

accurate inventory of the Indian timber on reservations, in order that its disposal and handling may be intelligently observed.

At the conference of field supervisors, Commissioner Sells gave expression to his views regarding the liquor conditions on Indian reservations, an extract of which appears in his report. He says that he believes the greatest present menace to the American Indian is whiskey; that it does more to destroy his constitution and invite the ravages of disease than anything else; it does more to demoralize him as a man, and frequently as a woman; it does more to make him an easy prey to the unscrupulous than everything else combined. The operations of the Indian Service to protect the Indians from intoxicants extends from Florida to New York in the east, and from Washington to California in the west, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans.

The report shows a marked decrease in the work of allotting lands to Indians; and it is said that practically all Indians on reservations containing lands susceptible of agricultural development without irrigation have been allotted; that some large unallotted reservations exist, particularly in the Southwest, but without water for irrigation purposes the advisability of allotting these lands in severalty is not apparent, the reservations as they now stand being best adapted for stock raising.

Concerning the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma, an important feature is the announcement of the abolishment at the close of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, of the tribal form of government of the Cherokee Nation.

The sale of the Choctaw and Chickasaw timber lands and the surface of the segregated coal and asphalt lands, the equalization of the Creek allotments, the individualizing of about \$1,800,000 of Seminole tribal funds, which the Commissioner expects to accomplish in the main within the coming fiscal year, will finally dispose of the property of tribal nature held by these tribes, with the exception of the mineral deposits and common funds held in trust by the United States for the Choctaws and Chickasaws, estimated in value between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000.

There are in the Five Tribes approximately 37,000 Indians of the restricted class, and, while the work of the Indian department among the Five Tribes is approaching completion in tribal matters, there necessarily remains a tremendous work to be done for the individual Indians.

Goods and supplies to the amount, approximately, of \$3,500,000 were purchased for the service during the fiscal year just closed, and delivered at a cost for transportation of about \$264,021.66, exclusive of wagon transportation from the terminals of railroads and boats landings, which service amounted to \$168,139.70. The cost of inspection was \$6,862.47.

Short cuts to quick results have been adopted, both in the office and