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# RED LAKE NEWS

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## COMMISSIONER SELLS AND HIS REPORT

The annual report of Commissioner Sells covering the fiscal year 1917, has recently been given to the public. It is a straightforward, forceful and convincing story about the noteworthy progress of a race whose interest the Commissioner has labored for more than four years with tireless energy coupled with boundless enthusiasm and optimism. It cannot be said that one portion of this report is stronger than another but there are many summaries and climaxes that review and emphasize the subjects treated in such masterly fashion that one gets a clear conception of the philosophy of the author from studying them alone.

Discussing his well known "Declaration of Policy" the following comments are made:

A careful study of the practical effects of governmental policies for determining the wardship of the Indians of this country is convincing that the solution is individual and not collective. Each individual must be considered in the light of his own environment and capacity for larger responsibilities and privileges.

While ethnologically a preponderance of white blood has not heretofore been a criteron of competency, nor even now is it always a safe standard, it is almost an axiom that an Indian who has a larger proportion of white blood than Indian partakes more of the characteristics of the former than of the latter. In thought and action, so far as the business world is concerned, he approximates more closely to the white blood ancestry.

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The cardinal principle of this declaration revolves around this central thought—that an Indian who is as competent as an an ordinary white man to transact the ordinary affairs of life should be given untrammeled control of his property and assured his personal rights in every particular so that he may have the opportunity of working out his own destiny. The practical application of this principle will relieve from the guardianship of the Government a very large number of Indians who are qualified to mingle on a plane of business equality with the white people. It will also begin the reduction of expenditures, and afford a better opportunity for closer attention to those who will need our protecting care for some years longer.

A vitally important result also will be obtained in placing a true ideal before those Indians remaining under guardianship. It will be a strong motive for endeavoring to reach the goal of competency, and prove a material incentive to a sincere effort for that end.

Relative to the patriotism of the Indian and the part he is taking in the strife in which most of the civilized, great nations are engaged, Mr. Sells has this to say:

The growing attitude of the Indian toward the world war is a credit to his race. A well-nigh limitless devastation and conflict is bringing to him its profound lesson that the highest authority and best social welfare must spring from a free and self-governing people. This awakening is especially noticeable among the younger generation, largely the product of our Iidian schools, who are quick to catch the spirit of a new era. Reports on file indicate that a large number of voluntary enlistments have been made in the Army, Navy and National Guard, or in some branch of the Military Establishment, by Indian students and ex-students alone. Many of the schools report 20 to 30, some from 40 to 50 enlistments. Among them is represented practically every tribe. Several enlisted for the aviation service and some were admitted to officers' training camps. A former student at the Carlisle School, Ernest Kick, was among the early accessions to the Princess Patrica Regiment of Canada and gave his life in the trenches of France. Sylvester Long Lance, a graduate of that school, is a lieutenant in the same regiment and received wounds in valorous action. Requests were repeatedly made for permission to form exclusively Indian organizations which, under the regulation of the War Department, could not be encouraged as proposed, but were significant of the loyal and active interest among the Indians.

I am deeply impressed by all that has come from the Indian's serious heart and mind in this time of incomprehensible strife and am sure that among the compensations that must follow will be his clearer vision of what constitutes well-organized society.

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In view of the limited resources of great numbers of the Indians, ranging from near destitution to such conditions as yield a fair support but admit of no savings, the subscriptions reported and the expressions of attachment to the principles and institutions of the Government coming to me from every reservation eloquently attest the growth of Indian thought and sentiment along lines pertaining to the general welfare.

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I venture here to digress for the expression of a conviction that has been with me since boyhood to emphasize another feature of the Liberty Loan Bond purchase, which I am persuaded will be of lasting benefit not only to the Indians but the entire population of our country.

It is the business side, the money saving habit. To my mind, the best barometer of a young man's future may be found in his disposition to accumulate. The Indian or white youth who has established a savings-bank account is apt to have a good character. Ordinarily he will be anxious to increase his deposit, and if so will make an effort to create and sustain such a reputation as will invite promotion. He will save rather than spend his earnings foolishly. The manliness of his attitudes and the inspiration from accomplishment

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## FEDERAL OFFICERS GET $10,000 WORTH OF BOOZE

### Raid Conducted Near Muskogee the Most Fruitful in the History of the Indian Office Liquor Suppression Service.

MUSKOGEE—A supply of whiskey valued at $10,000, based on the present retail price in Oklahoma at $8 a quart, was confiscated by federal officers here Saturday morning. It was found in an ore car on the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf a few miles east of Muskogee.

