

"The dance is a religious one," said he, "and we are going to keep it up until spring. If we find that Christ does not appear we will stop, but not in the meantime, troops or no troops."

He announced that he would start another dance at Medicine Root Creek tomorrow morning. He says he has been informed that the soldiers would stop their rations. He don't care, he says, as what they get don't amount to anything, but if such is the case he wants to know it, so his people will not have the trouble of going to the agency. He concluded with an emphatic reiteration of the statement that they would not stop dancing. Doctor Royer has not yet replied.

KANSAS CITY, Nov. 22.—Mrs. J. A. Finley, wife of ex-councilman Finley of this city, now postmaster and post trader at Pine Ridge agency, is in this city. Mrs. Finley left the agency a few days ago by direction of her husband, who sends her here for safety. In an interview today she described the ghost dance. She said these dances have been in progress for some time. The first she learned of them was last August, when a crowd of Indians left the reservation to hold, as they said, a council, and when the police found them they were engaged in the dance. Since then they have been holding them regularly.

"One ghost dance that I saw was participated in by 430 Indians. In preparing for the dance they cut down the tallest tree that they can find, and having dragged it to a level piece of prairie, set it up in the ground. Under this tree four of the head men stand. The others form in a circle and begin to go around and around the tree. They begin the dance on Friday afternoon and it is kept up Saturday and Sunday until sundown. During all this time they do not eat or drink. They keep going round in one direction until they become so dizzy that they can scarcely stand, then they turn and go in the other direction, and keep it up until they swoon from sheer exhaustion. This is what they strive to do, for while they are in the swoon they think they see and talk with the new Christ. When they regain consciousness they tell their experiences to the four men under the tree. All of their tales end with the same story about the two mountains that are to belch forth mud and bury the white man and hasten the return of good Indian times.

"They lose all their senses in the dance. They think they are animals. Some get down on all fours and bob about like buffalo. When they cannot lose their senses from exhaustion they butt their heads together, beat them upon the ground and do anything to become insensible, so that they may be ushered into the presence of the new Christ.

"One poor Indian, when he recovered his senses, said that Christ had told him he must return to earth because he had not brought with him his wife and child. His child had died two years before and the way the poor fellow cried was the

most heart-rending thing I ever saw. At the end of the dance they have a grand feast, the revel lasting all Sunday night. They kill several steers and eat them raw and drink and gorge themselves to make up for their fast.

"The arrival of the troops there will make the Indians much worse and they will surely fight. They have said all along that nothing should break up the ghost dance, even if they were all killed, but then if they had been allowed to continue it I think they would have gone crazy, so that they would have taken to the warpath anyway. They are all well armed and have plenty of ammunition. At last Friday's dance one of the braves was to go into a trance and remain in this condition four days. At the close of this period he was to come to life as a buffalo. He would still have the form of a man but would be a buffalo. They were then to kill him and every Indian who did not eat a piece of him would become a dog. The man who was to turn into a buffalo was perfectly willing and I suppose they have killed an eaten him by this time.

"If the government just lets them alone there will be no need of troops; they will kill themselves by dancing. Seven or eight of them died as a result of one dance near Wounded Knee. They are now dancing on a creek about five miles south of Wounded Knee and dancing with all their arms. Every Indian has about four war clubs, made out of round stones twisted in rawhide. They throw these around during the dance, strew the ground with them and beat their heads against them. The agent with his Indian police cannot control them and it was necessary to have the troops on the ground."

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 22.—The *Tribune's* Aberdeen, S. D., special: Reports indicate that the Indian scare is general all along the east side of the Missouri River north of Pierre to Mandan. The settlers are becoming very much alarmed and are fleeing to the towns, leaving most of their possessions behind them. At Gettysburg there seems to be the most excitement, and Governor Mellette has gone there tonight with a large supply of arms and ammunition, hoping to quiet the alarm. Telegrams were received by him this afternoon from several points asking assistance. Dispatches from the commanders at Forts Yates and Sully say that everything is quiet. It is evident that most of the alarm is groundless.

OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 22.—A special to the *Bee* from Pine Ridge agency says: "Two of the most reliable scouts in the government's employ reported to General Brooke last night that 150 lodges of the Wounded Knee fanatics, including some of the most desperate and treacherous redskins in this part of the country, have moved to White River, twenty miles north of here, and again begun the ghost dance in a wilder manner than known thus far. The scouts talked with several leaders, and all declared they

would shoot any government officials or soldiers who attempted to suppress the dance.

This is by far the most menacing news that has come to General Brooke since his arrival. All the Indians in these 150 lodges are armed with Winchesters, navy revolvers and knives. They have large quantities of ammunition and provisions and are receiving heavy reinforcements hourly.

General Brooke received a telegram from General Miles last night giving him power to call just as many more troops to this point as he deemed expedient.

Some of the scouts and Indian policemen sent out Thursday to notify the non-dancing factions to move into the agency precincts until the trouble is settled, have returned and report the friendly Indians willing to come in. Some have already done so, and it is believed all will be in by Sunday night. The dangerous work of bringing the disturbers to time will begin Monday morning.

General Brooke received an intimation that the War Department will certainly insist upon a suppression of the ghost dance at all hazards. Both the commandant and the agent are greatly chagrined and nettled at learning last night that another lot of some 300 Rosebud warriors put in an appearance, as if they had risen out of the earth, only twelve miles northwest of here and were preparing to establish a ghost dance. These have Winchesters and are loaded down with ammunition.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—The War Department has authorized the number of Indian scouts in the Division of Dakota increased by five hundred men, they to be selected from the Indian police and other disciplined Indians. Major-General Schofield this afternoon said that every hour passed without an outbreak brightened the prospects for a peaceful settlement of the pending disturbance. Secretaries Proctor and Noble were in consultation this afternoon with the President, who manifested much interest in the subject, and decided that the two regiments of cavalry should be sent to Pine Ridge from Arizona and Mexico.

The dispatches from General Miles state that the separation of the friendly and turbulent Indians is proceeding rapidly at Pine Ridge. General Brooke anticipates no immediate trouble and thinks the separation will make easier the task of restraining the turbulent Indians from overt acts. Telegrams are also received confirming the reports that the Messiah craze is rapidly extending north and across the Canadian line, under the operation of Sitting Bull's emissaries.

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 22.—A Standing Rock Agency, N. D., special to the *Tribune* says: "Major McLaughlin's visit to Sitting Bull's camp had the effect of stopping, for a time at least, the ghost dances. McLaughlin received a letter from Bull yesterday, who says he has taken friends' advice and stopped the dances. Bull's child is very sick or he would come to the agency today to draw his rations.