

to submerge , the speaking voice within him.

Where it was otherwise, as in the case of the few who, like ourselves, were disposed to sympathize with and treat them decently, they were always willing to go out of their way to demonstrate that our confidence had not been misplaced.

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/ As for "setting prairie fires," that was about the last thing the Indian ever would think of. If anybody knew prairie fires and dreaded them, he did. They would injure the White Man, it is true; but he, himself, stood to suffer still more. If out on a hunting permit, to fire the prairie would be to defeat his own ends. Under any and all circumstances he was well aware that a mere shift of the wind was all that was needed to jeopardize his own reservation once the fire obtained a start.

As a matter of fact, prairie fires were always prevalent, throughout the region, during the autumn months after the grass became stem-cured and dry. A fertile cause was the spark belching proclivities of the more or less antiquated railway locomotives of that day. Another was the numerous, burning coal mines distributed all over the Bad Lands. Still another was the deliberate setting of them by white stock thieves for the purpose of drawing off pursuit. Other causes there were, such as carelessness on the part of tenderfoot campers in failing to properly extinguish their camp-fires upon breaking camp. There were plenty of causes, in short, but that the deliberate setting by Indians was one of them, we at least, never had reason to believe.

It was at the camp of that Indian hunting party that I first obtained a true insight of life in the wigwam. Saw the squaws at work drying meat and berries, making buckskin, carrying in monstrous loads of wood on their backs, and so on. Judging from our standards, it looked hard on them, but they were as tough as leather, used to it, and unquestionably in love with their jobs.