

### THE BATTLE OF WOUNDED KNEE.

At Fort Riley, next Tuesday, a monument to the United States soldiers killed at the battle of Wounded Knee in December, 1890, will be unveiled. The ceremony will have more significance than occasions of this sort are wont to have.

The battle of Wounded Knee is the last fight that has taken place in the United States between the Indians and the regular troops. It may go on record as the last Indian war in this country after a desultory conflict between whites and reds lasting for 400 years. In that long span, thousands of lives have gone out in Indian warfare. There have been massacres, long wars, assassinations, bloody butcheries—all manner of conflict has marked the advance of modern civilization against the aborigine.

Twenty-four United States soldiers were killed at Wounded Knee, S. D., on Monday, December 29, 1890. The battle was the culmination of an extended disturbance among the Indians about Pine Ridge and Standing Rock. Old Sitting Bull, the wily chief who had so many times promised to be a good Indian, grew surly and threatened to gather his warriors and go to the Bad Lands to begin a winter's campaign against the settlers. Trouble brewed all through the early part of December, but until the middle of the month no serious outbreak was expected by those of the whites who knew the habit and disposition of the Sioux. On December 15 Sitting Bull again announced that he was about to lead the warriors away from the agency. Fearing that he meant to put his threat into execution, the Indian police were ordered to capture the aged chief. They proceeded to do their duty and a skirmish followed, in which Sitting Bull was killed. The news of the chief's death and the manner of it served to inflame the Sioux nation and much war talk resulted. At Washington, however, the old Indian fighters thought that the death of the principal chief would put an end to the troubles.

Out in the bleak hills of South Dakota the war spirit of the Sioux was growing. The death of the old chief found the young braves nerved up to a struggle against the whites and only a word was necessary to name a new leader and to continue the work of agitation. The flame was fanned until the closing days of the month, when the battle of Wounded Knee began and ended the war.

On that day the aroused Sioux attacked the Catholic mission at Pine Ridge agency. The Seventh cavalry arrived in time to engage the Indians, and a terrific encounter ensued. Between seventy-five and one hundred of the redskins were killed, and twenty-four United States soldiers were counted among the dead after the fight was at an end. Among the Sioux leaders were High Hawk, Little Wound, Big Road, Two Strikes, Fire Lightning, Young-Man-Afraid-of-His-Horses and Spotted Elk. Two Strikes and Little Wound were in command.

The soldiers killed at Wounded Knee were Captain George D. Wallace, Sergeant Dyer, Sergeant Caffey, Sergeant Nettle, Hospital Steward Pollock, Corporal Bone and Privates Johnson, Frey, Kelly, Cain, Book, Murphy, Killner, Hodges, Forrest, Newell, McCue, Logan, Costello, Ragan, Christianson, Kanaka, Tafrey and Adams.

It is to these brave men, whose battle cry was "Remember Custer," that the Fort Riley monument will be unveiled next Tuesday. They lived there, and it was from that place that they went off into the Dakota hills to fight the redskins in the snow of a December evening. Fitting it is that under the shade of Fort Riley should be a shaft to the memory of those brave Indian fighters.

Since the battle of Wounded Knee Two Strikes and Young-Man-Afraid-of-His-Horses have died. Two Strikes was shot and killed a few months ago and Young-Man-Afraid-of-His-Horses fell dead with heart disease only recently.

The Indians of the United States are generally peaceful now, and there is little chance for another outbreak. The march of civilization was never so rapid as at this moment. Let it be hoped that the last Indian war is over.