

THE GHOST DANCE trouble in 1890, on the Standing Rock Reservation, started with a visit from an Indian called "Kicking Bear" from one of the lower agencies. He came to Sitting Bull's camp on the Grand River in August, for the purpose of imparting to him the new Religion or craze of the coming Messiah. It soon got rumored around among the Indians what he was there for, and as soon as Major McLaughlin (who was then agent) learned of it he detailed the captain of police and two others to go down to Sitting Bull's camp and order Kicking Bear away, this was done, but too late, as only a few days afterwards the ghost dance craze was in full blast. On September 1st I opened up school about one mile from the camp with an attendance of about 40 pupils and an enrollment of about 60 the difference in attendance from the close of school on June 30th being about 40 per cent less. My attention was called to the decrease in attendance and enrollment and I done all in my power to bring the attendance up, but in spite of my efforts, the attendance kept getting smaller and smaller. Sitting Bull and many others of the prominent chiefs visited the school off and on, and at these visits I remonstrated with them, at the way in which they were going on, especially keeping their children out of school, etc., to all of which their replies was that they were keeping their children from school in order to prepare them for the coming of the Messiah. In October the attendance had fallen away to about 15 scholars, I visited the Sitting Bull camp every chance I had, to watch the Ghost Dance, and report its progress to the agent, my presence was seldom noticed, but one time I remember of being asked to remove my hat, when I got too close to the circle. Major McLaughlin made a trip down to the camp in October some time, and endeavored to dissuade them from keeping up the dance, but failed to accomplish any-