

his flight to Canada, and were among the last who surrendered to the authorities. They numbered about 550 souls, and Hump and his sub-chiefs were most jealous of their rights as headmen and strictly adhered to all of the old-time customs of the savages. Long after all of the other Indians had adopted citizens' dress they adhered/<sup>455</sup> to the breech cloth and the blanket, kept up the heathen dances, wore long hair, and lived in the old fashioned, clustered villages. It is only in very recent times that they have adopted more progressive views. In 1885 a movement was undertaken for the reduction of the great Sioux reservation by opening to settlement that portion between the Cheyenne and the White Rivers. This was considered exceedingly desirable by the people of Dakota Territory, as it opened the way to the construction of railroads to the Black Hills. A treaty very advantageous to the Indians and the government alike was negotiated, and as there was no doubt in the mind of anyone that it would be ratified by congress, the railroad companies made active preparations to begin the construction of their lines, but for some inexplicable reason the treaty was not ratified, and as there appeared to be no further probability of the reservation being opened, the Northwestern railway secured access to the Hills by the Nebraska route, and in consequence the eastern and western portions of South Dakota are separated by a wide expanse of unsettled territory to this day.

With the progress of time, the value of the agency courts of Indian offenses became more and more emphasized. In 1887 Major McLaughlin reports that at Standing Rock fifty-two cases were heard and adjudicated by the court without a single appeal, and a large number of minor cases were settled by advice of the court without going to trial. Offenders were punished by close confinement and hard labor and in some instances fines were imposed. The guilty party, if the owner of firearms, was obliged to turn them over to the police court, and if the convict himself had no arms, then his relatives were compelled to turn in theirs. By this means Major McLaughlin reports that seventy-four rifles and five revolvers had come into the possession of the court during the year and were now safely stored in the government warehouse. The major adds, "This court is no respecter of persons, as having