

WASSAJA



FREEDOM'S SIGNAL FOR THE INDIANS

Vol. 1, No. 10

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ON THE STAGE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER of Indian Affairs addressing his Indian Service employees:

"Who says 'Freedom for the Indians?'"

A BOLD GLADIATOR,

employee in the U. S. Indian Department (stepping to the front and bowing to His Majesty):

"Not I for I work in the Indian Service. I got my job under Civil Service. Not I,—not I,—not I, my Lord!"

A VETERAN FEMALE,

employee in the Indian Service, testifies from her heart:

"Oh, how I love to work for the Indians. I could live and die doing what the Indian ought to do."

ONE ROYAL STAUNCH EMPLOYEE walks to the front, calmly, and speaks for his comrades:

"All these requirements of our Master we faithfully obey; we shut our mouths, see nothing, and get our pay."

ANOTHER EMPLOYEE OF THE GENTLER SEX

seconds the sister who has just spoken, in this tone:

"Oh, it is so fascinating to work in the Indian Service; there we must just cross our hearts, be good and obey."

SUPERVISOR OF INDIAN SCHOOLS suddenly rises to his feet and says:

"Do not mention public schools to the Indians; see where we would be!"

A COMICAL CLERK

in the Indian Office speaks out:

"Eleven millions of dollars! Yum, yum! Does that not show the U. S. loves us und Injuns?" (Wave of audible smiles.)

A POLITICALLY APPOINTED EMPLOYEE

in the Indian Service is inspired to add:

"No, never make the Indians independent. Don't you see, we'll be out of jobs? We are not in the Service for glory."

THE HON. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

with pious (?) emotion, warns his faithful ones thus:

"Be mum on their freedom. They would fly away from our control. If you want to do anything, clip their wings. Make them abnormal, for it is by them we make our doe."

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

gets in his lick:

"Silence on the Indians' freedom; lest Congress hear you. Don't let God hear you either. Should either hear, surely the Indians will be freed—and alas for us!"

ANOTHER FAR-SEEING EMPLOYEE speaks up:

"And so will we be—of our jobs." (Here they intoxicatedly and spontaneously jibe in, singing:)

"And so will we be, of our doe, ha ha! ha ha! No such thing shall it be, ha ha! ha ha!"

Let us be good fellows, hang together to-night, ha ha! ha ha!

It is the doe, doe, and not Lo, Lo,—ha ha! ha ha!"

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THE GRAND COMMISSIONER

of Indian Affairs calms the uneasy crowd of his faithful ones and spiels to them in this wise:

"My beloved and loyal workers, keep moving. Show the public that you are doing something. You will take notice that I am doing my part of drumming. I have issued circulars (because I love the Indians so) on farming, on liquor, on tracoma, and last and not least, on babies. Hit on the high places, you know, but not on freedom for the Indians.

"Our duty is to keep our position and not to do away with them. We owe nothing to the Indians. Our obligations are to those who will give us the most.

"Speak of everything else like I do, but do not speak of freeing the Indians from my Office (Indian Office)." (Tears rolling down his cheek.) "It will mean that we must look for another job. It is a bunco game,—let us play it well."

(Bravo! Bravo! and clapping of hands follow these closing words of their Boss.)

VOICES FROM THE AUDIENCE:

(Composed of members of organizations to aid the Indians, and officers of S. A. I.)

"Oh, bless his soul! Don't you see he is doing more than his predecessors for the Indians?" (Same old "chestnut" for every Commissioner who took the job of Greasing the Indian Machine.)

Here the

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS

come strolling in with bows and nice words,—joining the assembly. One and all sing their lungs out to keep the Indians still in bondage, from a typical Indian — Music hymn composed by a Caucasian Indian Service employee—distinctly Indian, you see — entitled: "PRAISE CONGRESS FROM WHOM OUR APPROPRIATIONS FLOW." The members of the gathering then disperse, patting each other on the back and congratulating each other on such an interesting and enthusiastic meeting to keep the Indian under "OUR CONTROL."

WASSAJA HAS ONE OBJECT

WASSAJA'S heart, soul and spirit is

Freedom for the Indians from the Indian Bureau System. To do the most good for his race, he sees nothing else but Freedom first. Through the Indian Bureau System we Indians have degenerated, become helpless and outcasts before the world.

Review of the Winter Number of the American Indian Magazine by Junius [a restricted Bureau-governed Indian but not a Bureau-educated Indian].

