

HIGH PRAISE

CHEMAWA DECLARED A PLACE OF MERIT



DURING the holidays we had Mr. Wm. McNickle, of St. Ignatius, Montana, as a guest. On his return home he had only words of praise for our institution. An article in the St. Ignatius Post shows how thoroughly he looked into school affairs while here, and how favorable were the opinions which he formed. The article in question follows:

Wm. McNickle returned Wednesday from a visit to coast points, having spent a few days with his brother, Miles McNickle, at Seattle, whom he had not seen for many years. In the course of his trip he spent a week or more at the government Indian school at Chemawa, where three of his children are being educated. His visit to Chemawa was, primarily, for the purpose of being with his children at Christmas time, but he also wished to satisfy himself as to the conditions under which they were being reared. He spent several days there, becoming thoroughly acquainted with every phase of the school life of the pupils, and returned home full of praise for the institution and the men and women in charge.

The Chemawa school is located a few miles from Salem, Oregon, in the Willamette valley, a fruit growing district with an excellent year around climate. At present about 620 boys and girls, most of them over 14 years of age, from many points in the United States and some from Alaska, are attending school. Besides their regular studies, which are much the same as in the state graded school, each pupil is allowed to learn a trade or some line of business to his or her liking, there being shops in connection with the institution in which many branches of industry are taught by experts.

The school also owns 580 acres of land, the farming of which is done by pupils under the guidance of experienced men. There is a modern dairy and poultry plant, and hog-raising is carried on quite extensively. In fact, they have there a first-class agricultural school with experts in charge of every department.

Part of the farm is given over to the growing of fruit, much of which is sold, but every year the girls can all that is used by the school—which aggregates thousands of gallons—and delicious preserves, jams and jellies are served at every meal.

Mr. McNickle ate at the pupils' mess every day he was there, and says that the rations are all that could be wished for. All of the children eat in one large dining room at the same time. The food is cooked by