

THE NEW COURSE

OF STUDY FOR INDIAN BOYS AND GIRLS



REVEREND Samuel A. Eliot, son of ex-President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard, and himself a member of the Board of Indian Commissioners, evoked considerable interest and enthusiasm during his address at the Congress on Indian Progress at the San Francisco Exposition last August. In the course of that address he made the following comment upon the Government's Indian schools:

"I can truly say, after mature investigation and deliberation, that the Indian system of Schooling in this country is the best America has.

"The Indian system recognizes that education is not the accumulation of facts, but the interpretation and application of facts. The end of the Indian's education is not the acquisition of knowledge so much as the acquiring of power".

This is encouraging indeed to the workers in the Indian Service who feel that it is rather the expression of an ideal than that of an accomplishment. But, after all, as Carl Schurz has said:

"Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but, like the sea-faring man on the desert of water, you choose them as your guides, and, following them, you reach your destiny."

Hon. Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in his desire to have the Indian Service materially improved by and through his administration, believes he can best do so through the educational institutions under him. One can better realize the possibilities of such a campaign for betterment when one realizes that, either directly or indirectly, the schools reach every or nearly every Indian home in the country. It would therefore seem almost inevitable to utilize the schools for any very general effective campaign for betterment. Commissioner Sells wisely aims to secure increased efficiency in the schools and therefore aims to make them more directly touch and vitalize the actual activities of the Indians themselves. With this end in view Commissioner Sells designated a committee of his experienced and practical field men to assist in solving this problem. This committee from the field consisted of the following gentlemen: Supt. O. H. Lipps of Carlisle School, Carlisle, Pa.; Supt. E. A. Allen of Chilocco School, Oklahoma; Supt. F. M. Conser of Riverside School, California; Supt. Peyton Carter of Wahpeton School, North Dakota; Dr. Charles M. Buchanan, Tulalip Agency, Washington. The last-named gentleman was the only one on the committee living on an Indian reservation and