GENERAL

Too much Editor-in-Chief—heap smooth-tongue, heap tears, heap hope, heap fine, goody Indian Bureau.

Why is it that the other "editors" never edit? Are they perhaps in favor of abolishing the Indian Bureau?

PARTICULAR

The leading article "Race Assimilation" is a choice selection of wide generalization (not always true), meaningless conclusions, bad reasoning. It is an ebullition of the Census-enumerator type, characterized by a lot of pretended philosophy, as senseless as it is shallow. The article is well-meant, no doubt.

Towards the end of an enumeration of Bureaus and Commissions, there occurs this phrase: "Sobering down." After a perusal of the preceding pure product of cranial vacuity, we might change this to read: "Sobering up"—at least that's the phrase they use the morning after.

Considerable Coolidge abounds. Why so much numskull? What has he done for his race? Not as much as his race for him? Is he friend of the Bureau?

The finest piece in the whole issue is the kindly reference to General Pratt. We are with you there, but are you with him? Do you believe in freeing the Indians? Are you for General Pratt and a continuation of the present system? I do not know if such a thing is possible.

SLEDGE HAMMER TAPS

(By Junius)

If the Indian Bureau is doing harm to Indians, those working with the Bureau are doing harm to Indians.

The Bureau has a regular Press sub-Bureau, it seems. About every week, there is some new praise-myself document sent to all newspaper editors of the country and a

nice little boost for the Indian Bureau is the result in many cases.

Many noble Indians have protested against the Bureau and how puny those Indians supporting it look ranged longside of an Eastman, a Chief Standing Bear, a Dennison Wheelock, a Hiram Chase, a Montezuma with hundreds of others.

Did anybody ever hear the likes of the faint squeak of some Indians in the Bureau: "We do want the Bureau abolished, but not this instant." Oh my, pat my wrist!!

INFORMATION

To get right views on Indian Affairs, for the best interest of the Indians, keep away from the Indian Bureau, now known as Indian Office.

INDIAN TREATIES ARE BINDING

The Treaties made with the Indian do not say that when the Indians become citizens the Treaties will no longer stand good. So, Indians, do not sign your Treaty obligations away by signing your name on paper which will sever Treaty obligations due to you from the United States Government. Do not make fatal mistakes as did our fore-fathers. Cross marks have made us pay dearly. Let us Indians grow wiser and know first what we are signing for.

LOSE AND LEARN

The other day a poor Indian family were robbed of their trunk which contained all their belongings, and robbed of their money two days later.

One would have thought that the pale-faces would not steal from poor Indians. But being poor, innocent and unsophisticated does not make one immune from being robbed and taken advantage of.

The Indian Bureau has created overgrown, child-like beings out of the once splendid physique and mentality of the Indian; blunted the development of his fertile faculties by the inhumane system of the Bureau.

This short-coming of the Indian is not innocency. It is just exactly the result you will get after caging up anyone for years and years, segregated from the world of traffic, whether he be Indian or no Indian. And yet they tell us that the Indian Bureau is preparing the Indians for the scoundrel. That is about it, and they do not want it INSTANTLY abolished. Oh, such rot!

WASSAJA sighs and thinks and thinks on this stage which all must pass through, Indians not excepted, in order to become world-wise. All we can say is: Indians, it is within yourselves, face the world and

learn by personal experiences. They are not to weaken you, but to make you stronger in the strife of life. Put on the whole armor of God and equip yourselves like men for the fray that will make you men and women.

INDIAN BUREAU AND GOVERNMENT

It is so strange that many Indians are taught to think that when they go against the Indian Bureau they are disloyal to the government. They do not know that by upholding the Indian Bureau they are disloyal to the United States Government. Why? Because the Indian Bureau is founded on a wrong basis. To encourage your government to wrong the Indian race or any other race, is a wrong principle; and no good citizen should thrust upon his government a wrong principle; and that is the reason the Indian would be disloyal to the government in encouraging the bondage system upon their race.

The Indian Bureau and the Government are two different things.

"THE NEW INDIAN UPRISING."

All Indian uprisings have always been stirred up by the marauding pale-faces. Sure enough, this new Indian uprising is being headed by a pale-face woman who has watched and studied the ebb and flow of the tides of Indian matters for half a century.

The subject of her talk is timely and unique. She is qualified to stir up all that is good for the Indians. That is the real meaning of the phrase.

