

13. Still, considerable progress had been made by many; young men coming to the front and being recognized more each year by Government and people as leaders. This led to jealousy on the part of old chiefs and old party—a very important factor.

14. Bitter feeling, leading almost to internal strife, between the two factions, owing to the way things were going, leading to death struggle of old heathen party to pull down others and regain former standing or die in the attempt.

15. The non-action of Congress on recommendations of the last Commission brought everything to a head. It was the last straw, and coupled with the bad conduct of affairs, as detailed above, all played into hands of old heathen and obstructionists party, making such men as Sitting Bull, Red Cloud, Big Foot, Two Strike, and Crow Dog, and other leaders in opposition to/page 28/ the plans and wishes of the Government, who had all but lost their influence, important men again.

As early as three years ago, next November, on return from Washington after Pratt Commission, Sitting Bull formulated his scheme. The scheme was to get as many from all agencies and neighboring tribes as they could to join them and break away from the reservation and Government control, ostensibly to form a defensive alliance against injustice, but really in desperation, to strike out regardless of all obligations and consequences.

The plan was to join forces at forks of the Cheyenne River in the spring. The Ghost dance was in no sense a primary cause of trouble, but came along opportunely to serve the purpose of leaders, and around this "New Religion" the whole movement crystallized. Portions of Indians at each agency who favored new movement: At Standing Rock, 10 per cent.; at Cheyenne River, 15 per cent.; at Crow Creek, practically none; at Lower Brule, 2 per cent.; at Rosebud, 30 per cent.; at Pine Ridge, 40 per cent.—conditions worse at