The chief of the Indian Office liquor enforcement service was in the party of officers who made the raid. It is declared to have been the most successful in the history of the Indian Office liquor suppression operations. Five of the train crew were placed under arrest. The whiskey was concealed in gunny sacks.—Tulsa (Okla.) Democrat.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

A grand entertainment will be staged at St. Mary's School (Boys' Building) for the benefit of Red Cross work, Thursday, February 7th, at 7:45 P. M. Admission, adults 25c, children 1[illegible].

## RED CROSS NOTES

The Red Cross Branch met with Mrs. Omar Gravelle last week. Refreshments were served and those present enjoyed a pleasant evening. Mrs. Carrie McDougall took the first prize for knitting the most stitches in a given length of time. Miss Edith Boobar took second and Mrs. K[illegible] [illegible] the least number.

Seven sweaters and one pair of wristlets have been sent with the last shipment made by the Chapter and a number will be turned in this week.

## HOSPITAL ITEMS

Virginia Lyons, who has been a patient at the hospital for two weeks, has returned to her home at Bena, Minn.

James Fallsfeather of Bena, Minn., is a new patient since Monday.

Miss Susie St. Martin, our assistant nurse, [illegible] in St. Paul taking the Minnesota State Board e[illegible]amination for nurses.

Our annual supply of the staple foods has come almost all in one shipment, and our larder is well supplied.

One month ago we contributed Dr. Elliott to our country's cause. A few months prior, Dr. Favour and Dr. Neal were taken. And we are justly proud of them all. Now comes Miss Mabel Bright, nurse here when the hospital first opened, and for the last two years Field Nurse with Dr. Culp. Miss Bright is leaving the 31st for Jefferson Barracks, Mo., where she will nurse in an army hospital. One who has been as highly satisfactory as she, in every detail, cannot fail in her new work, and the best wishes of thousands of Indians and employees whom she has served go with her. It is understood that her successor has been appointed, but at the time of going to press we have not learned the name.

Dr. E. C. Linton, who was stationed at Cross Lake for over three years, and later a commissioned officer in the regular army, has recently been honorably discharged for physical disability. That seems strange, for the only time we ever saw him disabled was after a chicken dinner. We understand he has been reinstated in the service at Lac du Flambeau, Wis.

Mrs. Ch[illegible] [illegible] of the North[illegible] Angle, who has been with us for ten days, is almost ready to go home.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mason of Redby are entertaining Miss Clementina Mason who arrived on the 27th from "Somewhere in France." Miss Mason weighs 10 pounds, has a strong pair of lungs, and expects to remain with her parents for about 18 years.

It is a matter of sincere regret to note that some parents and guardians are averse to sending children to the Sanatorium at Toledo, Iowa. No particular or good reason exists for this failure, and particularly when the prospective patients are in the very early stages of tuberculosis. We know from a personal visit covering nearly a month at Toledo, that there is no better place for such patients. Every Red Laker knows how much good Paul and Frank Sayers, Louis Stately and Jacob Beaulieu derived from a comparatively short stay there. There are hundreds of sanatoria throughout the country which are duplicating the work of Toledo, but that happens to be one of the very few to which Indians can be admitted without expense and practically without effort. White people not only grasp at such opportunities, but connive in dark and mysterious ways to misrepresent facts to aid them in getting in where they have no legal right. Quite recently we refused admittance to a white man, whose sole claim of right to enter was based on the fact that he had once been married to an Indian woman! He got in just like he always drew annuities, received allotment or other rights belonging to Indians only. Toledo does not offer hope to hopeless cases, nor is it anxious to receive them. The same is true of every other institution of that nature. The sending of a hopeless case to such a place always fills unjustly the place of some one who would otherwise be benefitted. Moreover, Toledo practically always is full, and to get in one should try to get in "while the getting is good."

**William Isham, who was one of the estimating crew on the reservation last winter, under Mark L. Burns, Lumberman, has taken up the work of Forest Ranger at Red Lake.**

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