians, is the manner in which they are treated by the swarms of adventurers who have scattered themselves all over the Indian country in search of minerals before any treaty is made giving up the title. These men always look upon the Indians as their natural enemies, and it is their rule to shoot at them if they approach after being warned off. I was actually asked the other day by an American who has settled here, if we had the same law here as on the other side, and if he was justified in shooting any Indian who approached his camp after being warned not to advance. I am satisfied that such a rule is not necessary in dealing fairly with the worst of Indians, and that any necessity there might be for its adoption arose from the illegal intrusion and wrong-doings of the whites.

I have instructed Inspector Walsh to endeavor to find out from the Nez Percés, who have managed to cross into our territory, what they have to complain of in the treatment of the Americans, and also to procure from the Sioux any further information which might be of use, in the event of difficulties arising between the two Governments, as suggested in your letter.

I communicated to the Commissioners the substance of my interview with the Sioux, as far as it related to their position as refugees from the other side, but I was

careful not to inform them of the last paragraph of your letter of the 24th August. I enclose a copy of my letter, and

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) JAMES F. MACLEOD,  
*Commissioner.*

The Honorable DAVID MILLS,  
Minister of the Interior,  
Ottawa.

THE SITTING BULL COMMISSION,

FORT WALSH, N. W. T., 17th Oct., 1877.

The Commission met at 3 o'clock, p. m.

The following Chiefs were present: Sitting Bull, Bear's Cap, Spotted Eagle, Flying Bird, Whirlwind Bear, Medicine Turns-around, Iron Dog, Bear that Scatters, The Crow, Little Knife and Yellow Dog, and about twelve minor Chiefs.

The Chiefs having taken their seats on the floor in front of the Commissioners' table, requested that all outsiders be excluded from the meeting and the table between them and the Commissioners removed. Both of these wishes being acceded to, General Terry then proceeded to read the President's "Message" to them as follows (or as nearly as the writer could take it down) viz.:

We are sent to you as a Commission by the President of the United States, at the request of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, to meet you here to-day. The President has instructed us to say to you that he desires to make a lasting peace with you and your people. He desires that all hostilities shall cease, and that all shall live together in harmony. He wishes this not only for the sakes of the whites alone, but for your sakes too. He has instructed us to say that if you return to your country and refrain from further hostilities, a full pardon will be granted to you and your people for all acts committed in the past, and that, no matter what these acts have been, no attempt will be made to punish you or any of your people; what is past shall be forgotten, and you will be received in as friendly terms as other Indians have been received. We will explain to you what the President intends to say when he says you will be treated the same as other Indians who have surrendered. Of all the Bands who were hostile to the United States your Band is the only one not surrendered, every other Band has come into their Agencies. Of these Bands that have come in not a single man has been punished, every man, woman and child has been received as a friend, and all have received the food and clothing supplied for their use. Every one of you will be treated in the same manner. It is true that these Indians have been required to give up their horses and arms, but part of these have been sold, and whatever money has been received for them will be expended for their benefit. Already 650 cows have been purchased for the use of the Indians on the Missouri River. If you abandon your present mode of life the same terms are offered to you.

The President cannot nor will not consent to your returning to your country prepared for war. He cannot consent to your returning prepared to inflict the injuries you have done as in the past. He invites you to come to the boundary of this country, and give up your arms and ammunition and go to the Agencies assigned for you, and give up your horses except those required for peace purposes.

Your arms and horses will be sold, and cows bought, with which you can raise herds to supply you and your children long after the game has disappeared. In the meantime you will receive clothes and provisions the same as the other Indians have

*A  
Canadian  
transcript.*

received. We have come many hundreds of miles to bring you this message ; we have told you before that it is our desire that we should all live in peace ; too much White and Indian blood has already been shed, and it is time that bloodshed should cease. Of one thing, however, it is our duty to inform you, that you cannot return to your country or your people with arms and ammunition in your possession, and should you attempt to do so you will be treated as enemies of the United States. We ask you to carefully consider what we have told you, and take time and weigh the matter well, and when you have done so we shall be glad to meet you and await your answer.

*Sitting Bull* said:—For 64 years you have kept and treated my people bad ; what have we done that caused us to depart from our country ? We could go nowhere, so we have taken refuge here. On this side of the line I first learned to shoot ; for that reason I come again. I kept going round, and was compelled to leave and come here ; I was raised with the Red River Half-breeds, and for that reason I shake hands with the people (Col. Macleod and Major Walsh). In this way I was raised. We did not give you our country ; you took it from us ; see how I live with these people (the police). Look at these eyes and ears ; you think me a fool, but you are a greater fool than I am. This is a Medicine House ; you come to tell us stories, and we do not want to hear them ; I will not say any more ; you can go back home ; that's enough—say no more. I shake hands with these people ; that part of the country we came from belonged to us, and you took it from us, now we live here.

*Runs the Roe* said :—Look at me ; seven years in this country, and raise my people in peace. For sixty-four years you treated us bad ; don't like you at all ; you came here to tell us lies ; I shake hands with the police in peace. These people (meaning the British) learned us to shoot for the first time ; we did not give our country to you ; you stole it away from us : you come here to tell us lies ; when you go home take them with you.

*Nine* (a Yankton):—Everyone here shakes hands ; I don't wear the clothes of these other Indians ; you came here to tell lies ; sixty-four years since you got our country, and kept us fighting ever since ; you come here to have council ; you did not treat us right, and come over here ; you promised to take care of us, but did not ; come here to have a smoke, and have a living and trade ; come over to this people ; these people are good ; I intend to live here ; with bullets here we intend to kill meat and hurt nobody ; that is what these people here tell us to do.

*A squaw* (wife of the Bear that Scatters): I wanted to raise children in your country but you gave me no time ; I come to this country to raise my children ; I will stay with these people here and raise my children.

*Flying Bird* said God raised us ; we have sense enough to love one another. *Sitting Bull's* country you wanted to get, and now you have taken. The soldiers find us out and never think of anything good for us, always bad.

*General Terry* :- Are we to say to the President that you all refuse the offers made to you.

*Sitting Bull* :—I have told you all I have to tell you. This part of the country does not belong to you, all on this side belongs to these people (meaning the police.)

