

# THE CHEMAWA AMERICAN

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## SAVE THE BABIES

COMMISSIONER SELLS' PLEA TO INDIAN SERVICE EMPLOYEES



**M**ANY excellent articles have been addressed to Indian Service employees by Hon. Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, since he became the head of the Indian Bureau, but there is something of the heart appeal in the following article which in our judgment places it in a class by itself:

In an address before the Congress on Indian Progress held at San Francisco in August of last year I said:

"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."

That thought has deepened its hold upon my convictions.

We must guarantee to the Indian the first of inalienable rights—the right to live. No race was ever created for utter extinction. The chief concern of all ethics and all science and all philosophies is life.

The Indian has demonstrated his humanity and his capacity for intellectual and moral progress amid conditions not always propitious and I am eager to participate with all the favoring forces that contribute to his racial triumph, believing as I do that when he comes to himself as a factor in the modern world his achievements will enrich and brighten the civilization of his native land.