

June 17 (b2)

(agent's) house." From this time on Red Dog was willing to do anything that I asked of him, and he went to work at once to mold the minds of the Indians at the agency for a change. In a short time he had them willing to select a new place, but wished to see those coming in from the North before a public expression was made. In the mean time he sent out messengers, with tobacco, to sound them on the question, who, on their return, gave good reports.

When Red Cloud came in, he was going to have the agency and every white man moved south of the Platte River, but finding no friends to sustain him, he yielded to the wishes of those who had remained with the whites, and in a general council consented to the selection of a place for the agency on the White River. Red Cloud expressed a wish to go to Washington and report to his Great Father what action had been taken in locating the agency, and explain away the "little trouble that had occurred in the spring," and it was granted. A party of twenty-seven of his chiefs and head-men sent a month in visiting the principal cities East where they had a chance to see the power and greatness of the Government, as well as to feel the kindness of the people. Having been particular in passing through the cities to show them the schools and churches, and to tell them what they were for, they thought that the greatness of the white men and the goodness of the things he possessed came by these two great powers, and asked that they might have three buildings at once, to have their children educated like the white man's. But what delighted them most was the farming districts, where they could see fields of corn and herds of cattle; as they always compared that with what they could have on White River, as though they looked forward to the time when the same sights would make their hearts glad in the land they had selected for their homes. They came back with an earnest desire to commence a new life, and advance the interests of the Government among their people. On their return I called them in council, and impressed upon their minds the great importance of remembering all they had seen, and also not to forget that in all their travels they had not heard any one speak bad to them; all had spoken well, and treated them kindly, and I wanted them to make their young men do the same toward the white men required at the agency to assist the agent in taking care of them. To this they agreed, and I am happy to be able to say that there is a change for the better at the agency. It is now more endurable for a white person, but no man's life is any more safe, for the feeling of friends and foes is most desperate.

Agency Indians.-- At this agency there are three parties; the first, are a few very active and sincere friends of the whites, who may be depended upon in case of trouble. The principal man of this party is Red Dog. He has the courage to tell them distinctly what they should do to retain the friendship of the whites, and the consequences if they do not listen and make trouble. His life has been threatened, but he is fearless, and continues to use his influence for the good of his people.

The second party are the passive friends of Government, who do not wish any trouble, and would like to keep in friendship, but are not willing to tolerate any innovation upon their tribal habits, and would flee to the hostile party in case of any trouble. These, as well as the first party, are past thirty-five years of age; many of them are old and require care.

The third party is hostile, and is composed of men under thirty-five; they do not like any of the ways of the whites, and are ever ready to find fault, threaten, and talk saucy. They are the men who rehearse their deeds of valor, and count their victims of the war-path at every feast and dance, to encourage each other in the hope of another chance to increase in number their deeds of bravery. Anger or affliction makes them demons, and affords an excuse for the gratification of their ambition. They are partially under the influence of the outer people, but have no respect for their chiefs, and are greatly governed in their actions by the success of the hostile Sioux out north. They are ready to join them or any war-party, whether against other Indians or whites. This party number about one-third of the whole.