

Oct 17/90

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Standing Rock  
Oct 17th 1890

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

Sir:

Referring to the subject of office letter "L" dated June 7th last and my reply of the 18th of same month relative to rumors of a prospective out-break among the Sioux I have the honor to state that there is considerable excitement and some disaffection existing among certain Indians of this Agency at the present time.

I trust that I may not be considered an alarmist and believer that my past record among the Sioux will remove any doubt in this respect and I do not wish to be understood as considering the present state of excitement so alarming as to apprehend any immediate uprising or serious out come but I do feel it my duty to report the present "Craze" and nature of the excitement existing among the "Sitting Bull" faction of Indians over the expected "Indian Millennium" the annihilation of the White Man and supremacy of the Indian, which is looked for in the near future and promised by the Indian "Medicine Men" as not later than next spring when the new grass begins to appear, and is known among the Sioux as the "return of the Ghosts"

They are promised by some members of the Sioux tribe, who have lately developed into "Medicine Men" that the great spirit has promised them that their punishment by the dominant Race has been sufficient and that their members having become so decimated will be reinforced by all Indians who are dead: that the dead are all returning to reinhabit this earth which belongs to the Indians; that they are driving back with them as they return immense herds of buffalo and elegant wild horses to have for the catching; that the Great Spirit promises them that the White Man will be unable to make gun powder in future and all attempts at such will be a failure and that the Gun powder now on hand will be useless, as against Indians, as it will not throw a bullet with sufficient force to pass through the skin of an Indian; That the Great Spirit has deserted the Indians for a long period that he is now with them and against the whites, and will cover the earth over with thirty feet of additional soil, well sodded and timbered under which the Whites will all be smothered, and any Whites who may escape this great phenomend will become small fishes in the Rivers of the Country, but in order to bring about this happy result, the Indian must do their part and become believers and thoroughly organized.

It would seem impossible for any persons, no matter how ignorant, could be brought to believe such absurd nonsense but as a matter of fact a great number of Indians of this Agency actually believe it and since this new doctrine has been engrafted here from the more Southern Sioux Agencies the infection has been wonderful, and so pernicious that it now includes some of the Indians who were formerly numbered with the progressive and more intelligent and many of our very best indians appear dazed and undecided when talking of it, their inherent superstitions having been thoroughly aroused.

Sitting Bull is high priest and apostle of this latest Indian absurdity in a word he is Chief Mischief Maker at this Agency and if he were not here this craze so general among the Sioux would never have gotten a foot hold at this Agency. "Sitting Bull" is a man of low cunning, devoid of a single manly principle in his nature or an honorable trait of character, but on the contrary is capable of instigating and inciting others (Those who believe in his powers) to do any amount of mischief.