



PIGEON DANCE IN PROGRESS

INFURIATED BLACKFOOT COMING TO SMASH THE CAMERA

These dances, together with squaw dances, buffalo dances, and war dances form part of the regular daily programme of the camp, preliminary to the great climactic event, the Sun Dance itself.

One of the most picturesque of them is probably the Pigeon Dance.

The dress of the "Pigeons" is charmingly simple, and would make a Parisian belle in evening dress feel like a colourless prude. It consists simply of a breech cloth and moccasins, with a single feather stuck in the flowing hair, and a full coat of paint covering the body from head to foot. The colour worn by the officers is a brilliant yellow, while that of the rank and file is brick red.

The dance, in order to be properly performed, appeared to occupy the time of the devotees for the greater part of the day and night. The "Pigeons" begin to assemble in their lodge early in the forenoon. Each one as he arrived proceeded to disrobe and adorn himself, mixing the dry paint in a cup or saucer, and applying it with his fingers. Evidently, several coats were required to produce the required tint, and it was two or three o'clock in the afternoon before the plumage of all was finally preened to their satisfaction.

About this time it was discovered that there was not a sufficient number present, and deputations were despatched to bring in recalcitrant members, who from laziness or other cause had failed to appear. If verbal inducements proved insufficient, a convenient blanket was brought into use to convey the dissenting gentleman to the post of duty. When the number was finally completed, and all were duly arrayed, the lithe-limbed dancers gathered their blankets about them, and made a tour of the camp in a body, soliciting contributions of fuel and eatables for the all-night seance.

It was about 6 o'clock in the evening before a sufficiency of supplies was secured, and the "Pigeons" at