

"Of course," says Grouard, "as an excuse it was made to appear that the ghost dance was the cause of all the trouble. From what I learned from the Indians no outbreak would have resulted from the ghost dances. If left alone, the craze would have died a natural death. Every ten or twenty years the Indians go wild--some hallucination takes possession of them; but they quiet down again in their own good time if left to themselves. It was known, however, that if some good excuse were provided, the government would spend considerable money in putting troops and provisions in the vicinity of the Pine Ridge Agency, and mercenary motives prevailed."