

they were stealing cattle and horses, setting prairie-fires and so on, all of which, as far as we ever knew, had no foundation in fact. In the interests of common justice, I can say no less than that. Had it been otherwise, it seems reasonable to suppose that with our range bordering the western line of the Standing Rock Reservation, and within easy reaching distances of others, we must have found out something about it during the twenty-odd years of our residence there.

In substantiation of this is the notable fact that we owned one particular bunch of mares who, getting away, located themselves on the reservation within twenty miles of Sitting Bull's camp on <sup>204 Grand River.</sup> the / Grand River. Again and again we rounded them up through several seasons. Again and again they returned as soon as they could get a chance. But the point is: we always found them, together with their unbranded increase, and to suppose that the Indians did not know they were there is impossible. Furthermore, as everybody knew, they were short of horses and would have had no trouble in getting away with that particular bunch had they wanted them. But to quote the words of a noted Indian authority, "They knew they were yours. You had treated them right. They were doing the like by you."

We lost both horses and cattle, it is true, Plenty of the, if it came to that. But well enough we knew who was doing the stealing even if we could but rarely catch them red-handed, for always they maintained organization and were clever at covering their tracks. The true buzzards of the earth. The worthless something-for-nothing seekers of our own race, ever ready to attach the blame for their depredations to the Indian, immeasurably more honest, more human, than they, Immeasurably higher in the sight of God Almighty, and all honest men who knew them.

I have heard it stated that Roosevelt, at that period, was inclined to accept the popular and less favorable view with regard to the Indians. None the less, I am convinced, I have every reason for thinking that if this was really