

THE SIOUX OUTBREAK

Its causes and the reforms in Indian management to which it should lead.

This subject has been treated in detail in various publications recently issued by the Association. The principal points in the case may be briefly recapitulated here.

The fundamental cause of a trouble such as that which we have witnessed is the ignorance and savagery of a portion--a minority--of the Sioux Indians themselves. This is the fundamental cause because in it the other causes have their roots. Without it they would be largely shorn of power. An education which shall give the Indian the ability to maintain himself independently of Government aid would also dispose him to take other means than violence to right his wrongs, and would also place such means within his hands. A generation of young men has grown up/p.4. among the Sioux wholly without education of this party among Indians, and to the general dislocation from which the Indian School Service has suffered; but the difficulties, though great, were not insurmountable. It was both the letter and spirit of our treaties with the Sioux Indians that such an education should have been given to all their youth. Had this course, which has been persistently urged by this Association, and the friends of the Indians generally, been adopted a decade ago, it is not probable that we should have seen an outbreak during the present winter.

Let the members of the Association and all the friends of the Indians take warning from what has passed to bring continuous and increasing influence to bear on their representatives in Congress for sufficient appropriations to provide practical education for all Indian youth.

Another important factor in the Sioux trouble is to be found in the failure of the Government to fulfill promptly the promises made by the Commission of which General Crook was Chairman, and which procured a large reduction of the Sioux reservation under the terms of the agreement of 1889.