

sibility of the next generation having similar opportunities. I have faith in you and believe you will make good.

Speaking now more generally, I repudiate the suggestion that the Indian is a "vanishing race." He should march side by side with white men during all the years to come. It is our chief duty to protect the Indian's health, and to save him from premature death. Before we educate him, before we conserve his property, we should save his life. If he is to be perpetuated, we must care for the children. We must stop the tendency of the Indian to diminish in number, and restore a condition that will insure his increase. Every Indian hospital bed not necessarily occupied with those suffering from disease, or injury, should be available for the mother in childbirth. It is of first importance that we begin by re-establishing the health and constitution of Indian children. Education and protection of property are highly important, but everything is secondary to the basic condition which makes for the perpetuation of the race.

I am told that there was a time in the history of the Indian Service when approximately fifty per cent of the employees were transferred annually. I have heard of those who have changed the location of their service as many as seven times in five years. All requests for transfers now invite investigation, both of the reason given and the service record of the applicant, with such action as developments justify. The transfer may be granted, a promotion is not impossible. However, the disclosures thus acquired may suggest demotion, or even separation from the Service. Employee tramps are a menace to the Service. The best test of efficiency is long and satisfactory service in the same place. The number of transfers during the last year has been greatly reduced as compared with preceding years, and you may be sure of a very substantial reduction in the future.

The student tramp is for many reasons to be discouraged. It is my information that in practically all of the non-reservation boarding schools there are Indian boys and girls who have been transported at Government expense long distances from their homes, passing other schools more accessible, and having as good facilities. This condition is ordinarily inexcusable, and should not continue. It makes a large and unnecessary expense for transportation, encourages unrest, has a demoralizing influence on the student body, in many instances places pupils in schools wholly foreign to their after life residence, limits desirable acquaintance with those with whom they will mingle thereafter, and in an industrial way, particularly agricultural, gives but little opportunity for acquiring knowledge of conditions prevailing in their respective home localities. Another important factor is that the nomadic student acquires no lasting interest in the institution where he