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VISITING TRIBE OF CREE INDIANS

A tribe of Crow Indians from Canada came to visit the Crow Indians and were encamped on Rock Creek about five miles below Red Lodge in 1897. They explained to the whites that they had come to find a keg of gold that had been cached somewhere near the campsite years previously by a party of their tribe that had passed through the area. It is also said that there was a large stone there with directions marked on it saying so many feet in this direction and so many feet in that, and that some of the whites saw it there.

The Indians remained here for a while and sold some of their articles to the whites. Mrs. Fannie C. Torreyson whose home was near the camp bought an article made of ~~xxxx~~ dark colored horns. She thinks they are the horns of cattle, but they may be those of buffalo. The article consists of six horns, two large ones horizontally opposite each other and four smaller ones in the center, two above and two below. It is neatly finished around the base of the horns with cow hide and cloth and is fitted with a string for hanging it on the wall as if it were meant for a hat rack.

After these Indians left the country, Mr. Torreyson, while looking for his cow came upon the deserted campsite and found a considerable yardage of calico piece goods strung around among the cottonwood trees. In places it was fastened high in the trees and at others it was fastened on the ground with rocks. What was the significance of this is not known, except for the fact that proper use of the goods was not generally known among the Indians. Another man found a whole bolt of muslin, that was left there by them.

In these days the Federal Government was issuing a good deal of piece goods to the Indians. On one occasion, Mrs. Torreyson, said a government agent came to her house to investigate reports of mistreatment of the Indians on the Reservation by the whites, and asked her for her opinions. She told him, she did not see any sense in giving them the cloth for they did not know how to use it, and even if the government would build them houses they would only put their ponies into them instead of living in them. Thereupon the agent said that when he got back to headquarters to report he would recommend that the government issue swallow-tailed coats to them instead.

Mrs. took the goods that her husband had found and made good use of them. She washed the badly soiled cloth and made a lot of aprons from it for her family.

(The above story was told me by Mrs. Fannie C. Torreyson, Red Lodge Montana. She was away when I was gathering material of this sort last year. She has resided in Carbon County ever since she arrived here in 1885 as one of the pioneers of the Red Lodge vicinity)

(Dr. George R. Dilworth, Red Lodge, Montana resident of the Carbon county area since 1882 took pictures of above named Indians, and bought buffalo horns from them.