*The Crow* (embracing Col. Macleod and Major Walsh) :—That is the way I like these people. You were not afraid to come here. What mean you to come here and talk to us. All this country belongs to this people (police) that is the reason we come here. God don't want us to do anything bad ; come to live with these people ; people that don't hide. I suppose you want to hear something from us, that is the reason you come over. For sixty-four years shook hands, but were sold and had hardships ever since, came across the line and people here took good care of us.

You can go back to where you came from and stay there ; come over here and Great Mother knows of it ; come here to live in peace and raise children.

General Terry then told the Indians that he had nothing more to say.

## NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE,

FORT WALSH, 17th October, 1877.

GENTLEMEN,—In answer to your note I beg to inform you that, after the interview of the Commissioners with the Indians, I had a "talk" with the latter.

I endeavored to press upon them the importance of the answer they had just made; that although some of the speakers to the Commissioners had claimed to be British Indians, we denied the claim, and that the Queen's Government looked upon them all as American Indians who had taken refuge in our country from their enemies.

I pointed out to them that their only hope was the buffalo, that it would not be many years before that source of supply would cease, and that they could expect nothing whatever from the Queen's Government except protection as long as they behaved themselves.

I warned them that their decision affected not only themselves but their children, and that they should think well before it was too late. I told them they must not cross the line with a hostile intent, that if they did they would not only have the Americans for their enemies but also the police and the British Government, and urged upon them to carry my words to their camps and tell all their young men what I had said, and warn them of the consequence of disobedience, pointing out to them that a few indiscreet young warriors might involve all in the most serious trouble.

They unanimously adhered to the answer they had given to the Commissioners, and promised to obey what I had told them.

I do not think there need be the least anxiety about any of these Indians crossing the line, at any rate not for some time to come.

In haste,

Most respectfully yours,

(Signed)

JAMES F. MACLEOD,

Commissioner.

General A. F. TERRY,  
General A. G. LAWRENCE,  
Sitting Bull Commission,  
Fort Walsh.

FORT WALSH, 17th October, 1877.

*(Interview between Lieut.-Col. J. F. Macleod, C.M.G., Commissioner N.-W.M.F., and Sitting Bull and other Chiefs of the Sioux Nation.)*

*Lieut.-Col. Macleod said:—*I told you the other day that Major Walsh was sent to ask you to come and meet the United States Commissioners. I have asked you to come and meet the Commissioners and hear what they had to say to you. I am glad that you have come as requested. I told you when you had heard what the Commissioners had to say you would know what answer to give them. I told you that no force or influence would be used as to what answer you should give to them. To-day you have heard what the Commissioners had to say, and you have given them your answer. I wish to tell you this answer is of the greatest importance to you. I hope you have thought well over it before giving it. I wish to tell you that the Queen recognizes you all as American Indians, that she recognizes you all as Indians who have come to our side of the line for protection. The answer you have given the United States Commissioners to-day prevents your ever going back to the United States with arms and ammunition in your possession. It is our duty to prevent you from doing this. I wish to tell you that if any of you or

your young men cross the line with arms in your hands that then we become your enemies as well as the Americans. X \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \* I wish you to know that this will only be the case if you cross the line with the intention of not behaving yourselves. As long as you behave yourselves the Queen's Government will not drive you out. You must remember that you will have to live by the buffalo on this side of the line, and that the buffalo will not last forever. In a very few years they will be all killed. I hope you have thought well on the decision you have given to-day, not only for yourselves but for your women and children. I hope you have considered the matter well with reference to the buffalo. After the buffalo are all destroyed you will have to seek some other method of living, as all that you can expect from the Queen's Government is protection from your enemies, and that only as long as you behave yourselves. I will report to the Queen's Government all that transpired to-day, and when the answer comes back I will have it communicated to you. I want now to find out from you what are the grievances you complain of having received on the other side of the line. I want to take this down so that I can let the Queen's Government know what grievances you have and what has caused you to leave your country.

Sitting Bull then rose, and having shaken hands with the Commissioner and Inspector Walsh, said :

" My fathers, you know well how the Americans have treated us, and what they have done to us ; they took me for their son, but they have come behind me with their guns. The first time our nation learned to shoot with the gun, to kill meat for our children and women, it was by the English we were taught ; since that time I have been in misery. I tell you the truth ; since I was raised I have done nothing bad. The Americans tried to get our country from us ; our country was full of gold, I mean the Black Hills country. They knew that the gold was there. I told them not to go into it. I did not wish to leave my country full of gold. I did not give them the land, no more than you would have given it. The Great Almighty and the Queen knows that there is no harm in me, and that I did nothing wrong. At the present time, in my own country, my people suffer from the Americans. I want to live in this country and be strong, and live well and happy. I knew that this was our Great Mother's house, when I came here with my people. I was not raised with arms in my hands. The Americans kill ten or twenty of my children every day for nothing. I like to see all my children alive, and come to this country. You will soon see some more come across the line. God Almighty gave us lots of buffalo to live long. I wish there be lots of buffalo for a long time to come. I was glad when I knew I was on the Queen's land. Now, I see plain, there are no more deer, elk or buffalo on the other side of the line. All is blood. I don't believe that you will help the Americans to do me harm as long as I behave myself. To-day you heard the sweet talk of the Americans ; they would give me flour and cattle, and when they get me across the line they would fight me. I hope they will not come here a second time. If I say anything wrong now, our Mother will know of it. I don't want to disturb the ground or the sky, I come to raise my children here. God Almighty always raised me buffalo meat to live on ; we will pay for what we want here ; we asked the Americans to give us traders, but instead of this we got fired balls. All of the Americans robbed, cheated and laughed at us. From the other side of the line their smoke passed over after us. Now I tell you all that the Americans have done to us, and I wish you to tell our Great Mother about it all ; I could never live over there again. They never tell the truth. They told me that they did not want to fight, but they commenced it. Everything that was bad always began with them ; I have never heard a good word of them ; where I now am I hear nothing bad. If they liked me why did they drive me away ; for my part they can stop on the other side of the line with their big guns ; I stay on this side without being afraid. At present, I feel as if I was talking with our Grandmother, and I am glad I came here. I want you to tell our Mother of the gold in the country we were driven from. You heard that squaw talk to-day, we want to raise children ; we want to be big friends with all while we are here, and live in peace with all the Indians ; there is no fear for them, they can come to our camp at any time ; we like you and the police

very much, and it is only for this reason we came to see the United States Commissioners, and hear what they had to say."