Miss Burgess is the best helper that the Society of American Indians can get to steer them in the right direction to be the most useful for the Indians. WASSAJA will stand by her for we know what she is and that what she will do will be for the best interest of the Indians. She is genuine and we Indians can depend upon her.

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN INDIANS

S. A. I. is all right but the officers are all wrong. S. A. I. has good ideals for the Indians, but any good ideals can be killed by officers who have wrong notions of doing the best thing for the Indians.

WASSAJA most emphatically must say that the present officers are not for the best interest of the Indians, because their environment does not permit them to take right views on the welfare of their race. They have turned their ears, shut their eyes and ignored the path of freedom for their enslaved race.

INDIAN SHIP

The Society of American Indians with its so-called Indian Magazine is like unto a

ship which is moving in a wrong direction. The ship is not at fault. What is the matter? The captain and the crew are steering it in the wrong direction or not steering it at all.

Howling as a dog howls at the moon, for "Indian Day" may bring them out at the right port!

From "The Redman" Dec. 1899

I urge that in all legislation and all departmental management the home and the tribal school be constantly minimized until eliminated, and that the non-reservation, especially the most remote and best situated with reference to association with our own people, be enlarged and increased, and that it be made the special duty of all Indian Schools to forward their pupils into the public schools, with a full purpose of thus ending all necessity for any Indian Schools. Experience shows that this is by far the quickest and best way to educate Indians. It is also the cheapest, and it is the only way to secure that experience which is absolutely necessary to make the Indian competent to meet and compete in civilized life. I repeat what I have often said before, that I do not know of a single Indian capable of meeting the duties of our civilization who did not acquire that quality away from the tribe. A celebrated treasurer of the United States said: "The way to resume is to resume." Using the same simile, I say, the way to break up tribalism is to BREAK IT UP. This may, and no doubt will, interfere with the plans of ethnologists, but it will help the Indian out of the consumer into the producer class, and bring the end of an appropriation of seven to eight millions annually for his support.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. PRATT,
Major 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Carlisle, Penna.

November 1st, 1899.

Eighteen years has elapsed and the Indian Schools are no nearer what Gen. Pratt alluded to, but rather the Indian Schools are enlarging, growing stronger and preparing to exist forever. WASSAJA.

BUFFALO BILL

Col. Wm. F. Cody—"Buffalo Bill"—is dead,—wild life of the West is hushed! He was a friend of the Indians, and again in a higher sense, he was not; just as there are friends and friends of the Indians, so was "Buffalo Bill" one of them.

He has been a great character. As a man he acted well as a representative of the real "Buffalo Bill." He won fame,

Mr. Cody and WASSAJA started out

from Chicago with "Texas Jack" and Ned Bunton in the winter of 1872. So you see we are old friends, but WASSAJA never approved his friend's method of showing off the Indian race, off-setting the progress the Indians have made and implanting the wrong idea in the minds of the public—that an Indian was a savage and that was all.

As an old friend, WASSAJA mourns and extends sympathy to the bereaved.

TATTLE-TALE

The Sept. issue of the Indian Magazine is prolific in the use of italic type when speaking for the Indian Bureau, but it is not to be seen in passages where the Indian Bureau is getting it in the head. This shows that he who runs the Indian Magazine is for the Indian Bureau or that (ear-mark) would not be found in the magazine.

Lest WASSAJA be mistaken, look for yourself. Does it use italics where it is against the Indian Bureau? Not on your life, and yet the Indians pay for having this magazine printed.

While we are on the subject of the Indian Magazine, we would advise the Editor General that in all periodicals of good standing, when publishing extemporaneous remarks or sayings in discussions, it is courteous and proper to have the parties concerned correct the copies of their remarks before the final printing. This vital and important ethic has been overlooked in the supposed Indian Magazine's publication of the remarks of those who attended the last Conference of the S. A. I. at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The result has favored the Indian Bureau and the Indian (?) Magazine. There was only one object in doing this, and it hit. It had the desired effect upon the readers: that it was printing illiterate and ignorant Indians' remarks.

By so doing, the man-behind the Pseudo-Indian Magazine deserves a blessing and reward from the Indian Office. No doubt a position is waiting for him.

THREAD OF 6000 EMPLOYEES

The Indian Bureau is hanging by a thread of 6000 employees, interwoven with whom are Indian employees. Indians have always been used by the Government to destroy other Indians, and it is the same old story here.

If Indians in the Indian Service were loyal to their race, they would all scramble out and stampede for all they are worth, and apply themselves in other lines outside of the Indian Service, and cry out Freedom for their race.