

# WASSAJA



FREEDOM'S SIGNAL FOR THE INDIANS

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## WASSAJA'S APPEAL.

Please remember that WASSAJA is not a money making enterprise, and that it is published at a loss in order to accomplish its object of freeing the Indians from bondage, wardship and injustices as men. As the Indian would say: "You give, you no talk."

If you are loyal to your race and if you are a true friend of the Indians, then your contributions and subscriptions are solicited. WASSAJA is not to amuse and please; we are serious and rightdown in business and right down in earnest. We are keeping our eyes singled to the object which we see ahead—FREEDOM FOR THE INDIANS.

We cannot endure to see the Indian Office handicap the Indians and then try to make the Indians believe they are all right. We Indians have been fooled for fifty years, but we cannot be fooled now.

There is where WASSAJA stands, and we want help to campaign the cause and money for mailing and printing.

## WHAT WASSAJA BELIEVES.

WASSAJA does not entertain the idea that there are no honest employes

in the Indian Service. That is the trouble: the honest ones dare not say anything. If they said anything, they would tell the truth.

Truth, justice and honesty have only one road to travel; they cannot be side-tracked. We are pleading in the name of justice for Indian Freedom. Is that wrong?

## PREJUDICED.

Of course a prejudiced feeling is not the reason a fellow jumps several inches from the ground, shivers and nearly faints when suddenly told "There is an Indian!" and when upon recovering he gasps, "Where?"

WASSAJA is often stared at in wondering bewilderment by those who do not believe an Indian can get along in the world without the aid and support of the Indian Office. More than once he has been asked the question, "Do you practice among Indians in Chicago?"

My fellow brothers in red, do not permit the Indian Office to take care of you and your business. Take care of yourself, face prejudice, brush aside great obstacles. Go ahead and fear not. No one can take your place. Go ahead, look out for yourself and personal interests.

## "WASSAJA"

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### FEAR RULES THE INDIANS.

There is a good reason why you do not hear from the reservation Indians on Freedom. THEY ARE AFRAID to open their mouths. They are afraid of Washington (Indian Office), Superintendent, the government employes, Indian policemen and Indian judges.

Fifty years of slavery makes subjects cowards and worthless. That is the picture of the Reservation Indians. The other day WASSAJA received a letter from some old Pima Indians in the Salt River Valley, Arizona, stating that they tried to stand up for their rights about not giving up their land, and the jail was made use of to subdue them.

The task-master (Indian Office) has been hard on all reservation Indians and that is why the Indians are ruled by fear. For an Indian with a thought of his own, the reservation is no place. There is a gang which rules the Indians on all reservations, with the silent and all-powerful partner (Indian Office) at Washington.

Take for example the Pima Agency at Sacaton, Arizona. There are several leaders who are rebelling against allotments of 5 and 10 acres. Because from time immemorial they cultivated 75 or 100 acres and it was their own land. The Agent orders the Indian police to arrest these Indians for standing up for their rights. They are put in jail and, it may be, they are tried by Indian judges (of course they are in with the Indian Agent) and the fate of these Indians is to stay in jail until they are ready to take the allotments of 5 or 10 acres.

This injustice is approved by the Indian policemen and judges, Superintendent and Indian Office at Washing-

ton. If WASSAJA is wrong, ask the Pima Indians (those who are not in with the superintendent); they will tell you the same story. The Indians are ruled by fear and not by justice.

### "DESTRUCTIVE AND NOT CONSTRUCTIVE."

Some good people say WASSAJA is working on a destructive basis. In Chicago the architects have figured that it pays to tear down the old structures and to erect modern buildings on a solid bed rock foundation.

The Indian Office is founded on a wrong foundation. It is caging up a nation, and that is against the Constitution of the United States. The system has outgrown its usefulness. If we abolish the Indian Bureau, we will place all Indians on a foundation (Constitution of the United States) that has been developed five hundred years.

To place the Indians on a solid foundation, instead of a wrong and rickety foundation, is not a destructive process but is a constructive act that will last forever. Have faith in the Constitution of the United States and let the Indians come under it! The Indians have not small pox, why not?

### WHY SHOULD INDIANS WORK?

Just as long as the Indian Bureau exists, the Indian will not work. Why should he? He does not have to work, for Uncle Sam is providing everything for him. He would be a fool even to learn to work; why should he, when Uncle Sam works for him?

There has been no incentive for him to work. At first he was made to understand that he could roam and do just the same as he always had done, and that the good white father Washington would feed and clothe him; he was made to understand "Just live and be happy." He was made to understand if there was anything else he wanted, the good Washington father was always ready to listen and see that the Indians were not in want. He was

made to understand that the river may cease to flow and the sun get stuck in its course but the love and compassion of the paleface father. Washington will never cease, no never!

He was made to understand that equality and righteousness reign supreme in that great Washington father's wigwam and that the Indian would live a new life, which life would be equal to his happy hunting grounds. He was made to understand that everything would be well; everything would come to him and he would have to do nothing.

