

THE CHEMAWA AMERICAN

H. E. WADSWORTH, Superintendent

VOLUME 17

JANUARY, 1915

NUMBER 4

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1914

BY CATO SELLS, COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS



THE advance copies of the report of the Bureau of Indian Affairs covering the period from July 1, 1913, to June 30, 1914, have been distributed to the press. This covers practically the first year's incumbency of Commissioner Cato Sells. It outlines what he has accomplished in this one year and indicates something of what he hopes to achieve during his administration of the office. There appears through it the controlling ambition of Commissioner Sells to promote the industrial activities of the Indian population, and if there should be selected a predominant feature of his administration it might be the promotion of industry in its various forms, without neglect, however, to the other important requirements of education, health, and moral uplifting.

He says that he found the Indian Service disorganized and discouraged, and that he has endeavored to place it on a sound economic and efficient business basis, working in harmony with enthusiasm, with the view of promoting the best interests of the Indians. With a thought of obtaining a clear comprehension of the viewpoint of the Indians, he has endeavored, he says, by personal interviews and examination of correspondence with Indians, to ascertain clearly their ideas with regard to the efforts being made in their behalf, and to this end he has made it a practice, in the case of every delegation and every individual Indian visiting Washington, to understand their wants and needs from their point of view and has given them his personal attention whenever possible. Concerning Indian education, he says that the year has been especially marked by the large increase in the number of Indian pupils enrolled in the public schools throughout the country, which has been encouraged because it affords training of the greatest value and furnishes an opportunity to begin the co-operation of the Government with the State in the education of the Indian. Especial stress is laid on the necessity for the vocational training of Indian pupils.