*Little Knife* :—I have much to say ; I have traded all over the country ; the talk to-day has pleased me well ; I have been 12 years in this country ; I heard all the talk to-day, and my heart is glad ; I was raised trading, and want to see traders come and visit us as long as we behave ourselves.

*Bear's Cap* :—The Americans I asked to trade with me, but, instead of this, they shoot at me all the time ; I am now an old man ; I never went to the white man's country to fight with them, but they came to our land to fight with us ; the Americans have nothing but bad lies, and their pockets are full of them ; the Americans were not afraid to come in here, on account of the police ; the Americans talk fine words, but I did not believe them ; my father does not tell lies ; the Americans have no sense ; there is no sense in what they say ; look at me and have pity ; when I left the Americans, they kill my people, and I came to this country crying ; I am glad you brought us here.

*Spotted Eagle* said :—I will tell you how the Americans treated me. I am a young man, just beginning the world ; I wanted to trade, but they fight me ; I came here with no arms ; I tell no lies ; the Americans break their word, and I fight them ; we did not give them our land ; we did not take annuities from them ; they stole our land from us ; the Americans are liars ; they pretend to know how many of us they killed, but they do not ; I know, I was there ; I am glad we have come here ; you wanted us to come here for the Queen, and so we came ; all on this side of the line seem 'o have the one heart ; the Americans say the prisoners they took they treated well ; this is a lie ; they kill plenty of us, but we kill plenty of them too.

*Whirlwind Bear* :—For my part, since I was raised I wanted to trade ; I thought I was raised in this country, so I took the road and came back ; what I have been thinking of since I came here is of God and the ground I stand upon ; I am glad I have come to the house of my Grandmother ; I expect to live a long time ; I don't want to disturb any one here ; I don't want to return to the other side ; I know in this country that I can raise my children ; on the American side I had to throw them away since they drove me off ; I know what is now put on paper you will send to our Mother.

The Commissioner then said as follows :—Then I am to understand that you have been driven from your country ? (This was assented to by all of the Chiefs.)

The Commissioner then proceeded to say as follows :—I have every confidence that you will do as you have promised, and behave yourselves as I have asked you. Obey the laws of this country and not cross the line to do what I have told you not to do. I want you all to carry to your camp the words that I have spoken, and tell your young men all that has passed between us, and get your young men to do the same as you promised that you will. If some of them don't listen to what has been said and misbehave themselves, it may involve the whole of you in trouble. If trouble once comes, there is no knowing where it will end. If you obey the words I have spoken to you, you need not be afraid. You will always find my words the same. You find now that you can trust us. When Major Walsh went to your camp, he told you he would see you safe back ; he will go back with you and I will give you provisions for the journey and some tobacco. I will also give you some powder and ball to shoot the buffalo with, and some tobacco for your young men who have remained in camp, also a blanket for each of you. I give you these things to show you how pleased I am that you have obeyed the message sent to you by the Queen, and conveyed to you by Major Walsh. I hear that you have been asking about traders. There is no objection to traders going into any part of this country ; traders can go anywhere ; traders may trade ammunition on permission being given them by Major Walsh. We will allow you a liberal amount of ammunition for the purpose of hunting. I am quite sure traders will come to you as soon as they think it will be profitable for them ; traders pay nothing for trading. You can go where you like, as long as you obey the laws. I hope the police will always be your friends. I



have just come from visiting the Blackfeet; they all came and shook hands with me and were pleased. There were about 6,000 Blackfeet present. I would now like to know where you will camp this winter.

*Sitting Bull*:—I cannot tell, as the man who settles our camping ground is not at present with us.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OTTAWA, 4th December, 1877.

The Hon. R. W. SCOTT,  
Secretary of State,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor herewith to transmit to you an extract from the letter of a correspondent of the *Ottawa Free Press*, in reference to the action of Colonel Macleod towards Sitting Bull.

You will see that Colonel Macleod is represented as having "administered the oath of allegiance to all the Indians, except two Yañktons, who had accepted treaty on the "other side," and it is stated that he appointed Sitting Bull "Head Chief of the Sioux "Indians in British North America."

I will thank you to communicate this paragraph to Colonel Macleod, and ask him what foundation there may be for the statements therein made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DAVID MILLS,  
*Minister of the Interior.*

NEWS FROM FORT WALSH.

"The many friends of Mr. W. D. Armstrong (Gen. Custer, as he was called here by his companions, having been in Gen. Terry's command in his search for Sitting Bull after the Custer massacre), late joint proprietor of the Union House, and now of the N. W. Mounted Police, will be glad to hear that he is alive and well; and notwithstanding the many reports that were current during the eventful period of the Indian war last year, his scalp is intact. Moreover, he has actually shaken hands with the dusky warrior whom he, with the rest of the command, were trying for so many weary months to exterminate. The following extract from a letter received by his friends here will be read with interest:

"FORT WALSH, 29th October, 1877.

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"We have had quite an exciting time about the Indians lately. We had to make three trips to the line to escort the American Commission to interview Sitting Bull. We had the old Chief and twenty five of his Head Men in the Fort for five days waiting for the Americans. I could hardly ever look at Sitting Bull without thinking of the fearful scenes I witnessed on Custer's last bloody battle field.

"The Americans came on a fruitless mission, for the Indians told them they had no intention of going back to be robbed and driven from place to place, but would live in the country of the White Mother, and with her red coats; and that he would believe every word the red coats would say. The Americans told nothing but lies. After the talk he shook hands with us all, and passed the Americans with contempt.

"Col. Macleod administered the oath of allegiance to all the Indians, except two Yanktons, who had accepted treaty on the other side. Sitting Bull after this made a speech in which he said he "was proud to say he was now an Englishman, though that he had always been as he had been born on this side of the line and had never taken treaty from the United States." He was then appointed by Col. Macleod Head Chief of the Sioux Indians in British North America, and has promised to always live at peace with the red coats. His camp is 145 miles from here, and I don't think we will ever have any trouble with him."

