

In corners, or under cover of little caves dug into the banks, were tons of jerked beef. Every warrior had three cartridge belts full of ammunition. They had loading tools by means of which they could reload old shells. There are two good springs of water inside the fort, and stunted cedars in a valley a mile distant. In case the fort was surrounded he thinks the wood supply could be cut off and the hostiles brought to terms. They would be able to raid cattle ranches south of their stronghold unless sufficient troops were sent to completely surround them.

The camp was thoroughly organized to withstand a prolonged siege, and was admirably chosen as a rally point for a long and desperate campaign.

Louis gave a very graphic description of the ghost dance as he beheld it executed in the camp:

"When we entered there were about two hundred and sixty-two lodges ✓ present. One hundred and seventeen of these remained and one hundred and forty-five returned with us to the agency. The squaws and men came forward to greet us, and all seemed very friendly. They supposed at first that we had come to join them, but when they learned our true mission they seemed very suspicious, and refused for some time to have anything to do with us. Just before we began the council, which lasted the greater part of four days, the high-priest and his helpers came forward and announced that there would be a ghost dance. They formed a circle about the Sacred Tree and began their chant.

"Of all the wild dancing I saw on Wounded Knee, this beat the 'shooting-match'. People went into trances by the dozen, and the priests were kept busy relating the experiences of the fainters. Several remained in trances as long as twelve hours, and gave evidences of utter exhaustion when the directors roused them.

"Short Bull said: 'I see the Messiah coming from the West. He is