

would cease but if found to be as professed by the Indians they be permitted to continue their medicine practices and organize as they are now endeavoring to do.

I told him that his proposition was a novel one but that the attempt to carry it into effect would be similar to the attempt to catch up the Wind that blew last year but that I wished him to come to my house where I could give him a whole night or day and night in which I thought I could convince him of the absurdity of this foolish craze and the fact of his making me the proposition he did was a convincing proof that he did not fully believe in what he was professing and endeavoring so hard to make others believe. He did not however promise fully to come in to the Agency to discuss the matter but said he would consider my talk and decide after deliberation.

I consumed three days in making this trip and feel well repaid by what I accomplished, as my presence in their midst encouraged the weaker and doubting, and set those who are believers to thinking of the advisability of continuing the nonsensical practices they are now engaged in.

I also found that the active members in the dance were not more than half of the number of the earlier dancers and believe that it is losing ground among the Indians and while there are many who are half believers I am fully satisfied that I can keep the dance confined to the Grand river district.

Desiring to use every reasonable means to bring Sitting Bull and his followers to abandon this dance and to look upon its practice as detrimental to their individual interest and welfare of their children I made the trip herein reported to ascertain the extent of the disaffection and the best means of effecting its discontinuance. From close observation I am convinced that the dance can be broken up and after due reflection would respectfully suggest that in case my visit to Sitting Bull fails to bring him in to see me in regards to the matter as invited to do, all Indians living upon Grand River be notified that those wishing to be known as opposed to the Ghost Doctrine, friendly to the Government ~~and wishing to be known as opposed to the Ghost~~