\* \* \* \* \*

(Confidential.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OTTAWA, 6th December, 1877.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd October last, reporting the steps taken by you, under the instructions contained in my letters of the 20th and 24th August last, and of Mr. Meredith's letter of the 28th of the same month, in reference to the Sitting Bull Commission, accompanied by a detailed statement of the conference held at Fort Walsh on the 17th of October, between the United States Commissioners and Sitting Bull and the other Indian Chiefs with him; and also accompanied by a report of the interview between yourself and Sitting Bull and the other Indians, held immediately after the conference in question; and further transmitting a copy of the letter addressed by you to General Terry, the Chief Commissioner of the United States, communicating to him the substance of your interview with Sitting Bull and the other Chiefs.

2. Your report that the conference between the United States Commissioners and Sitting Bull resulted in the peremptory, if not disdainful, rejection of the offers made by the Commissioners to Sitting Bull, to induce him to return to the United States, did not take me by surprise, although it is, of course, much to be regretted that such should have been the result of the conference.

3. In connexion with this subject I enclose, for your information, a copy of a telegram to the *Free Press*, of this city, wherein it is stated that Major Walsh has within the last few days ascertained that Sitting Bull and his Indians did not understand the nature of the proposals submitted for their acceptance by the United States Commissioners, and that had they done so, they might probably have conceded, if not immediately, at least within a year or two, to accept them.

4. Should you think that there is any reason to believe that the statement to that effect contained in that telegram is correct, it would be well that either you or Major Walsh should take an early opportunity of again seeing Sitting Bull and explaining to him fully the proposals made by the United States Commission, in order to ascertain whether the Indians may not yet be induced to accept them.

5. In addition to what was stated to the Indians by the Commission themselves, you might inform Sitting Bull that you have good reason to know that the President of the United States and his advisers are most anxious to deal fairly and liberally with Sitting Bull and the other Sioux Chiefs, and that should they be prepared to accept the offers made by the Commission the President would, you are persuaded, be willing to assign to them a reserve out of the Indian territory, where the climate and the soil are both better than in the locality where their present reserve is situated; and where, being nearer Washington, they would be more under the supervision of the President, and less likely to be defrauded by Agents or Commissioners.

6. You should then ascertain whether Sitting Bull would be disposed, accompanied by a Canadian Commissioner, to visit Washington for the purpose of hearing what the President had to offer to himself and his Indians.

7. It would be well to remind Sitting Bull that he would be more likely to secure a comfortable living for himself and his Band if settled on the reserve which is proposed to be assigned to him, and in possession of the cattle and other things offered by the United States Government, than they could possibly hope to be living on Canadian soil, and obliged to depend upon the buffalo for their subsistence.

8. It is very important that you should observe the strictest secrecy in reference to the proposed renewal of negotiations with Sitting Bull, and in the event of you having another conference with him you will use every endeavor to prevent any notice of it from getting into the public papers, as this might probably defeat altogether the object in view.

9. Although I am not at all sanguine of your being able to obtain the immediate consent of Sitting Bull to reconsider his decision, I allow myself to hope that when the nature of the position is fully explained to him, and when he is made to understand the good intentions and liberal offers of the President, he may be disposed to take a less distrustful view of the offers made by the United States Government.

10. I should be glad to receive from time to time reports from you of any action taken under the instructions given in this letter.

11. It would be well that Sitting Bull should be allowed to suppose that your visit to him was made upon your own responsibility, and not under instructions from Headquarters, &c.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) DAVID MILLS,  
*Minister of the Interior.*

Lieut.-Col. JAMES F. MACLEOD,  
*Commissioner North West Mounted Police.*

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(From the Ottawa Free Press, 3rd December, 1877.)

SITTING BULL.

NEWS FROM MAJOR WALSH.

By Telegraph to the Ottawa Free Press.

NEW YORK, 2nd December.

"The *Herald's* Fort Walsh special says Major Walsh has just returned from Sitting Bull's camp. He believes that Sitting Bull did not fully comprehend the brief address of the American Commissioners, and that the Indians should have been informed what their horses and arms would bring if sold; also to what number of cattle a camp of 300 lodges would be entitled, their probable increase, etc. Major Walsh explained this matter to them during his visit, and was surprised at their responding that they had not refused to go back, and that if they understood just what was proposed they might have agreed with the Commissioners to return to the United States in a year or two. It is believed here that patient persuasion might yet induce Sitting Bull to re-cross the border on the identical terms already offered."

(Copy.)

(No. 90.)

WASHINGTON, 15th December, 1877.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, for Your Excellency's information, six copies of the Report of the Commission appointed by the President to meet the Sioux Indian Chief, "Sitting Bull."

I have, &amp;c.,

(Signed.)

EDWD. THORNTON.

His Excellency

The Earl of Dufferin, K.P.,

(Copy.)

REPORT  
OF  
THE SITTING BULL INDIAN COMMISSION.

*To the Honorable Secretaries of War and of the Interior :*

GENTLEMEN :—The undersigned have the honor to report that they were directed by the President, through the War and Interior Departments, to form a Commission to act according to the following instructions :

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON CITY, 6th September, 1877.

GENTLEMEN :—The President desires you to proceed at your earliest convenience to Fort Benton, and thence to a point on our northern frontier, from which the present encampment of the Sioux chief, Sitting Bull, on British territory, is most easily accessible. At the frontier you will be met by a detachment of mounted Canadian Police, detailed by the Government of the Dominion of Canada for your protection.

It is the object of your mission, undertaken at the suggestion of the Government of the Dominion, to ascertain what danger there may be of hostile incursions on the part of Sitting Bull and the Bands under his command upon the territory of the United States, and, if possible, to effect such arrangements, not unacceptable to the Government of the Dominion, as may be the best calculated to avert that danger. To this end you will put yourself in communication with Sitting Bull in such manner as, under existing circumstances, may seem to you most judicious.

In doing so you will keep the following facts in view :

In the month of February last, Sitting Bull and his Bands engaged in armed hostilities against the United States, and pursued by our military forces, crossed the boundary line of the British possessions, for the purpose of escaping from that pursuit. At that time the fugitive Indians appeared to be well armed, but their ammunition was so nearly exhausted that they were no longer able to continue the struggle. Under such circumstances they took refuge on British soil, where the troops of the United States could not follow them without violating the territory of a friendly power. It is reported, and there is good reason for believing, that these hostile Indians have availed themselves of the protection and security thus enjoyed to replenish their stock of ammunition, and thus to enable themselves to resume their hostilities against the United States as soon as they may find it convenient to do so.

