

WORTHY OF ATTENTION

A "RETURNED STUDENT" WRITES A LETTER

On the 10th day of June, 1897, which was graduating day at the U. S. Training School at Chemawa, Oregon, I, being a member of that class, delivered an oration entitled "The Returned Student." The foundation I had to work upon at that time was largely imaginary and of a hearsay nature.

After spending five years in the employ of the U. S. Government as an instructor in the art of tailoring I then became a returned student in reality.

I shall mention some of the conditions I have noticed upon my return to the Yakima Reservation. Being an allottee upon this reservation I am of course directly interested in its development.

During my school days I was taught to believe that any agreement between the U. S. Government and any other party, be it individual, private company, tribe or nation, would be carried out under the highest ideals of justice as far as the U. S. Government was concerned and that it would never neglect a ward of the Government or take advantage over a weakling. I, therefore, want to state that in 1855 a treaty was effected between the U. S. Government and the Yakima Nation which consists of eight different tribes of Indians. According to this treaty, for certain amounts of money and other stipulations the Indians ceded a large portion of what is now the State of Washington. The border lines of the Yakima Reservation were clearly set forth and defined at that time.

Certain reservations were made by the Indians on all streams running through or bordering on the reservation. The development of the country as a farming community has caused a great demand for water with which to irrigate. The soil and the climatic conditions are such that irrigation is an absolute necessity.

It is in the protection of this water that the Government has failed.

We feel that according to our treaty with the U. S. in 1855 we are entitled to water from the Yakima River and its tributaries to irrigate every acre of irrigable land on the reservation without paying for the cost of construction in any way for storage reservoirs that have been built by the U. S. R. S. It is a matter of record that the Government has allowed individuals and private companies to appropriate and divert large portions of water that rightfully belongs to the Yakima Indians.

It is a matter of record that four hundred thousand dollars have been expended in the reservation for irrigation and drainage and that our