

on their farms as they should and as hereafter I earnestly desire them to do. It is almost discouraging to contemplate that after years of employment of men who have been especially charged with the work of advancing the farming interests of the Indians no more has been accomplished.

Commencing immediately I wish word to go down the line from the Indian Office in Washington to the Agencies, and from the Agency throughout every reservation and on to each allotment that every Indian Service farmer shall give his time to actual farming and that under no circumstances shall he continue, as so generally has been done, making the office work the first consideration and the promoting of the farm work of the Indians secondary. These things must be reversed.

Congress, the tax-paying public and the Indians have a right to expect full return for every dollar appropriated and such permanent industrial advancement of the Indians each year as will justify the maintenance of the force of farmers and stockmen now employed and give promise that eventually they may no longer be required.

Nor am I satisfied with the fact as I am now convinced that the Superintendents, generally speaking, spend altogether too much time in the office attending to duties which properly belong to clerks, when the Superintendent, to accomplish the best results, should be out in the field among the Indians looking into their home comforts, after health conditions and in close contact with them, giving personal attention to their farming, stock raising and other relationships that they may be encouraged to do for themselves the things that they cannot have done for them for an indefinite period of time.

Hereafter, the Superintendent, in place of devoting three-fourths or more of his time to office duties, shall devote a very large part of his time among the Indians on the reservation.

I do not anticipate that the carrying out of these directions will bring about any appreciable congestion of the so-called "paper work" of the office. I believe the greater portion of the office work will be found to fit in with the field work so that it will be done in connection therewith and without hindrance to it.

Reservation employees should know the Indians and know them well; understand their conditions and substantially aid them in their forward march toward self-support and equipment for citizenship.

Sincerely yours,

CATO SELLS,
Commissioner.