

Please say to the Indians of your agency that I very much regret their loss of life that has occurred. It has been a very sad matter to me as well as the Indians. I appreciate the fact that those who

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have remained steadfast and have taken no part in the hostilities have done so against the entreaties of some of their friends and sometimes done so at considerable cost to themselves. They will see plainly hereafter that they chose the wise course and that those who did otherwise made a miserable mistake. I rejoice at the loyalty which they have manifested in this trying time and will do everything in my power to promote their prosperity.

I also wish to express my appreciation of the skill and firmness with which you have held the Standing Rock Indians and managed the affairs of the agency and I trust that peace and progress among the Indians will abundantly witness to the wisdom and efficiency of your administration.

Very Respectfully,

T. J. Morgan,

Commissioner."

This was written at the time when the Indians at the other agencies were in a ferment and just subsequent to the Wounded Knee disaster at Pine Ridge Agency.

At the moment the Indians of the Standing Rock reservation were under absolute control, yet there could be no doubt that there was a great deal of excitement among those of them who had been taken by the Messiah craze. It had appealed very strongly to many men who were restrained from joining in the ghost dancing out of regard for myself and because they had given their promise to live as white men. But the religion preached for his own sinister ends by Sitting Bull, was calculated to appeal to the Indian mind -- and the Indian mind, as I have tried to show elsewhere, is attuned to a pitch altogether different to that of whiteman. It is capable of great