

June 18/90
(Foolscap) On Back: Copy Letter of June 18th, 90 to Hon. T. J. Morgan, Com of Ind. Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Standing Rock Agency,
June 18th, 1890.

Hon. T. J. Morgan,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
Washington, D. C.

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Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of office letter "L" dated the 7th instant which inclosed copy of a letter from Charles L. Hyde of Pierre South Dakota giving the information which he states has come to him through a source that he has confidence in that the Sioux Indians or a portion of them are secretly planning and arranging for an outbreak in the near future. In reply I desire to state that so far as the Indians of this Agency are concerned there is nothing in either their words or actions that would justify the rumor and I do not believe that such an imprudent step is seriously meditated by any of the Sioux. I have been 19 days in the past five weeks engaged in visiting the Indians of this Agency at their respective homes, ~~in different settlements where ever night over took me~~ ^{remaining over night in Indian houses} and I found a warm welcome every where and the best possible state of feeling prevailing among them.

I possess sufficient knowledge of the Souix Language to under stand and converse fairly well in the vernacular of the tribe, and no sign, word or act was noticed during my recent tour among these Indians that would lead me to suspect any dis-contentment among them.

There are, however, a few malcontents here, as at all of the Sioux Agencies, who cling tenaciously to the old Indian ways and are slow to accept the better order of things, whoes influence is exerted in the wrong direction, and this class of Indians are even ready to circulate Idle rumors and sow dissensions to discourage the more pro-gressive but only a very few of the Sioux could now possibly be united in attempting any overt act against the Government, and the removal from among them of a few individuals (The leaders of disaffection) such as Sitting Bull, Circling Bear, Black Bird & Circling Hawk of this Agency, Spotted Elk and his Lieutenants of Cheyenne River, Crow Dog & Low Dog of Rosebud and any of like ilk of Pine Ridge would end all trouble or uneasiness in the future.

By far the larger number of Sioux are well disposed, and they are at this Agency some very reliable and trustworthy Indians, whose sincerity & truthfullness is of a high order, and in my investigating what grounds, if any, there were for the rumor of a contemplated out-break, I talked with several confidentially in regards to the matter and each replied that any fears of an uprising were entirely groundless, and assured me that if such was being meditated by even a few, it could not be kept a secret from them.

There are also on our police force some excellent men upon whom I can implicitly rely, and I have instructed them to be doubly vigilant and report to me everything learned at home or from other Agencies, and should anything of importance come to my knowledge I will advise you promptly.

I have, however, every confidence in the good intentions of the Sioux as a people. They will not be the aggressors in any overt act against white settlers, and if justice is only done them no uneasiness need be entertained.

I am, sir,
Very Respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
James McLaughlin
U. S. Ind. Agt.