

HEALTH NEWS.

Dr. Polk Richards, special field physician, with his family and Mrs. Mabel S. Parker, nurse, have been with us for a couple of weeks. It has been a little over two years since the doctor's previous visit, and he states he finds the trachoma situation to have shown greater improvement at Red Lake than at any other point in this district. We are always glad to have such favorable comment, and to have Dr. Richards with us at any time.

Louisa Sumner, the 9 year old daughter of Keniew Sumner has been at the University Hospital at Minneapolis the last ten days undergoing treatment for a very unusual throat condition. She has been a sufferer from this malady for several years and it is hoped that a few more week's treatment will greatly benefit her.

Katie Sumner, an older sister of the above, has been on the sick list for about ten days, and is slowly improving.

Jerry Littlecreek, one of the familiar figures on the highway between the Agency and Redby has been confined to his bed for nearly a month. Jerry's condition has been serious for a long time.

George King is convalescing after an attack of pneumonia, and we hope to see him up and around again soon.

Miss Jennie King is one of the latest arrivals at Red Lake, having arrived on the 29th ult. She expects to reside with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis King for about 18 years.

Mr. Nat Head, Agency Forester, is all smiles over the arrival of another son.

Quite a few children have been having the grip lately. Among those afflicted have been Susan, Rose and Irene Defoe, Bob Spears, Torchy Dickens, Margaret English, and a few grownups.

COMPETENCY.

When is an Indian competent? This is a question which must be often asked and to which some answer must be furnished in connection with the administration of the affairs of each Indian.

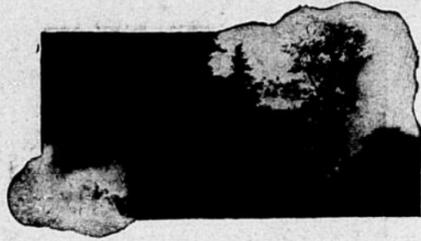
We venture an answer here:

An Indian is competent just as a white man is, when he can "mind his own business" with profit to himself and the community in which he lives.

Now, you will be asking about how this condition can be recognized, and the Scout will suggest that plain common sense teaches that if you want to know a person, you must get acquainted with him.

It is up to the Indian to show his competency. It is the duty of those administering Indian affairs to discover and respect competency whenever it exists, and as far as possible to cultivate and develop this condition where it does not exist, or is found only in small measure.

As stated before, an Indian shows his competency about as a white man does, and here are a few rules which apply, regardless of the degree of Indian blood, and which will fit white or red, black or yellow, equally well. A person who is competent will be



making a reasonable effort to:

1. Work.
2. Pay his debts.
3. Provide for his family.
4. Send his children to school.
5. Improve his home.
6. Avoid the credit business.
7. Keep his land.
8. Let booze alone.
9. Care for his property.
10. Have a good character.
11. Such a man will live at his own home and tend to his own business.

Here are a few points against competency.

A person who is not competent:

1. Talks big and works little.
2. Spends lots of time traveling around, to no purpose.
3. Sponges his living from his friends.
4. Knows just what the commissioner ought to do.
5. Drinks booze and smokes cigarettes.
6. Thinks he has been unjustly denied a great many rights, etc.
7. Wants to sell his land without good reason.
8. Does not want any advice from the Government as long as his money lasts.
9. Thinks the Government ought to protect him and get his money back whenever he makes a mistake.
10. Etc., Etc.

It is a pretty good general rule that the fellow who makes a big noise about his competency, hasn't any.

When a fellow comes home from a hunt in the mountains, full of big talk about the big bears he's killed, it might help his story along a little to show the bear skins. A few good hides will talk louder than a week's wind-jamming. So it is with competency, if you deliver the goods, it won't take much talk to fix up matters.—*The Indian Scout, Shawnee, (Okla.)*

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