



No Work, No Eat.

In the old days, we are told, during the winter a number of Indian families would camp at some selected place. The men would hunt for game or fish through the ice. The women did the work about the camps. Every one spent a good deal of time in idleness and there was much gambling. And so the winter passed.

Times have changed. Indians can no longer live by hunting. If they are going to survive they must make up their minds to change from the old customs. Each adult Indian here, now has his own tract of land, and by his own efforts he can produce a living for himself and his family from the land. He can do this, but some do not.

The old customs are being followed, in a little different way, by too many of the Indians of this reservation. Instead of working during the summer, and raising corn, potatoes, and other vegetables for themselves for winter use, as well as hay and grain for their horses, and to sell, they spend their time during the summer months wandering about, dancing, and in idleness. When winter comes they have nothing to eat, no feed for their horses, and no home. Then they find some Indian who is receiving a little money each month from the sale of a tract of land, or from rentals. They move into the house of this person, often an old woman, without being invited, and expect to be fed, housed and supported from

the other Indian's money. And following the old-time customs, the person who owns the house does not kick them out, like he ought to do, but divides what little he has as long as it lasts.

Now do not misunderstand. It is perfectly all right, necessary and proper to care for the old, the sick and the helpless. But such are not the ones we refer to. You all know the kind we mean. We mean the able-bodied, strong and lazy fellows who will not work to support themselves nor their families, but expect others who are energetic enough to raise a crop, or who have a little money, to feed and care for these lazy ones. There is nothing right about that.

The sooner the Indians make the healthy man who does not work for his living go hungry, until he is willing to do something, the better it will be for everybody. Don't let this sort of people impose on you. Put them out. Let them rustle. No work, no eat. Your own family needs your support and help.

Work is not scarce. Good wages are offered at the lumber camps on this reservation. Railroads want all sorts of laborers. There is work on the ranches at good wages. The lack is not in work. It is in those Indians who are not willing to stretch their muscles when offered work at good pay, but who want to lie right down beside a steady job and go to sleep.

—Flathead Indian Progress.

"Wait! Don't Eat that Slice of Bread, Have Another Potato Instead."