

(Printed ruled writing paper)

Oct 10/90

On back: Pine Ridge Agency, October 10, 1890.

Phillip Wells.

WCL-2

Reports with regard to the practice of the Indians in the matter of dancing in connection with the new craze as to the coming of the New Messiah next spring.

United States Indian Service

Pine Ridge Agency, S. D.

Oct. 10th, 1890.

James M. Laughlin, U. S. Ind. Agt.
Standing Rock Age, N. Dak.

Dear Major: Pardon me for the privilege I take in asking you some questions in regard to your Indians taking part in the new

religious craze the Ghost Dance or what is known as the coming of Messiah next Spring.

Are your Indians practicing it to such an extent that you anticipate any difficulty in supressing it, or what in your opinion would be the best means of stoping it. The reason I ask is our Indians are getting so crazy over it that it is certainly getting serious, as they are defying the Police force, and from what I can lern the Rose Bud Indians are worse than ours, and there is no telling what will grow out of it in the near future.

Some time ago Col. Gallagher myself and a lot of Police went to the Place of dancing to stop it but they had stoped before we got there, but the Indians were laying in ambush for us, all armed and striped for fighting, and as we rode up they drew their guns on us, but the Col. told the Police to stand back in readiness and walked into their midst and ordered them to lay down their guns, a few of the leaders who were in sight did so, we found out before we left there that the woods was full of armed Indians. I am telling you this that you can see the magnitude the craze has taken if it will be any service to you to know. Dr. D. F. Royer our new agent took charge this week, but I think he has got an elephant on his hands, as the craze had taken such a hold on the Indians before he took