

## TO RESERVATION SUPERINTENDENTS

### MATTERS PERTAINING TO AGRICULTURE AND STOCK-RAISING



I greatly desire it to be understood throughout the service that the present administration of Indian Affairs is determined that every Indian shall have opportunity and encouragement to accomplish industrial betterments.

I want you to know that the magnitude of this undertaking is fully realized, and that while I do not think it can be accomplished in one summer nor that it can be done without hard work and some sacrifice on the part of all of us, I am firmly of the opinion that it can be, should be, and must be done.

I am not at all satisfied with the agricultural, stock and industrial conditions generally existing throughout the Indian country and I am determined that unceasing effort shall be put forth to bring about a radical and speedy change.

Primarily the opportunity for advancement among the Indians is largely agricultural and stock raising. They own the land and with proper encouragement can so develop their possessions as to insure ultimate self-support.

The farming season is at hand. Every farmer should become actively engaged in advising and teaching the Indian how to prepare the soil, the kind of seed to select, when and how to plant, grow and harvest, and the best use to be made of his crop when produced.

The Indians should be made to realize that the grazing lands of the United States are now almost entirely his own and that he has readily within his reach the possibility of becoming the cattle, horse, and sheep king of America.

All these things involve earnestness of purpose and close co-operation between the Indian Service employees and the Indians. To insure the best results every man charged with such a responsibility as farmer or stockman must devote his time—every day of his time—in heart to heart association and hand to hand working in this particular sphere. It must be “a long pull, a strong pull and a pull together,” as they say at sea.

I cannot refrain from calling attention to a situation that is very unsatisfactory. I have information from dependable sources and from all sections of the country that farmers in the Indian Service devote most of their time to work associated with the business end of the agencies; that our farmers, with a few notable exceptions, are not in fact practical and helpful as farmers; that they do not go out among the Indians