

Brooke had engaged a small band of hostiles in a skirmish and that several were killed.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The New York *Freeman's Journal* will publish to-morrow a letter from Father Crafts, Catholic Indian missionary, who was probably fatally stabbed in Monday's battle. Father Crafts says in the beginning the Indians hoped for much aid from the government, to enable them to become like the whites. They were, however, in every way abused, mocked and discouraged. Instead of being wards they have felt that they were victims of unscrupulous politicians, who benefited by their misery. Father Crafts adds:

"I know what I say, for I have shared their sufferings for many years in their despair. General Crook brought them to hope. Their confidence in him led them to hope that he would be able to realize their hopes. His death was their death-blow, and they felt it. The Indians are not fools, but men of keen intelligence. The reductions in rations increased their fears. Even the Indian agents protested against the cruelty. Mr. Lee, who took the census, made grave mistakes. He counted less than the real numbers and made false reports of prosperity that did not exist. It is not to be wondered at that they believed in the Messiah, whom they first doubted, and listened to every deceiver who promised hope.

"Interested whites took advantage of this state of affairs and howled for troops. The army indignantly denied protested against the false statements, but had to go to the scene of supposed danger. The interested whites persuaded them that their entire destruction was aimed at, and the Indians ran away in fear and despair.

Father Jutz calmed them and I brought them back to the agency and the kindness of General Brooke convinced them of their safety. The General's plan to send Indians out after those still out was good and would have succeeded if the General were left alone.

Just as a tree can be traced from its smallest branch to its root, so can the Indian troubles be traced to the starvation and misery of the Indians."

In conclusion Father Crafts arraigned Commissioner Morgan in severe terms.

OMAHA, Dec. 2.—A *Bee* special from Rushville, Neb., says:

Embassadors from the hostile camp have again today been suing for peace and offering to surrender their arms. It is not known here whether the terms will be granted or not, but the general opinion prevails that, in view of the recent actions of the rebels in slaughtering troops while under a flag of truce, not much weight will be given pretended repentance. That the hostiles have been largely reinforced within the past few days there is no longer any doubt and there seems reasonable grounds for the rumors that some Indians from the other agencies on the British possessions have joined these.

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 2.—In re-

sponse to urgent appeals from the inhabitants of northwestern Nebraska for protection against marauding bands of Indians, General Thayer tonight sent telegraphic instructions to the commanders of the militia of Central City, Ord and Tekamah to leave on the first train with their commands for the scene of action. These troops will be divided between the towns of Chaldron, Gordon and Hay Springs. The First Brigade has also been ordered to place itself in readiness to march on short notice. Should the militia comprised in this brigade be ordered to move, as now seems probable, practically the whole of Nebraska's National Guard will be centered on the frontier.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Commissioner of the Indian affairs, today, received from the Indian Agent Royer the following telegram, dated Pine Ridge Agency, S. D., Jan. 2.—"Number two and three day school buildings of the Episcopal church, located at White Clay Creek some distance from the agency, have been burned by the hostile Indians. Isaac Miller, a white man, was killed by the hostile Indians yesterday, ten miles north of the agency. About 3000 men, women and children are camped near the mouth of the Grass Creek, fifteen miles northeast of the agency. They are hostile and refuse to come into the agency as requested by the military. They are committing all kinds of depredations and living off our agency beef herd. Little Wound, Big Road, Red Cloud and their people are among them, and it is reported that they want to come into the agency, but Two Strike, Short Bull, Kicking Bear and their people object and say that they will kill the first one that starts to the agency. Report has it, that Red Cloud is desirous of coming to his home.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—The *Inter-Ocean's* Pine Ridge special: Last night was one of feverish excitement at the agency. For the first time the squaw men and half breeds were alarmed and remained up all night, fearing an attack before morning. The agency, however, is too well guarded to permit any large force to approach very close without discovery. Friendly spies say there are a number of warriors in the enemy's camp who have worked themselves up to a condition of frenzy similar to those who committed suicide at Wounded Knee. They say they want to die and are going to die while killing white men.

General Miles has sent a letter to the hostiles asking for a hearing. The Indians tore the letter to fragments and said: "We want no treaty; we are here to fight." The Indians in the hostile camp number 4,000 men, women and children and represent every agency in the two Dakotas.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The Commissioner of Indian affairs has, in response to a telegram sent Agent Royer at Pine Ridge, enquiring as to whether any of the Indian scouts or police have joined the hostiles, received the following reply from the agent: "None of your enlisted

scouts have joined the hostiles. The police and scouts are rendering good service, and by their vigorous firing prevented the hostiles from burning the agency building."

A report tonight called the attention of the Commissioner to reports from Pine Ridge saying that General Miles recommended the removal of the Indian agents at Pine Ridge and at other places, and to the statement that the Indians are slowly starving to death. The Commissioner said that, as far as the agents were concerned, there was no evidence that there had been any dishonesty on their part in distributing supplies.

The commissioner has submitted to the President a statement covering the question of the charge made that agreements with the Indians have not been fulfilled.

DENVER, Jan. 4.—The *New's* Pine Ridge special: The army of the Indians now surrounded by General Miles's soldiers of White Clay Creek number over 4000 men, women and children, the most of them from the Upper Dakota reservations. Hundreds of the crowd are crazed with ghost dancing, and will fight as Big Foot's men fought. Shots were followed by the pickets nearly every hour last night, banishing sleep from all eyes. Fire arrows were thrown into the agency about midnight from a ravine near by but fortunately fell harmlessly. Half breeds and squaw men are moving for the railroad, saying they know what is coming, and don't propose to remain. This war will not be ended except by one of the bloodiest battles in the history of Indian warfare.

OMAHA, Jan. 4.—The *Bee's* Pine Ridge special: The event of the day here was the taking away in special cars of the twenty-nine wounded soldiers. They will be distributed at three places—Fort Omaha, Fort Robinson and Fort Riley. Extensive rifle pits are reported being dug twelve miles west of here by the hostiles, and the report is of such a nature that the natives rely upon its truthfulness.

#### DEATH OF MISS ABBOTT.

January 5th, at 7:40, in this city, Emma Abbott, one of the brightest lights of the American stage, departed this life. The account of her death will be read with regret in every city in the United States. Her popularity equaled, if not surpassed, that of any other performer on the lyric stage of this country. The members of her company are utterly prostrated with grief owing to the suddenness of her demise. Her manager, Mr. Pratt, was scarcely able to speak about her, owing to the intensity of his sorrow. "A better and purer woman," said he, "never walked on this earth. She has been with me eleven years, and a more harmonious and happy family than ours never trod the boards of any country. I am utterly broken down by her untimely death."

Miss Abbott was born in Chicago about thirty-six years ago. She first appeared in public with the