

Justice and Fair Dealing for every Indian who desires to become a good Citizen.

THE TOMAHAWK.

Published in behalf of, and to secure the welfare of the Indians of the United States.

"Truth before Favor."

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THE TOMAHAWK.

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The Chippewas of Minnesota, upon written promises made to them that certain reforms would take place among them, and especially upon this reservation, voted the Democratic ticket very strongly during the last presidential election. No reforms whatever have been made, and conditions have grown worse, if anything, upon this reservation at least. Cato Sells now has less than a year to the next election to make good the promises of the national Democratic committee referred to.

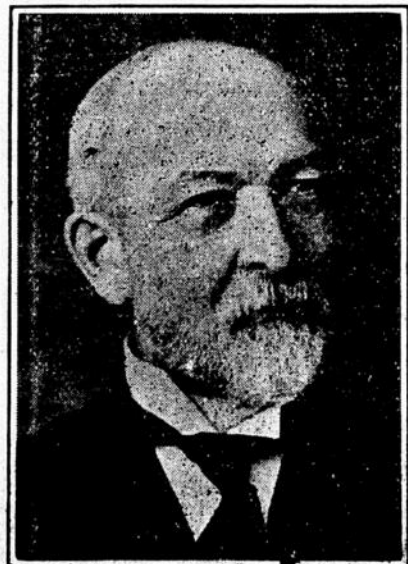
The forestry reservation in this state contains some of the finest agricultural land that could be found anywhere, yet it continues to lay idle for experimental purposes. The public at large are losers by not being able to enter upon the lands and make farms thereon, but the Chippewas are the greater losers because the land, about three hundred thousand acres, with valuable pine timber thereon, has not been sold under the agreement made with them in 1889. The United States, under the Act of 1889, ceded to the Chippewas of Minnesota all the reservations they were then occupying, and then created itself a trustee by the same act to sell this land and pine timber for their benefit, but instead of doing this it created the forestry reserve referred to without due compensation to the Indians, and also allowed much pine timber land to be entered under the homestead and pre-emption laws of the United States. The whites are now clamoring to have the lands opened to settlement, and the Chippewas should appeal to Congress to do so.

C. Congdon, Sen. Knute Nelson, and E. E. Smith, Republican national committeemen for this state, and a host of others, will be candidates for the nomination of delegates at large to the Republican national convention to be held at Chicago this year. Of the persons above named Mr. Congdon is the best known among the Chippewas, an acquaintance he formed during his incumbency of the office of assistant United States district attorney for Minnesota twenty-five to thirty-five years ago. During Mr. Congdon's administration he established the custom of prosecuting not Indians for introducing liquor into Indian reservations, but confined himself to the prosecution of the actual white violators of the law who sold the liquor to the Indians, but after he resigned from the office the custom was changed. It was also the firm of Billson & Congdon that defended the Leech Lake Pillager Chippewas in 1898, after the Bear Island battle, and for this work they charged the Indians nothing. The Chippewas of Minnesota should now show their appreciation of Mr. Congdon's friendship to them during their time of trouble by voting solidly for him as delegate at large to the Republican national convention, next March.

SENATOR CARROLL S. PAGE.

Among the members of the senate Indian committee who is always on the alert against any schemes from which Indian interests might suffer, or fair dealing generally, is Senator Page of Vermont.

Senator Page is not only a prominent public man but a successful one in business as well. His father was engaged in the hide business as early as 1835, and retired from it for a brief period in 1846 on account of ill health, but subsequently re-engaged in it. In 1864, Sen. Page, then only twenty-one years of age, bought out the business and has remained in it ever since then.



But this is not the only business the senator has been engaged in, for he is president of the Lamoille County Savings Bank & Trust Co., is a director of the Swanton Savings Bank & Trust Co., of Swanton, Vt., and of several lumber and other corporations. He also bears collegiate honors, for he is an L. L. D. of Norwich University.

Besides being a successful business man Sen. Page has been very prominent in public affairs in his state; besides having held many other offices, he has been governor of Vermont. He is, as his picture above indicates, a keen, wide-awake, fair and conscientious man. Indian interests will receive fair treatment while Sen. Page is on the Indian committee of the senate.

Congressmen Who Appreciate Sioux Support.

Senator Johnson and Representative Gandy, both of South Dakota, are going to show their appreciation of the almost unanimous vote cast for them by the Sioux of their state, by supporting and working for the passage of the Right of Nomination Bill, it is stated, which will give the Indians of this country the right to nominate their own Indian agents and other employees. There seems to be no doubt that there will be a vigorous campaign during the present session of Congress to put through either this bill, or one which will terminate the Indian office and place the Indians of the various states who require it under the supervision of trustees who shall be appointed by judges of the United States district courts, and who shall be required to give suitable bonds and amenable to the judges within the districts where the Indians are located over whom these trustees are placed; that these trustees will

be placed in an attitude somewhat different than that of guardians towards minors, and their appointments will be made only upon the petitions of the majority of the Indians who may desire them.

