

and powerful heathen party could have existed had the Government fulfilled solemn promises and its manifest duty to provide for the education of these people.

The advance of the Christian party stimulated the non-progressive party into more and more vigorous opposition.

Recent events gave the leaders of the non-progressives powerful arguments as a leverage to move the minds of their followers, and to silence the voice of their opponents.

By a recent agreement made with the Sioux, which on the whole was to their advantage and to that of the whites, about/page 2/ eleven million acres of land were ceded to the United States. Some of the promises of compensation to the Indians for this reduction of their territory were not fulfilled, owing to the inaction of Congress, until within the past few days. Even this fulfillment would probably not have taken place now had it not been for bloodshed on the frontier. The failure promptly to make good the promises of the Government, whether implied or expressed, produced serious discontent among the pagan Indians.

There has also been at Pine Ridge, the largest and most important Indian agency in the Sioux country, extreme suffering from hunger within the past year. This was caused by a large reduction of the amount of beef issued to the Indians, by the failure of their crops, owing to the drought, and other causes, some of which were unavoidable.

In conjunction with these causes for discontent must be placed the religious fanaticism, known as the "Messiah Craze," which promised to the ignorant imagination of the pagan Indian all that he longed for and lacked-- food, hunting, freedom and expulsion of the white man.

These causes linked together produced serious conditions, but in our opinion the danger might have been averted had it not been for the last,