

use, the Commissioner has made special effort to increase the interest in farming and for this purpose employed during the past year 450 farmers to instruct the Indians. The attention of these farmers has been called to the determined purpose of the Commissioner to offer every Indian an opportunity to better his industrial condition. They have been directed to give their time to actual farming instruction.

During the year, Indian fairs were held on twenty-two reservations and Indian exhibits displayed at eight state and county fairs.

Mention is made of the extensive discoveries of oil in Oklahoma, and especially of the measures adopted to reduce to a minimum the waste incident to the drilling for and producing of oil. The enormous production in the Cushing and Healdton fields necessitated the hasty construction of open earthen tanks for storage purposes, and much waste resulted through evaporation and seepage. Another source of waste to which attention is directed is of natural gas found in connection with drilling operations, which has been permitted to "blow off," or escape into the air. Stringent regulations, providing a penalty, have been promulgated to prevent this waste, and in the instance of several lessees large fines were imposed for failure to comply with these regulations.

The Commissioner finds that one of his tasks will be the conserving of Indian water rights from reservation irrigation projects, where they conflict with the state and individual appropriation by whites. Some progress has been made toward perfecting these rights in the Indian owners of lands, and particular mention is made of the long standing contention for water rights on the Yakima Indian Reservation in the State of Washington, which has been settled in part through legislation in the last Congress whereby the Indians are to receive water from the storage reservoir constructed by the Reclamation Service, free of charge, sufficient for forty acres of each eighty-acre allotment. Aggressive measures are being taken to secure to the Indians of other reservations an equitable adjustment of their water rights.

One of the biggest resources of the Indian lies in his forests. The Commissioner promises to wisely administer this vast resource, the keynote of which will be the industrial development of the Indian through the judicious sale and manufacture of timber.

There are approximately eighty saw mills on Indian lands, the ownership of which is divided equally between the Government and private individuals. The most important of such enterprises owned by the Government is the Menominee Indian mill at Neopit, Wisconsin, where during the year there were manufactured 37,000,000 feet of lumber. Manufactured lumber to the amount of more than half a million dollars is on hand in the yards at this mill. During the succeeding fiscal year, the Commissioner proposes to give special attention to the completion of an