

**THE FOLLOWING IS A CONDENSED SUMMARY OF THE EXTEMPORANEOUS ADDRESS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CATO SELLS ON THE LAST DAY (RETURNED STUDENTS' DAY) OF THE CONFERENCE RECENTLY HELD AT SAN FRANCISCO.**

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to be discouraged. It is my information that in practically all of the non-reservation boarding schools there are Indian boys and girls who have been transported at Government expense long distances from their homes, passing other schools more accessible and having as good facilities this condition is ordinarily inexcusable, and should not continue. It makes a large and unnecessary expense for transportation, encourages unrest, has a demoralizing influence on the student body in many instances places pupils in schools wholly foreign to their after life residence, limits desirable acquaintance with those with whom they will mingle thereafter, and in an industrially way, particularly agricultural, gives but little opportunity for acquiring knowledge of conditions prevailing in their respective home localities. Another important factor is that the nomadic student acquires no lasting interest in the institution where he attends school; he is thus robbed of that beautiful relationship which should maintain, and ought to engender a life-long pride in the school where he received his education.

No industrial Indian boarding school should buy its butter, eggs, chickens, fruit or vegetables. No Indian reservation with farm facilities should purchase hay and feed for the horses and school dairy herd, or beef and flour for school, agency and issue purposes. How can we expect a boy or girl to learn industrial efficiency when he has been educated at a non-reservation or reservation boarding school where the methods if adopted in private business would promptly lead to bankruptcy? During the last two years we have industriously undertaken to work out a program which will make such things impossible in the future.

It is indefensible for an Indian school or reservation to purchase anything, soil and climate considered, that can be produced. It is of the highest importance that the Indian boy and girl be made to realize and fully understand the importance of economy, production of self-support. They should have a continuous object lesson justifying the expenditure for their education.

The time must come quickly when the Indians are producers rather than altogether consumers. In this connection it is gratifying to announce that our agricultural and stock-raising efforts are meeting with general and splendid success. The Indians on numerous reservations are demonstrating their capacity for stock raising; they are increasing their crop acreage rapidly, as indicated by the fact that this year they used several times as much seed as during any previous year, and that their cattle, horses, and sheep are being upbred, increased, and cared for in a business-like and profitable manner.

I firmly believe that if the industrial progress of the last two years is continued for ten years, our Indians will be practically self-supporting, with correspondingly reduced Congressional appropriations.

The use of the term "surplus land" as applied to Indian reservations sometimes makes me impatient. It too often means that the lands remaining after the Indians of a tribe have been allotted shall be separ-

ated from them without sufficiently taking into consideration the fact that many times such allotments are wholly unfit for agricultural purposes, or insufficient to insure a subsistence when no additional provision is made for grazing and stockraising opportunities. I know of many allotments, depending entirely upon which, an Indian family would starve to death, and where no white family could be induced to attempt to make a living, and yet under these circumstances an unsuccessful Indian farmer is apt to be declared a failure. There are thousands of acres of land on Indian reservations where one hundred acres would not feed a rabbit. I suggest that hereafter we photograph the "Painted desert" more frequently and less often the small alfalfa patch on a great reservation. We should at least tell the whole truth. It is prejudicial to the Indian to emphasize the small part of their possessions that are productive and withhold from the public the very large unproductive portion. In this wise it becomes wrongfully understood that they have vast and valuable possessions unused by them which should be otherwise utilized.

A few words on the moral side of our service. Every employee in the Indian Service should be a constant object lesson of sobriety that the Indian may by comparison understand the demoralizing and disastrous effects of the use of intoxicants, by whatever name they are known. After I addressed my letter to the employees of the Indian Bureau pronouncing liquor the greatest menace to the American Indian, I received a communication from the Honorable Joseph H. Choate, warmly commending the sentiment, and saying—"You are absolutely right in your position, that if we can save the American Indian from the curse of whiskey, we can save him from pretty much all the other ills that threaten him." No better proof of the evils attending the use of liquor can be given than to cite the attitude of the present War Lords of the Old World. Liquor is the instrument commonly used by the unscrupulous who reach out to get the Red Man. Every effort within the power of all the employees in the Indian Service should be made to save the Indian from the curse of the liquor traffic.

I have never announced a policy, but if I were to declare one today it would be in these few words; in dealing with Indians and Indian problems, under like conditions,

treat all questions practically the same as if white people alone were involved.

Sometimes it occurs to be that I take my job too seriously, but after all do you think it possible to take too seriously responsibility involving the health, education, property, and in some measure, the destiny of a human race? The Indian Office deals with a people numbering approximately 325,000 souls. We have virtually a Government within a Government. Our Bureau deals with every social, educational, economic and contractual relationship. It has some feature of nearly every other bureau or Department in Washington. It is original in its operation, constructive in its action, and frequently without precedent. A Commissioner of Indian Affairs might to advantage be a lawyer, doctor, teacher, farmer, stockman, lumberman, oil expert and mining Engineer—have practically all of the equipment within the range of human affairs. There is no phase of life upon which he does not have to act practically every day. In addition to his activities in connection with the life of the Indians, he has to deal with the varied relationships of almost six thousand employees, and there are numerous perplexing and constantly arising conditions which require courage and faithful, unbending adherence to duty.

In closing let me say that I believe the employees of the Indian Service as a whole are the most capable of all employees of the Government Service, and that their average compensation is not in proportion to their worth and accomplishments. In the performance of my duties as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I have had no greater satisfaction than my association in the office and the field with those devoted employees who in many instances are making sacrifices and who are rendering the most faithful and efficient service.

My pilgrimage across the continent to meet you in this splendid conference is not only to express to you something of my views on Indian administration, but that we may consult with one another; strengthen our appreciation of duty to the Indian race, and so execute our respective responsibilities as to insure enlargement of vision to the end and that the white and red race, shall, through our efforts, become more and more integral parts of our civilization, and together march side by side in peace, prosperity and happiness.

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