According to all recognized principles of international law, every Government is bound to protect the territory of a neighboring friendly State against acts of armed hostility on the part of the refugees who, for their protection from pursuit, have crossed the frontier. While the Government of Great Britain will be most mindful of this obligation, the President recognizes the difficulties which, in dealing with a savage population, may attend to its fulfilment, and he is, therefore, willing to do all in his power to prevent any interruption of the relations of good neighborhood, and to avert a disturbance of the peace of the border, even to the extent of entering into communication with an Indian chief who occupies the position of a fugitive enemy and criminal.

You are, therefore, instructed, in the name of the President, to inform Sitting Bull and the other chiefs of the Bands of Indians recently escaped into the British possessions, that they will be permitted peaceably to return to the United States and occupy such Reservations as may be assigned to them, and that they will be treated in as friendly a spirit as were other hostile Indians who, after having being engaged with Sitting Bull and his followers in hostilities against the United States, surrendered to our military forces. This treatment, however, can be accorded only on condition that Sitting Bull and all the members of the Indian Bands who take advantage of this offer of pardon and protection, when crossing the line from British territory to that of the United States, surrender to our military forces stationed at the frontier all their firearms and ammunition, as well as all their horses and ponies, the military commander permitting them the temporary use of such animals as may be necessary for the transportation of the aged and infirm among the Indians who may be unable to march on foot to the Reservations. You will insist on this condition to its full extent, and not make any promises beyond that of a pardon for the act of hostility committed as stated above.

Should Sitting Bull and the other Chiefs with him express their willingness to return to the United States, on these terms you will notify the Commander of the United States forces at \_\_\_\_\_ of that fact, and instructions will be given for the reception of the Indians at the frontier. In case the Indians refuse to return to the United States upon such terms, you will then break off all communication with them, and the Government of Great Britain will, no doubt, take such measures as may be necessary to protect the territory of the United States against hostile invasion.

A copy of these instructions has been forwarded to General A. H. Terry, United States Army, who will act as the head of the Commission.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. McCRARY,

*Secretary of War.*

C. SCHURZ,

*Secretary of the Interior.*

To Brig. Gen. ALFRED H. TERRY, U. S. Army.

To Gen. A. G. LAWRENCE, Washington.

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The Commission met and organized at St. Paul, on the 11th of September, 1877.

There were present : Brig. Gen. Alfred H. Terry, United States Army ; Hon. A. G. Lawrence, Rhode Island ; H. C. Corbin, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, United States Army, Secretary.

It was decided that the Commission should leave the city on the 14th instant for Fort Benton, Mont., via Omaha, Neb., and Helena, Mont., this route having been determined the most expeditious as to time. The chairman notified the Hon. Secretary of War of the action of the Commission.

[*Copy of Telegram.*]

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,

ST. PAUL, MINN., 11th September, 1877.

*To the Honorable Secretary of War, Washington, D. C. :*

The Commission to meet Sitting Bull organized here to-day. It has determined, in order to save time, to go to Fort Benton *via* the Union Pacific road and the Montana stage line. I am directed to request that the Dominion authorities be notified that the Commission desire to meet the escort which they will furnish at the point where the usually travelled road from Fort Benton to Fort Walsh crosses the boundary. I am also directed to suggest that the Canadian authorities should be asked to induce Sitting Bull and his Chiefs and Headmen to come to Fort Walsh to meet the Commission. The object of this last suggestion is to save time. It has been recently reported that the Indians are one hundred and twenty miles beyond Fort Walsh. If this be true, to reach their present camp would involve six hundred miles travel, going from and returning to Fort Benton, a march which would consume nearly twenty-five days. If the Indians should accept the terms offered them, it would be extremely desirable, on many accounts, to bring them in as early as possible. We shall expect to reach the boundary on the 29th or 30th.

ALFRED H. TERRY,

*Brigadier-General, Chairman.*

A true copy.

H. C. CORBIN,

*Captain, Twenty-fourth Infantry, Secretary.*

ST. PAUL, MINN., 12th September, 1877.

The Commission met. It was then determined to ask a modification of so much of the instructions to the Commission as required that the Indians be dismounted at the boundary.

*(Copy of Telegram.)*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,

ST. PAUL, MINN., 12th September, 1877.

To Hon. G. W. McCrary,

Secretary of War, Dayton, Ohio :

After examining their instructions, the Commission think that it would be desirable to modify them in one particular. They require that all arms and all horses, except such as may be needed for the use of the infirm and sick, shall be surrendered at the boundary. The arms most certainly should be surrendered there; but we think that it would be very embarrassing to both the troops and the Indians if they should be dismounted before reaching their Reservation. Deprived of their arms there would be no danger of their attempting to escape from their escort, even if they should have horses. We suppose that under the term, "as kind treatment as any of the hostiles have received," we may say to them that the horses will be sold for their benefit, as has been done in the case of other Indians.

An answer to this a week hence sent to Helena, Mont., will be in time.

ALFRED H. TERRY,

*Brigadier-General and Chairman of Commission.*

A true copy.

H. C. CORBIN,

*Captain, Twenty-Fourth Infantry, Secretary.*

A copy of the answer thereto, as furnished by the telegraph operator at Ross Forks Idaho :

CINCINNATI, OHIO, 16th September.

*Govt.*

General A. H. TERRY,  
Helena, Mont. :

The President directs me to say that the instructions of the Commission are modified as suggested in your despatch of the 12th.

GEO. W. McCRARY.  
*Secretary of War.*

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Copy furnished at Ross Fork, at request of General Terry :

The Commission decided to authorize the employment of a phonographic reporter and Indian interpreter, and Mr. Jay Stone, of St. Paul, was appointed.

On the same day the following telegrams were received and answered :

WASHINGTON, D.C., 12th September, 1877.

General A. H. TERRY,  
St. Paul:

The request has been received through Department of State that you will telegraph to Governor-General Dominion Canada, at Ottawa, before starting, the point on boundary where mounted escort to be furnished by that Government should meet the Commission.