Information is also received to the effect that the Indian bureau at Washington is even more unpopular with Congress than it was during the Valentine administration. Whether this is due to the lack of administrative ability on the part of Commissioner Sells, or that he has simply allowed himself to be led into the old rut by some of the subordinates of the office, we are unable to state, but it is charged that one or the other of these two things is the cause of his failure to improve conditions among the Indians. In this connection the question naturally suggests itself, is Acting Commissioner Merritt deceiving Commissioner Sells, or is he unable to control the ring in the Indian service?

Mr. Merritt made a statement to the publisher of THE TOMAHAWK two years ago, relative to Supt. Howard, which leads us to believe that he has been unable to control conditions here, and possibly at all the other reservations from which the Indian office has received complaints, and, therefore, the burden is placed upon Commissioner Sells for not correcting the causes which have made his administration unpopular, not only with Congress, if our information is true, but likewise with the Indians of the country.

If the Indians upon the various reservations throughout the country, who have been complaining about the superintendents upon their reservations, have as much cause for complaint as those upon this reservation, it would be far better if the Indian office were abolished than that the causes of complaint should continue to exist.

Not only will the Sioux of South Dakota watch anxiously the efforts of Senator Johnson and Representative Gandy to secure the passage of the Right of Nomination Bill, but all the Indians throughout the country will do likewise.

Daniels Plays His Last Card.

Shades of the Solemn and Lonesome Pines! Where Indian treaties were negotiated for the purpose of violation and spoliation. Now in this year of 1916, the same gang, reincarnated, that broke treaties for spoils, raised the question of the validity and constitutionality of the Clapp Law. Like Alexander of old they weep because their fields of conquest are vanishing with the Pines and because now the site of their former operations are changing into fertile fields and cottage homes and they are not wanted and don't derive so much spoils, but some others get a little benefit, they wash their hands like Pilate of old and feign that they have twinges of conscience over the Indians' treatment, but it is hard for this gang to fool the people now that are awake. This same gang of spoilers are of the same links in a crooked system and there has been no change in the least, but only a clumsy attempt to disguise their wolfish apparel. Now they want to shed their responsibility like a rattlesnake creeping out of its skin. Can they do it? A thousand times NO.—Mahnomem Free Press.

Secretary Lane May Be Appointed Supreme Court Justice.

Secretary Lane has been mentioned by the public press as the probable successor of Justice Lamar of the Supreme Court of the United States who died recently. No better appointment could be made for United States Supreme Court Justice than Secretary Lane, and we believe we voice the sentiments of the Indians of the country when we say we hope he will receive the appointment although for selfish motives they would probably prefer to have him remain as secretary of the interior as he has made a remarkably good official in behalf of Indian interests.

The Minneapolis Tribune of last Friday suggests the name of Ex-President Taft as the successor to Justice Lamar, and states that the country would be pleased with his appointment. The country repudiated Mr. Taft for president in uncertain terms, and why should his appointment as Supreme Court Justice now please it? It is not believed it would.

A Bill

Creating a commission to enroll the Indians into two classes, and for other purposes.

(Continued from last issue.) Politically speaking, when we

refer to status, Indians can only be, either, citizens or not citizens. If they are citizens their status is fixed by the Constitution of the United States. There can be no dispute or question as to their rights, privileges and immunities as such citizens. It is only when the Indians are not citizens of the United States or as the courts have it "are domestic subjects," that any question arises or confusion prevails in reference to their status or when, as the platform of the Society of American Indians declares, "the Indian has no definite or assured status in the Nation, does not know who he is and what his duties or privileges are."

The general allotment act of February 8, 1887, by Section six thereof, accorded citizenship to the allottees and Indians adopting civilized life in the following language:

"That upon the completion of said allotments and the patenting of the lands to said allottees, each and every member of the respective bands or tribes of Indians to whom allotments have been made shall have the benefit of and be subject to the laws, both civil and criminal, of the State or Territory in which they may reside; and no Territory shall pass or enforce any law denying any such Indian within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law. And every Indian born within the territorial limits of the United States to whom allotments shall have been made under the provisions of this act, or under any law or treaty, and every Indian both within the territorial limits of the United

States who has voluntarily taken up, within said limits, his residence separate and apart from any tribe or Indians therein, and has adopted the habits of civilized life, and every Indian in Indian Territory is hereby declared to be a citizen of the United States, and is entitled to all the rights; privileges, and immunities of such citizens, whether said Indian has been or not, by birth or otherwise, a member of any tribe of Indians within the territorial limits of the United States without in any manner impairing or otherwise affecting the right of any such Indian to tribal or other property. (24 Stat. L. 390)."

Under this act as originally passed, the lands and reservations of a great many of the Indian tribes of the United States were allotted to the members thereof and made citizens.

But by the act of May 8, 1906, the above section was amended so as to defer citizenship to the end of the trust period in the following language:

Sec. 6. That at the expiration of the trust period and when the lands have been conveyed to the Indians by patent in fee, as provided in section five of this act, then each and every allottee shall have the benefit of and be subject to the laws, both civil and criminal, of the State or Territory in which they may reside; and no Territory shall pass or enforce any law denying any such Indian within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law. And every Indian born within the territorial

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