

I should like to get the feeling I have upon this question into the conscience and aspirations of every Indian Service employee until there shall prevail a sort of righteous passion to see that every Indian child has a fair chance to live.

There is something fundamental here:

We cannot solve the Indian problem without Indians. We cannot educate their children unless they are kept alive.

All our Indian schools, reservations, individual allotments, and accumulated incomes tend pathetically towards a wasted altruism if maintained and conserved for a withering, decadent people.

If we have an Indian policy worthy of the name, its goal must be an enduring and sturdy race, true to the noblest of its original instincts and virtues and loyally sympathetic with our social and national life; a body of efficient citizens blending their unique poise and powers with the keen and sleepless vigor of the white man.

We must, therefore, renew daily our warfare against the arch foe of efficiency—disease.

We must begin at the right place—not only with the infant at its mother's breast, but with the unborn generation.

The new campaign for health in which I would enlist you is first of all Save the Babies!

Statistics startle us with the fact that approximately three-fifths of the Indian infants die before the age of five years.

Of what use to this mournful mortality are our splendidly equipped schools?

I earnestly call upon every Indian Bureau employee to help reduce this frightful percentage! Superintendents, Teachers, Physicians, Matrons, Nurses, everyone can do something by instruction or example, the physician with his science, the nurse with her trained skill, the matron with her motherly solicitude, all of us by personal hygiene, cleanliness, and sobriety.

With this idea uppermost, all employees whose duties bring them in touch with Indian families must work in closest harmony for surrounding the expectant Indian mother with favorable health conditions before and after child-birth. The sanitation of the homes of such women should have special attention and no baby allowed to be born into an environment germinating disease, if prevention is available.

The simplest rules of motherhood applied under intelligent and friendly direction would save most of the Indian babies who annually fill untimely graves.

I want to send this safety, as far as possible, into every home of an Indian mother, whether that home be a tepee, a tent, a log house with dirt floors or a more comfortable abode.