

## INDIANS TO SOLVE MEAT SUPPLY

COMMISSIONER SELLS TOOK THE INITIATIVE YEARS  
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**F**OLLOWING is an excerpt from the San Antonio (Texas) Express of March 26, 1916, and needs no explanatory comment:

Is the Indian in a fair way to become again, as he was in the beginning, the great American herdsman? It looks so. A new policy applied to the management of Indian affairs has done much in this direction.

"It is not only possible," says Cato Sells, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, "but entirely probable that the Indians will become the foremost herdsman of America. The situation presents a business and industrial opportunity, the successful working out of which will go a long way toward solving the meat problem."

The Department of Agriculture deems the question of meat supply one of the most serious confronting the country and has large plans for its solution. These include the much talked-of diversification in Southern farming, with the introduction of live stock as a staple source of profit. But the Indian reservations offer a large opportunity to help the situation. Here are vast expanses upon which large herds may be maintained. The problem is to effect almost a revolution in the administration of these areas which will insure their maximum use, considering both the needs of the Nation and the needs of the Indian.

The Indian is peculiarly fitted to become the National herdsman, it is held. He is a natural out-of-doors man. He is nearly always an expert rider and roper. He can train herds both of cattle and horses to a control which white men cannot duplicate. As shepherds, the Navajoes care for their sheep with a fidelity unequaled among white herders; during the lambing season the whole family stays with the flocks and the lambing percentage is unusually high, regardless of the weather conditions.

The present Commissioner of Indian affairs, Mr. Sells, is a lawyer, banker, agriculturist and scientific stockman. He knows farming and stock raising and the sound value of securities based on farm land and stock; and he knows Indians. He bought and sold for them and from them before taking his present responsibility. In common with many others, including President Wilson, Secretary Houston, Walter H. Page, American ambassador to Great Britain, who have studied the subject, Sells also holds that only scientific agriculture will conserve the future of an America sure to double in population at no very distant