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,

ST. PAUL, MINN., 12th September, 1877.

*To His Excellency the Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, Ottawa, Canada :*

By direction of the War Department of the United States, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Commission appointed to meet Sitting Bull will proceed from Fort Benton, Montana Territory, to the point where the usually travelled road from that place to Fort Walsh crosses the boundary. The Commission would be glad to meet at that point the escort which it understands is to be furnished to it by the Dominion Government. The Commission will arrive at the point designated about the 29th instant.

ALFRED H. TERRY,  
*Brigadier-General, U.S.A., and Chairman of Commission.*

A true copy.

H. C. CORBIN,  
*Captain, Twenty-fourth Infantry, Secretary.*

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After making provision for very cold weather, the Commission started from St. Paul by rail on the evening of the 14th of September, and proceeded *via* Omaha, Ogden,

Franklin and Helena, arriving at Fort Shaw in advance of the mail on the 25th of September.

Before leaving St. Paul, the Commander of the Department of Dakota had directed General Miles, at Tongue River, to send three companies of the Second Cavalry to Fort Benton, to serve as an escort to the Commission. It being foreseen, however, that these troops would be needed by General Miles in his pursuit of the Nez Perces, General Gibbon, at Fort Shaw, had taken measures to provide another escort, by calling up a company of the Seventh Cavalry from Fort Ellis. Awaiting the arrival of these last-named troops, the Commission remained at Shaw until the 4th of October. On that day it started for Fort Benton, with one company of the Seventh Infantry and one of the Seventh Cavalry. It reached Fort Benton about noon of the 6th. At midnight of the same day news was received of the battle at Bear's Paw Mountain, accompanied by a call from General Miles for rations and forage. It was thereupon determined to remain at Benton and send forward supplies in such wagons as could be obtained, including the wagons provided for the Commission, under the guard of its escort. On the night of the 8th, further despatches were received from General Miles, announcing the final surrender of the Nez Perces, and informing the Commission that the troops originally destined to be its escort would now be available for that purpose, and would, in a day or two, be put in march to meet it. The Commission, therefore, moved out from Fort Benton on the 10th, met its escort on the evening of the 12th, and on the 13th again started for Fort Walsh. The boundary was reached in the afternoon of the 15th, when the Commission was met by Lieut.-Col. J. F. Macleod, Commissioner of the North-West Territory and Commander of the North-West Mounted Police, with a detachment of his command. Under this escort, the Commission proceeded to Fort Walsh, reaching it at 6 p.m. on the 16th.

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FORT WALSH, 17th October, 1877.

The Commission met at 10 a.m., and the address to the Indians was determined upon.

Before being presented to them, Baptiste Shane, the Interpreter of the Commission, together with the official interpreter at Fort Walsh, also an interpreter brought by Sitting Bull, were assembled, and the address read and its meaning fully explained, in order that they might be better able to make a proper and full interpretation.

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FORT WALSH, 17th October, 1877.

The Commission assembled at 3 o'clock p.m., in Major Walsh's quarters. Present: General Terry, General Lawrence, Capt. H. C. Corbin and Mr. J. Stone, a stenographer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod, Major Walsh and other officers of the Mounted Police were also present.

The Indian Chiefs were then brought in and their names announced, as follows: Bear's Head, the Head Chief of the Uncapapas; Sitting Bull, The Spotted Eagle, The Flying Bird, The Whirlwind Bear, The Medicine-turns-around, The Iron Dog, The Man-that-scatters-the Bear, Little Knife, The Crow and Yellow Dog.

The Indians were informed that Baptiste Shane was to interpret, and that Mr. Provest and Joe Lanaval were to listen and see that it was correctly done. General Terry then read to them the propositions:

We are sent a Commission by the President of the United States, at the request of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, to meet you.

*A*  
U.S.  
transcript.



The President had instructed us to say to you that he desires to make a lasting peace with you and your people ; he desires that all hostilities shall cease, and that all the people of the United States shall live together in harmony. He wishes this not for the sake of the whites alone, but for your sake as well ; and he has instructed us to say that if you will return to your country, and hereafter refrain from acts of hostility against its Government and people, a full pardon will be given to you for all acts committed in the past ; that no matter what those acts have been, no attempt will be made to punish you or any man among you ; that what is past shall be forgotten, and that you shall be received in the friendly spirit in which the other Indians who have been engaged in hostilities against the United States and have surrendered to its military forces have been received.

We will now explain to you what the President intends to say when he promises that, in case you accept these terms, you will be treated in as friendly a spirit as the Indians who have surrendered.

Of all those Bands which were at war with the United States a year ago, this Band of yours, which has sought refuge in the British possessions, is the only one which has not surrendered ; every other one has come into some of the Agencies established for the Sioux nation. Of these Bands, no single man has ever been punished for his hostile or criminal acts. Every man, every woman, and every child has been received as a friend. Everyone has received sufficient food and clothing for his support. Everyone has been treated in the same manner as those of your nation who, during all the past troubles remained peaceably at their Agencies.

It is true that these Indians have been required to give up their horses and arms, but these horses and arms have been partially sold, and all will be sold, and whatever has been or may be received for them has been or will be applied for the benefit of those from whom they were taken. One of us has already caused to be purchased and sent to the agencies on the Missouri River 650 cows for the use of the Indians there. This has been done in the belief that the best hope for the future welfare of your people and their children is in the abandonment of your present mode of life, and the adoption of the occupation of breeders of cattle. These same terms are now offered to you. The President cannot and will not consent that you should return to your country armed, mounted, and prepared for war. He cannot consent that you should return prepared to inflict injuries similar to those which you have inflicted in the past, but he invites you to come to the boundary of his and your country, and there give up your arms and ammunition, and thence to go to the agencies to which he will assign you, and there give up your horses, excepting those which are required for peace purposes. Your arms and horses will then be sold, and with all the money obtained for them cows will be bought and sent to you.

From these cows you will be able to raise herds, which will support you and your children ; which will support you and them long after the game upon which you now depend for subsistence shall have disappeared. And in the meantime you will receive the clothing and food which the other Bands of your nation are now receiving.

