

In an interview late tonight General Miles, referring to General Williams' statement outlined above, said it will require care and prudence on the part of the army to prevent an outbreak and even with that they may not succeed. The great trouble is the craze is so widely spread, existing in many places widely separated. As near as he is able to learn, a concerted understanding was arrived at by the Indians during the summer that the first hostile shot should be the signal for the assembling and concentration of all disposed against the whites.

The General did not talk about the dispatch from Washington, regarding the general movement of troops, saying he considered it bad policy to make such movements known, as the news would be in the Indian camps in twenty-four hours.

OMAHA, Nov. 21.—A special to the *Bee* from Pine Ridge reports affairs temporarily quiet, though intense excitement prevails. General Brooke is anxiously awaiting instructions from the Department at Washington, due before he left Omaha, as to whether or not he shall interfere with the "ghost dance." This dance is now going on at Wounded Knee, sixteen miles northeast, and at Porcupine, thirty miles north, while a scout who just came in reports that a band of 500 copper faces appeared at a point only nine miles to the north. The Indians are dancing with their rifles strapped upon their backs.

The Indians dancing at Wounded Knee announce openly that if the soldiers attempt to take Jack Red Cloud, the son of Old Cloud, Big Road and Little Road, away, as there have been thoughts of doing, they will cut off the soldiers' ears and otherwise maim them.

Every officer on the ground, especially those high in authority, look upon the situation as very critical. To be still more explicit, is to say that the officers consider it next to probable that six or eight thousand Indians may sweep down on the agency at any moment.

"Nothing but a miracle could save us from Custer's fate," says a prominent officer, "and I hope to God," he added, "that reinforcements will arrive before the red devils make their break."

The Indians here in sight seem exceedingly friendly and are trusted by all, but it is well to keep in mind that blood is thicker than water. Red Cloud, who has been and is still sympathizing with the new Christ fanatics, but is here instead of being off at the ghost dances, continues very sullen. He is being keenly watched. A false move and he will be in irons. He seems thoroughly bent on producing an uprising.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—Acting Indian Commissioner Belt this afternoon received a telegram from Special Agent Cooper at Pine Ridge Agency, saying the Indians are still dancing. "The police report that thirty Rosebud Indians have arrived at this reservation, and 600 or 700 more are en route to the agency. We hope to settle this Indian craze without bloodshed. All kinds of rumors are in circulation."

In the course of the afternoon the following telegram was received at the War Department from General Miles:

"The number of Indians going from Rosebud Agency to Pine Ridge Agency is increasing. Reliable advices show that this Messiah craze is extending to our Indians near the Montana border, and between the Sioux Nation and the Canadian border."

Secretary Proctor carried the dispatches to a Cabinet meeting and they formed the subject of discussion. Secretary Proctor says the suggestion made by General Miles, that troops in all other divisions than his own command be got in readiness to reinforce him, was already anticipated. Orders have been sent to the commanding officers of troops as far south as Texas and Arizona, and as far west as California, to prepare their men for an immediate movement if emergency arises. In any event it is the intention of the Department to heavily reinforce the troops in Dakota during the winter and they will be moving in from other divisions from time to time. In this way it is expected that the Department will be able to mass an overwhelming force at the place where the excitement is highest, so as to effectually suppress any Indian uprising in the spring time.

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 21.—The *Tribune's* correspondent at Mandan, N. D., gives information from the Sioux agency from two reliable Indians, that the chances are against an immediate uprising, unless Sitting Bull makes up his mind that it would pay. Sitting Bull would be arrested and put in irons, but the agent is afraid that this would precipitate trouble. Agent McLaughlin has lost control of Bull and the others at Bull's camp. The dance keeps up day and night. The Indians with Sitting Bull do not welcome even friendly tribes, and will not shake hands with them. They say all the white men will be turned into buffalo and catfish in the spring.

Agent McLaughlin sent some Indian police to arrest refractory Indians, and instead of obeying orders they threw off their clothes and joined the dance. They returned to the agency without the prisoners and offered no excuse.

Sitting Bull is jealous of the increase of cattle on the Cannon Ball River, belonging to white settlers. He teaches his followers that if a raid is made on the settlers and they are killed, the Indians can surrender to the soldiers and be forgiven by them. Because of the fate of the former settlers no new ones will come there.

The Indians who have accumulated property are opposed to an uprising. The young bucks who have nothing and the elders who are lazy, led by Sitting Bull, are causing the trouble.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Nov. 21.—Frank Gruenar, a Government scout stationed at Fort McKinney, reports that the renegade Sioux and Cheyennes are heading for Utah and the Big Horn mountains, a distance of

200 miles. The fleeing Reds will traverse several counties of Wyoming. Their plan is, doubtless, to make a stand against their pursuers in a broken country. Governor Warren at once wired General Brooke a protest against the removal of the Fort McKinney cavalry to Pine Ridge. The scout intimates imminent peril. His information was secured from Utah Crows, to whom runners brought the news.

PINE RIDGE AGENCY, S. D., Nov. 21.—The number of Pickets has been doubled. The Indian police force of a hundred men is on duty and every soldier is instructed to sleep on his arms. Five companies of cavalry are now on the way here. As soon as the reinforcements arrive a consultation will be forced with the belligerent Indians. If they refuse to stop dancing they will be arrested, and if they resist, force will be employed. A vast number of ghost dancers from Rosebud have left the reservation and are now moving rapidly toward this point. About two-thirds of the fifteen hundred Indians at this point are believed to be hostile.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—Major Wright, recently relieved from the post of the Rosebud agency, was completely exonerated in all charges and reinstated today, and started for the agency tonight. In an interview, he said he thought if some of the vicious leaders of the present trouble could be locked up the craze would subside.

Sitting Bull and Red Cloud have been trying to regain control ever since they were deposed last year for opposition to the land sale and they are responsible for the most of the present agitation.

ABERDEEN, S. D., Nov. 21.—Advices from Otreka state that the settlers of Emmons and Campbell counties are flocking into that place on account of the rumors that the Sioux have taken the warpath. La Gra, on the Missouri, is completely depopulated. It was reported this morning that two men had been shot and scalped by the Indians in Campbell County. The people are greatly excited and are appealing to Governor Mellette for arms and ammunition.

OMAHA, Nov. 21.—A *Bee* special from Hot Springs, S. D., and from points in eastern Wyoming, report the settlers greatly alarmed by small roving bands of Indians, all well armed and very insolent, who say they are going to find the Messiah.

OMAHA, Nov. 22.—A special to the *Bee* from Pine Ridge Agency says: Census Enumerator Lee, who arrived this morning from a trip through the more distant portion of the reservation, is of the opinion that the ghost dances will result in trouble before many days. The settlers on the borders of the reservation, he says, are flying out. Gen. Brooke is non-committal, but is evidently much troubled. He thinks the crisis is not far away.

Agent Royer received a communication from Little Wound, the high priest of the dancers, in which the chief said he wants to know what the soldiers are coming for.