

"Painted Desert" more frequently, and less often the small alfalfa patch on a great reservation. We should at least tell the whole truth. It is prejudicial to the Indian to emphasise the small part of their possessions that are productive and withhold from the public the very large unproductive portion. In this wise it becomes wrongfully understood that they have vast and valuable possessions unused by them which should be otherwise utilized.

A few words on the moral side of our Service. Every employee in the Indian Service should be a constant object lesson of sobriety that the Indian may by comparison understand the demoralizing and disastrous effects of the use of intoxicants, by whatever name they are known. After I addressed my letter to the employees of the Indian Bureau, pronouncing liquor the greatest menace to the American Indian, I received a communication from the Honorable Joseph H. Choate, warmly commending the sentiment, and saying, "You are absolutely right in your position, that if we can save the American Indian from the curse of whiskey, we can save him from pretty much all the other ills that threaten him." No better proof of the evils attending the use of liquor can be given than to cite the attitude of the present War Lords of the Old World. Liquor is the instrument commonly used by the unscrupulous who reach out to get the Red Man. Every effort within the power of all the employees in the Indian Service should be made to save the Indian from the curse of the liquor traffic.

I have never announced a policy, but if I were to declare one today it would be in these few words: In dealing with Indians and Indian problems, under like conditions, treat all questions practically the same as if white people alone were involved.

Sometimes it occurs to me that I take my job too seriously, but after all do you think it possible to take too seriously responsibility involving the health, education, property, and in some measure, the destiny of a human race? The Indian Office deals with a people numbering approximately 335,000 souls. We have virtually a Government within a Government. Our Bureau deals with every social, educational, economic, and contractual relationship. It has some feature of nearly every Bureau or Department in Washington. It is original in its operation, constructive in its action, and frequently without precedent. A Commissioner of Indian Affairs might to advantage be a lawyer, doctor, teacher, farmer, stockman, lumberman, oil expert, and mining engineer—have practically all of the equipment within the range of human affairs. There is no phase of life upon which he does not have to act practically every day. In addition to his activities in connection with the life of the Indians, he has to deal with the varied relationships of almost six thousand employees, and there are numerous perplexing and