

issued by the Government. But since this Messiah craze had come among them Sitting Bull and his adherents had not been near the agency. They had kept their children away from the schools and done other things in defiance of the regulations of the agency, and were spending their whole time in the so-called "ghost dance" and other forms of religious frenzy, and were manifesting in every way a sullen and hostile attitude. McLaughlin had sent requests and orders to Sitting Bull to come in, but the old man had refused or failed to obey.

Meantime there was trouble among other tribes of the Sioux farther South and a large force of them were gathered under the leadership of Big Foot in South Dakota. McLaughlin had fears that Sitting Bull would take his following to that rendezvous. There were attached to the agency twenty uniformed Indian police, as courageous and loyal a body of warriors as ever trod the prairie in moccasins. With these men McLaughlin was keeping close watch upon every movement that Sitting Bull or any of his people made. He and our post-commander, Colonel Drum (Lieutenant Colonel, 12th Infantry) were acting in full harmony and accord. McLaughlin was anxious to handle his Indians without the intervention or assistance of the military. He knew, and Colonel Drum knew, that the instant soldiers take a hand in the control of Indians it means war. The Indians will either resist and fight or they will take to flight and leave their reservation. So up to this time, the 14th of December, no exercise or show of military authority had been made in connection with the troubles in this reservation. All troops had been kept strictly in the garrison in order that Sitting Bull and his people should have no cause for alarm or suspicion, and in order that Major McLaughlin might have a perfectly free hand in the management of his wards. But it was fully agreed between him and Colonel Drum that the moment he should not be able to handle the situation with his police force, then