We have come many hundred miles to bring you this message from the President, who, as we have told you before, desires to live in peace with all his people. Too much white and Indian blood has already been shed. It is time that bloodshed should cease. Of one thing, however, it is our duty to assure you, you cannot return to your country and your friends unless you accept these propositions. Should you attempt to return with arms in your hands, you must be treated as enemies of the United States.

We ask you to take these propositions into consideration ; to take time, consult together, and to weigh them carefully. When you have done so, we shall be glad to meet you and receive your answer.

Sitting Bull then said : For 64 years you have kept me and my people and treated us bad. What have we done that you should want us to stop ? We have done nothing.

It is all the people on your side that have started us to do all these depredations. We could not go anywhere else, and so we took refuge in this country. It was on this side of the country we learned to shoot, and that is the reason why I came back to it again. I would like to know why you came here. In the first place, I did not give you the country, but you followed me from one place to another, so I had to leave and come over to this country. I was born and raised in this country with the Red River Half Breeds, and I intend to stop with them. I was raised hand in hand with the Red River Half Breeds, and we are going over to that part of the country, and that is the reason why I have come over here. (Shaking hands with the British officers.) That is the way I was raised, in the hands of these people here, and that is the way I intend to be with them. You have got ears, and you have got eyes to see with them, and you see how I live with these people. You see me? Here I am! If you think I am a fool you are a bigger fool than I am. This house is a medicine-house. You come here to tell us lies, but we don't want to hear them. I don't wish any such language used to me; that is, to tell me such lies in my Great Mother's house. Don't you say two more words. Go back home where you came from. This country is mine, and I intend to stay here, and to raise this country full of grown people. See these people here. We were raised with them. (Again shaking hands with the British officers.) That is enough; so no more. You see me shaking hands with these people.

The part of the country you gave me you ran me out of. I have now come here to stay with these people, and I intend to stay here. I wish you to go back, and to "take it easy" going back. (Taking a Santee Indian by the hand.) These Santees—I was born and raised with them. He is going to tell you something about them.

The-one-that-runs-the-Ree, a Santee Indian, said: Look at me. I was born and raised in this country. These people away north here, I was raised with my hands in their own. I have lived in peace with them. For the last sixty-four years we were over in your country, and you treated us badly. We have come over here now, and you want to try and get us back there again. You didn't treat us well, and I don't like you at all. (Shaking hands with the English officers.) I have been up and down these roads. We have been running up and down this country. I have been up and down there as often as these people have. I will be at peace with these people as long as I live. You come over here to tell us lies. I will shake hands with men here, and I have been in peace with them. I have come this far into this country. These are the people that learned me how to shoot the first time. This country is ours. We did not give it to you. You stole it away from us. You have come over here to our country to tell us lies, and I don't propose to talk much, and that is all I have to say. I want you take it easy going back home. Don't go in a rush.

"Nine," a Yankton Indian, who joined the Santee Band that left Minnesota some years ago during the massacre, said, after shaking hands all around: I have shaken hands with everybody in the house. I don't wear the same clothes that these people do. You come over here to tell lies on one another. I want to tell you a few, but you have got more lies than I can say. Sixty-four years ago you got our country, and you promised to take good care of us and keep us. You ran from one place to another killing us and fighting us, and I was born and raised with these people over here. I have come here to see the council and to shake hands with you all. I wanted to tell you what I think of this. There are seven different tribes of us. They live all over the country. You kept part of us over there, and part of us you kept on this side. You did not treat us right over there, so we came back over here. These people sitting around here, you promised to take good care of them when you had them over there, but you did not fulfil your promises. They have come over here to this side again, and here we are all together. I come in to these people here and they give me permission to trade with the traders; that is the way I make my living. Everything I get I buy from the traders. I don't steal anything. For fourteen years I have not fought with your people, and that is what I have lost by waiting in this country. I have come over here to these people, and these people, if they had

a piece of tobacco, they gave me half; and that is why I live over here. I have a little powder in my powder-horn, and I gave you a little fourteen years ago. Since then, I have been over in this country. (Shaking hands all around and continuing.) We came over to this country, and I am going to live with these people here. This country over here is mine. The bullets I have over here, I intend to kill something to eat with; not to kill anybody with them. That is what these people told me; to kill nothing but what I wanted to eat with the ammunition they gave me. I will do so.

A squaw named "The-one-that-speaks-once," wife of "The-man-that-scatters-the-Bear:" said, I was over to your country; I wanted to raise my children over there, but you did not give me any time. I came over to this country to raise my children and have a little peace. (Shaking hands with the English officers.) That is all I have to say to you. I want you to go back where you came from. These are the people that I am going to stay with, and raise my children with.

The Flying Bird: These people here, God Almighty raised us together. We have a little sense, and we ought to love one another. Sitting Bull here says that whenever you found us out, wherever his country was, why, you wanted to have it. It is Sitting Bull's country, this is. These people sitting all around me, what they committed I had nothing to do with it. I was not in it. The soldiers find out where we live, and they never think of anything good, it is always something bad. (Again shaking hands with the British officers.)

The Indians having risen, being apparently about to leave the room, the interpreter was then directed to ask the following questions:

Shall I say to the President that you refuse the offers that he has made to you? Are we to understand from what you have said that you refuse those offers?

Sitting Bull: I could tell you more, but that is all I have to tell you. If we told you more—why, you would not pay any attention to it. That is all I have to say. This part of the country does not belong to your people. You belong on the other side; this side belongs to us.

The Crow (Shaking hands and embracing Colonel McLeod, and shaking hands with the other British officers): This is the way I will live in this part of the country. That is the way I like them, (making a gesture of embrace.) When we came back from the other side you wanted to do something—to lie. You want us to go back to the other side; that is the reason why you stay here. What do you mean by coming over here and talking that way to us? All this country around here, I know, belongs to these people, and that is the reason why I came over here when I was driven out of the other country. I am afraid of God Almighty; that is the reason why I don't want to do anything bad. When I came over here, I came to live with these people. My children, myself, and my women, they all live together. Those people that don't hide anything, they are all the people I like. I suppose you wanted to hear something; that is the reason you came over here. The people standing around here want to hear it also; that is the reason they stand around here. Sixty-four years ago we shook hands with the soldiers, and ever since that I have had hardships. I made peace with them, and ever since that I have been running from one place to another to keep out of their way. I was over across the line and staid over there, and I thought you people would take good care of me. You did not do so, and these people over here gave me good care. I have waited here three days, and I have got plenty to eat, and everybody respects me. I came from the other side of the line, and I expect to stay here. Going back, you can take it easy. Go to where you were born, and stay there.