The almighty father Washington made him to understand that all power and graciousness were in his hands, to bestow on his newly adopted children. The great white father made him to understand that he was safe, and would be protected with justice and honor. And so on and so forth; the poor Indian has been deluded. He has nothing and is a dupe and buffoon.

If the Indian Bureau is not equal to bulldozing the Indians any more, there comes a psychologist who cries out: "Man is free as his mind is free." So, with Mrs. Eddy, they do not think Indians are slaves, wards, and deprived of their rights. They would have the Indians think they are not slaves, wards and deprived of their rights. It is an error, and now to get right on the matter, you Indians think you are not slaves, wards and deprived of your rights and you Indians will be free.

### INDIAN THIS AND INDIAN THAT.

Indian Schools, Indian Hospitals, Indian Churches, Indian Missions, Indian Music, Indian Shows, Indian Reservations, Indian Day, Indian this and Indian that, or anything Indian, creates prejudice and does the Indian more harm than good.

What is WASSAJA driving at? It is this: Columbus made a mistake by calling us Indians. By being branded and constantly reminded that we are

Indians, the Indian race has suffered untold harm as a race. What if we received Englishmen by calling them Johnny Bulls, Germans as Sauerkrauts, Irishmen as Pats and Mikes, and Italians as Dagoes, continually hounding them with incorrect and offensive appellations. Do you think that they would thank you?

Yet that has been exactly the position that Indians have endured these many years. It does not help the Indian to belittle him and make him a laughing stock before the world. It is related that Fred Douglas said that Abraham Lincoln was the only white man who ever talked to him who did not remind him, by direct statement or by inference, that he was a negro, and Douglas added that Lincoln, by his conduct, demonstrated that he "was a great man, stooping, not wishing to let his fellows know that they were mean and small," and "WASSAJA" expresses the hope that the public will, in dealing with the Indian, follow the example of the immortal Lincoln.

Forget the Indian, and by kindness, generosity and helpfulness lift up the man to your own stature, and God will reward you for this work of benevolence and the Indian and his posterity will bless you forever.

### SLEDGE HAMMER TAPS.

(By Junius.)

One of the best things that ever happened: Provision made in the Indian Appropriation Bill for a joint commission to investigate the Indian Bureau. Here's hoping the truth will come out!

With its millions in appropriations the Indian Bureau as a mere business proposition has been declared a failure. Still Americans never ask for a change. Why this apathy? The Indian Bureau is a self-praising outfit. It has the Government Printing Plant to assist in the laudation with a few editors in the country to copy the gush issued from headquarters.

A cute trick: Indian Bureau employs graduates (!) of its own schools because these self-same graduates could not make good elsewhere with the "education" given them by the bevy of old maids who teach in Indian schools. And some of these Injuns turn around and become Bureau defenders! !!

Indian Reservations are like festering sores. The whole adjacent community becomes infected with bits of rottenness bred in those segregated tracts. But who keeps the Reservation system alive? The political rascals who go to make up the Indian Bureau!

Some of our Government employees working in the Indian service are uncouth, uneducated, cheap tools. Many of them would starve if it were not for Indians "to look after."

"Friends" of Indians feel that if the Indians are let loose they will forthwith become the prey of scamps. Well, better for us to be a prey to unlegalized crooks than a prey to legal rascals—Indian Bureau people!

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Doctor:

I have not lost interest in your cause for I still believe with you that there is better development for the Indian in free contact with his white fellow man than under the system of fads, fancies and frauds now being perpetuated by the Indian Bureau.

The Indian is benefitting indirectly by the knocking the Bureau is getting. Just recently the Bureau has ordered the raising of appraisements on this reservation to double what they were before. Contrary to the belief of many of my fellow employees, I think there will be more land sold than before, but all this only aggravates the trouble which you so truly complain of: the lack of true development for the Indian.

Doctor, there are many honest men in the Indian Service, who would go before the Committee of Indian Affairs in Congress and testify to just what you are claiming. Look for them among the newer and lower employees.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter a few days ago in regard to the St. Croix band of Indians. I was out visiting some of the Indians a few weeks ago. I found them in very poor condition and they need assistance very badly. Something ought to be done to relieve the poor old Indians from suffering for food and clothing. I took up this matter before the Superintendent of the Hayward Indian School, but he does not do anything for them. I have taken the matter up before the Town and County Boards but they will do nothing for the relief of these poor Indians. Please try and ask Congressman Lenroot or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs about this matter while you are at Washington.

I think Dr. Montezuma has the right spirit about the slavery of Indians, and is hitting the Indian Office right on the head. The publishing of his paper does many people good because they can see where they are wrong. I hope that you will be successful in your business with Lenroot at my request.

(This letter was not written to WASSAJA, but shown to him by its recipient.—Ed.)

Dear Doctor:

I read your book "Let My People Go." I think it wonderful and it just hits the whole thing right on the head. You have thought deep and hard on the subject. I am your friend and wish to say you have got the right idea.

God gave the Indian brain and mind. If Indian don't learn to use it for himself the white man will use him.

Very respectfully,