

Indian Affairs to the end that it may be put upon a non-partisan basis; that all contests of personal rights and domestic relations be settled in the courts and that citizenship of Indians may be made to conform as far as possible with the same laws that govern the citizenship of the country.

8—We invite attention to the fact that the first law enacted by congress looking to the curtailment of the liquor traffic was enacted through the efforts Mehecunnequa, Little Turtle, the Miami chief, that the Cherokee legislature began the enactment of laws prohibiting the liquor traffic as early as the year 1819, a quarter of a century before any such laws were enacted by white law-making bodies, and that the Indians for two centuries have pleaded for the elimination of this curse. We, therefore, now call upon all Indians to uphold the illustrious example of these ancestors of ours and to demand the fulfillment of all treaties promising the suppression of liquor in the Indian country and the prohibition of the traffic entirely by state and national legislation.

9—We recommend more adequate sanitary inspection of Indian communities, and urge that the federal inspectors secure the co-operation of local authorities in the enforcement of the health law.

In the judgment of wise and impartial men, the heroic struggle of our fathers against forces which they had no means of measuring or appreciating, yet which they fought against for homes, for family, for country and the preservation of native freedom, has no parallel in all history. Yet while we consider these things we are not unmindful that they made upon occasions the same mistakes that have been common to all mankind, of every race and age—and yet were virtuous men. Now that the glory and the shadows of the past have become a part of historic record that has been written, we are not to forget the present and the future of our people, that we may henceforth live in greater fullness. Let us now move forward and acquire all those things that make races and nations more efficient and noble; let us reach out for a larger life, through brotherly love, purposeful action and constructive service to our Country, not only for our own welfare, but in order that the American people and all humanity may be uplifted because we have performed, and strive to perform, our full duty as men. Let these things, and the means by which they may be accomplished be considered upon American Indian Day.

Likewise do we invite every American, who loves his country and would uphold its honor and dignity, to celebrate this day and to consider our early philosophy, our love of freedom, our social institutions and our history in the full light of truth and in the balances of justice in honest comparison with the annals of other races, and to draw therefrom those noble things that we believe are worthy of emulation. But