

REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSION

APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTION OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

THE HONORABLES THE SECRETARY OF WAR AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

TO MEET

THE SIOUX INDIAN CHIEF, SITTING BULL,

WITH

A VIEW TO AVERT HOSTILE INCURSIONS INTO THE TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE DOMINION OF
CANADA

[\[TEXT\]](#)

WASHINGTON:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1877.

REPORT
OF
THE SITTING BULL INDIAN COMMISSION.

To the honorable Secretaries of War and of the Interior:

GENTLEMAN : 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 ON THE INTERIOR,
Washington City, September 6, 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 Ball 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 Ball 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 fulfillment, 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 been 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 fire

4

arms 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 upon 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 . General A. G. LAWRENCE, Washington.

The commission met and organized at Saint Paul, on the 11th of September, 1877.

There were present : Brig. Gen. Alfred H. Terry, United States Army; Hon. A. U. 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, Nebr., 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,
Saint Paul, Minn., September 11, 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 traveled 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, doing 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.

SAINT PAUL, MINN., *September 12, 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.

5

[Copy of telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
Saint Paul, Minn., September 12, 1877.

To honorable 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, *September 16.*

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 dispatch of the twelfth.

GEO. W. McCRARY,
Secretary of War.

(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 Saint Paul, was appointed.

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

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

General A. H. TERRY, *Saint 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.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
Saint Paul, Minn., September 12, 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 traveled road from that place to Fort Welsh 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,

After making provision for very cold weather, the commission started from Saint 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 Saint 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 Nes 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 dispatches were received from General Miles, announcing the final surrender of the Nes 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 but 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. McLeod, commissioner of the Northwest territory and commander of the Northwest 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.

FORT WALSH, *October 17, 1877.*

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

Before being presented to them, Baptists 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.

FORT WALSH, *October 17, 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. Jay Stone, a stenographer.

Lieutenant-Colonel McLeod, 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, 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. Provost and Joe Lanaval were to listen and see that it was correctly done. General Terry then read to them the propositions.

7

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.

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 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. Every one has received sufficient food and clothing for his support. Every one 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 indict 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 mean time 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,

8

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 64 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 to take it easy going back home. Don't go in a rush.

"Nine," a Yankton Indian, who joined the Santee band that left Min-

nesota 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 fulfill 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 peoples 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-Bears", 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 rise 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 goody 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 thinks, 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. McLeod, commissioner of the Northwest Territory, addressed the commission the following letter as to the result

NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE,
Fort Walsh, October 18, 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 most 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 all 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. McLEOD,
Lieut. Col. Commanding Northwest Mounted Police.

11

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 23d, and there embarked in Mackinaw boats. It descended the Missouri to Fort Buford, Dakota, arriving there on the 3d 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 Saint 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

12

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 offenses 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 McLeod, Major Walsh, and the officers of police under their command.

ALFRED H. TERRY,
A. G. LAWRENCE,
Commissioners.

H. C. CORBIN, *Secretary*.