

Society since its beginning has pled for this fundamental necessity of race advancement.

#### ADMISSION TO THE COURT OF CLAIMS

We ask, also, that the Court of Claims be given jurisdiction over all Indian claims against the United States.

This done, a great barrier to race development would be removed, for we should no longer be tied to the past with the feeling that the country has not fulfilled its obligation to our race.

We believe that more than has been done can be done to make Indian property an efficient instrument for Indian welfare; to make Indian intellect, statesmanship, and craftsmanship useful to the nation. We point with pride to the men and women, who by their achievements have demonstrated the inherent capacity of Indian blood. Our plea is that just opportunity be provided to insure the efficiency and enlarge the capacity of the thousands who have not had freedom to struggle upward and whose condition very shortly will become not only a menace to themselves but a burden to the nation.

We plead, Sir, that you give us the cheer of your word, that you consider our request and call upon Congress to grant the American Indians those fundamental rights and privileges, which are essential to release them from enforced wardship, dependence and consequent degeneracy; and that you advocate measures that will, according to the recognized principles of legal and economic development, speedily secure their admission to the field of even chance for individual efficiency and competency.

For the weak and helpless, for the discouraged and hopeless of our race scattered over this broad land we make this plea and petition. Through our annual conference we have carried our plea to the great universities of the land; we have striven to awaken the public conscience to the justice of our demands and now we ask you to consider the merits of appeal. And for the boon we crave we shall every pray.

#### THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN INDIANS

Sherman Coolidge, President  
Chas. F. Dagenett, Vice-President  
Wm. J. Kershaw, Vice-President  
Arthur C. Parker, Secretary.

December the tenth, Nineteen Hundred Fourteen.