I came over to this country, and my Great Mother knows all about it. She knows I came back over here, and she don't wish anything of me. We think, and all the women in the camp think, we are going to have the country full of people. When I shook hands before, there were lots of people here then. Now, I have come back in this part of the country again to have plenty more people to live in peace and raise children.

The Indians then inquired whether the Commission had anything more to say ; and which the Commission answered that they had nothing more, and the conference here closed.

After the conference closed, the Canadian authorities had an interview with the Indians, and, in reply to a request from the Commission, Lieut.-Col. J. F. Macleod, Commissioner of the North-West Territory, addressed the Commission the following letter as to the result :—

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE,  
FORT, WALSH, 18th October, 1877.

GENTLEMEN,—In answer to your note, I beg leave to inform you that after the interview of the Commissioners with the Indians, I had a "talk" with the latter. I endeavored to impress upon them the importance of the answer they had just made; that although some of the speakers to the Commissioners had claimed to be British Indians, we denied the claim; and that the Queen's Government looked upon them all as American Indians who had taken refuge in our country from their enemies. I pointed out to them their only hope was the buffalo; that it would not be many years before that source of supply would cease, and that they could expect nothing whatever from the Queen's Government except protection so long as they behaved themselves. I warned them that their decision affected not only themselves, but their children, and that they should think well over it before it was too late. I told them that they must not cross the line with a hostile intent; that if they did, they would not only have the Americans for their enemies, but also the police and the British Government, and urged upon them to carry my words to their camps; to tell their young men what I had said, and warn them of the consequences of disobedience, pointing out to them that a few indiscreet young warriors might involve them all in most serious trouble.

They unanimously adhered to the answer they had given the Commissioners, and promised to obey what I had told them.

I do not think there need be the least anxiety about any of these Indians crossing the line, at any rate for some time to come.

In haste.

Most respectfully yours,

JAMES F. MACLEOD,

*Lieut.-Col. Commanding North-West Mounted Police.*

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The Commission left Fort Walsh on its return homeward on the morning of the 18th October, under escort of a detachment of the Canadian Mounted Police, arriving at the boundary on the afternoon of the 19th October, and was there joined by its escort of United States troops. Continuing its journey, the Commission reached Fort Benton on the morning of the 23rd, and there embarked in Mackinaw boats. It descended the Missouri to Fort Buford, Dakota, arriving there on the 3rd November. Leaving Fort Buford on the 4th November by ambulances, arriving at Bismarck on the 7th, and taking the Northern Pacific Railroad, it arrived at St. Paul on the 8th, where it adjourned to meet in Washington on the 28th of November to submit its report.

In compliance with that clause of the foregoing instructions which directs the Commission "to ascertain what danger there may be of hostile invasions on the part of Sitting Bull and the Bands under his command upon the territory of the United States," the Commission has the honor to report that they are convinced that Sitting Bull and the Indians with him will not seek to return to this country at present. It is believed that they are restrained from returning, partly by their recollection of the constant and harassing pursuit to which they were subjected during the last winter and spring by the troops under General Miles, a pursuit which ended only with their flight to foreign soil,

partly by the assurances given them by the Canadian authorities that should they return with hostile intent they will become "the enemies of both Governments," and in part by their belief that, for some reason which they cannot fathom, the Government of the United States very earnestly desires that they shall return. This belief has been confirmed and strengthened by the visit of the Commission and the very favorable offers made to them. In their intense hostility to our Government they are determined to contravene its wishes to the best of their ability. The most probable ultimate result is that these Indians, like those Sioux who, after the Minnesota massacres of 1862, sought and found an asylum in the British possessions, will in time become so accustomed and attached to their new country that they will regard it as their permanent home. At the same time it cannot be concealed that the presence of this large body of Indians, bitterly hostile to us, in close proximity to the frontier, is a standing menace to the peace of our Indian territories.

The tribes which occupy the region between the Upper Missouri and the 49th parallel have been for some time past restless, disturbed, and given to complaint. Among these tribes are the Yanktons, themselves Sioux, and the Assiniboines kindred of the Sioux.

Though these tribes have been nominally at peace, there is no doubt that, during the last year and a half, many individuals from them have helped to swell those Bands which have been engaged in open war. It is impossible to prevent constant communication between these tribes and the Band of Sitting Bull; and so long as the latter shall remain as near to our frontier as they now are, they cannot fail to exercise a most injurious influence over the former, giving evil counsel and advice, stimulating disaffection, and encouraging acts of hostility. Besides, this body of refugees is not a distinct section of the Sioux nation; it is made up by contributions from nearly every Agency and every tribe; it is largely composed of young men whose families still remain at the various Sioux Agencies.

Were it a distinct Band that had separated itself from and broken off its associations with the rest of its people it would soon be forgotten, and would cease to exert any influence over those from whom it had separated; but the intimate relationship, the ties of blood, existing between the refugees and the agency Indians, forbid us to hope for such a result. To the lawless and ill-disposed, to those who commit offences against the property and persons of the whites, the refugee camp will be a secure asylum; not only an asylum on foreign soil, but an asylum amid their own kindred.

We have already an illustration of this danger in the fact that more than one hundred of the Nez Percés defeated at Bear's Paw Mountain are now in Sitting Bull's camp.

It is not the province of the Commission to propose any measures in respect to this matter to be taken by the Government, but they may be permitted to suggest that the evils which they apprehend may be in some degree avoided by a compliance on the part of the authorities of the Dominion of Canada with that rule of international law which requires that armed military or insurgent bodies which are driven by force across the frontier of a neutral state shall be "interned," shall be removed so far into the interior of the neutral State that they can no longer threaten, in any manner, the peace and safety of the State from which they have come.

In conclusion, the members of the Commission desire to express their grateful sense of the courtesy with which they were received by Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod, Major Walsh, and the officers of Police under their command.

ALFRED H. TERRY,

A. G. LAWRENCE,

*Commissioners.*

H. C. CORBIN,

*Secretary.*

