

"Messiah craze" to the Indian uneasiness. Since August the Indians at Rosebud have been restless, claiming that the agent is not giving them a square deal on supplies. Some families living northwest of Valentine have moved away.

Alex. Mowcau, an Ogallala Indian and government scout from Fort Robinson, is in this city, and said today, referring to the Indian craze: "Some think it is so, and some don't know what to believe. The Indians at Pine Ridge are dancing and meeting and talking. Some of them are wild, but some don't know what to believe."

Telegrams from Valentine and Crawford, Neb., and Cheyenne, Wyo., say troops have been ordered from the forts to proceed to the Pine Ridge Agency to keep the Indians in check.

CHICAGO, Nov. 18.—On the receipt of dispatches tonight announcing the movement of troops in the Department of the Platte toward Pine Ridge Agency, an Associated Press reporter called on General Miles. He said: "The newspapers really ought not to publish this sort of thing, for it will be in the Indian camps within twenty-four hours. There is nothing in it except that troops are being sent to the vicinity of the reservation, to prevent, if possible, any outbreak and to encourage the loyal element among the Indians; also to protect the agencies, which report the Indians as turbulent and past control. It was hoped that this excitement might pass without serious trouble, and up to this time no Indians have left the reservations."

"The causes of this threatened trouble are the failure of their crops, the delay of Congress in making appropriations for their support and the subsequent delay in getting supplies to them, resulting in their being brought to the very verge of starvation and worked into a frenzy. They are getting rations now, and possibly the difficulty may be bridged over. The movement of troops is simply precautionary; but, at the same time, they may have serious work."

The reporter asked if it would not be unusual for the Indians to go on the war path at the beginning of winter. The general replied: "Not at all. Those northern Indians are tougher than leather."

BISMARCK, N. D., Nov. 18.—Late last night the city was startled by an alarming report from Mandan, that the Indians at Standing Rock agency had left the agency and were advancing on Fort Lincoln. The State government was called on for aid, and by morning the excitement was intense. A reduction of the forces at Forts Lincoln and Yates had made the settlers apprehensive, for there are 6000 Indians at Standing Rock alone. It was learned this afternoon, however, that the alarm was unnecessary. Everything was quiet at Fort Yates and no trouble is expected there.

Very few soldiers are now kept in the forts in this neighborhood and the settlers are easily alarmed. The Indians could sweep the country west of the Missouri before assist-

ance could be had, and the demand for enlarging the garrisons at Fort Yates and Fort Lincoln will be renewed.

ST. PAUL, Nov. 18.—A *Pioneer Press* special from Jamestown, N. Dak., says: The Messiah craze has struck the Indians at Ft. Totten and they are inclined to be ugly. One hundred armed bucks were seen crossing the railroad track at Minnewaukan en route from the Turtle mountains to join the Sioux at Standing Rock. They said they were going hunting.

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 18.—The *Tribune's* Mandan, N. D., special says: Every house in town is full to overflowing with refugees from the county districts. The most intense excitement prevails in the country. The settlers are prepared to believe anything about the Indians. In town somewhat less tension exists, owing to the receipt of 300 guns today from the State government, and the fact that a company of soldiers will be here tomorrow morning from Fort Totten. Tonight there are 200 Indians in town, armed, but the citizens are armed too, and guards will be out and the people will sleep with their clothes on. A date will be fixed by a committee of citizens and the Indian agents be notified that after that date an Indian found in this county without a pass from the agent will be killed on sight. The population is excited, and, although the conservative men are doing their best to quiet the angry ones, there is every reason to believe that unless the government takes immediate steps to increase the force of soldiers here and at Fort Lincoln, every Indian coming into the county will be killed.

ST. PAUL, Nov. 18.—General Ruger, commanding the department of Dakota, has returned from a visit to several Western posts. His aide, Lieutenant Woodruff, referring to the Mandan scare, said: "The Indians located nearest Mandan are thirty-five miles away on the Cannon Ball River. They are a thrifty, industrious, peaceable people, who have taken up claims, built huts and houses, own cattle, ponies and wagons and are in good circumstances. They have no faith in aboriginal superstitions and dislike this new Messiah craze. The people have land, homes, stock, cattle, wagons and crops and are not anxious to go to war, and yet these are the ones to watch and to whom the people of Mandan have sent scouts. The band which may give trouble is that headed by Chief Hump, and situated southwest of Standing Rock. He is very wily and if the promised Messiah does not arrive in the spring he will probably tell them the whites are using influence to keep him back, and that the best way to aid him will be to kill some of the pale faces. However, in any emergency, the troops will be fully equal to the occasion. It must be taken into account that some of the agents are new men, unused to the ways of the Indians."

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Nov. 18.—The wagon and mule trains of the

seven companies of the Seventeenth Infantry, under marching orders at Fort Russell, were shipped this evening and the troops expect to follow Thursday and be in the field thirty days. The destination is understood to be a Nebraska point south of the Pine Ridge agency.

In an interview, General Mizner, commandant at Fort Russell and senior officer of the Seventeenth, says that in his opinion the idea of the Secretary of War is to mass troops in the Indian country, with a view to awing them into submission and, this failing, jump on them with both feet. Wyoming's weds are quiet.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Acting Indian Commissioner Bell has received word from South Dakota which justifies the evident alarm of the settlers in the neighborhood of Pine Ridge agency. Bell is of opinion that the government would not be justified in making any arrests or attempting to suppress the ghost dancers, so long as the Indians commit no acts of violence. This would surely make trouble. The proper course to pursue is to let the Indians dance themselves out. It will not be long, he thinks, before they begin to lose faith in the Messiah, and the whole craze will collapse.

Bell is, however, strongly in favor of keeping a strong military force within call. This precaution is already taken, and the Government is not at all apprehensive of trouble.

BISMARCK, N. D., Nov. 18.—The air is full of rumors of an outbreak among the Sioux Indians at Standing Rock Agency, with Sitting Bull in the lead. Their religious craze has finally worked them into a fighting humor, and they are no longer under the control of the agency or military forces.

At Fort Yates there are several companies of soldiers, but not enough to quell an outbreak of the 7000 well-armed savages. Sitting Bull and others have told the agent bluntly that they have no further use for the whites, and that they firmly believe it is only a question of a short time when the whites will disappear from the face of the earth.

Yesterday couriers from the agency arrived in Mandan with information that an uprising of the Indians had already begun, and in the pleasant weather continued the uprising would be general. It was also learned that the Indians have been buying ammunition for some time past, nearly the whole supply at Mandan having been purchased, the dealers not realizing until yesterday that selling to the Indians was unlawful.

The troops at Forts Yates and Abraham Lincoln have been ordered to be in readiness for marching orders at a moment's notice.

There is much uneasiness among the settlers west of the Missouri River and some families have moved up the Mandan and across the river. Old frontiersmen declare, however, that a general uprising this late in the fall is not probable.