

date. Of course, he thinks the Indians should have a part in this development—his logical, natural part.

Really, it involves the introduction of the Montessori idea, if not the Montessori system, among the Indians. The reasoning runs: "If they prefer the open, let them have it. If they would rather work with a lariat than pick and shovel, give them the lariat. If they want broad, unfenced expanses, rather than one little plot of ground, do not circumscribe them. If the appeal of prairie, mountain and stream is more compelling than the attractions of double-entry bookkeeping or the past participle, why press them with the latter? Remembering, however, that their use of their wide acres, of their mountains and streams must be made practical—must return a quid quo pro both, to themselves and the United States, at large."

Let the Indian at once follow his bent and contribute to the food supply of the Nation; this is both the theory and the working rule at the Indian Office today.

To finance the plan of developing the Indian reservations producing acres was not difficult. Many of the Indian tribes have large tribal savings which are under the control of the Indian Commissioner. Others, lacking cash, have lands and timber that are first-rate security for loans.

It was within the Indian commissioner's discretion whether or not to invest Indian funds thus. At the outset an invoice of Indian live stock was made by direction of Mr. Sells. This showed that the male animals in the herds had been almost universally low grades and that often the male stock was insufficient in number for the size of the herd. Many of the herds needed a complete regeneration of "he-stuff" and "she-stuff."

The Indian pony, so picturesque in Indian "literature," is nothing less than a public charge in these days of tense economic pressure. Yet this same pony, crossed with a Percheron, makes a good animal. So, too, does a scrub heifer crossed with a Hereford bull.

To start the upbuilding of Indian herds, Mr. Sells issued the following orders three years ago:

Prohibiting the sale of any heifers whatever.

Requiring the elimination of all the old or low-bred bulls, rams and stallions, the bulls to be fattened and sold.

Providing that all subsequent leases to white cattlemen be made for a short time and revocable, with a view of placing Indian herds under Government supervision on the lands as soon as possible.

With this start, the purchase of new animals began at once. Some \$3,000,000 has been spent. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, 3,682 horses and mules, 72 stallions and jacks, 15,084 cows and heifers and 1,194 bulls were bought. During the preceding year the purchases numbered 2,678 stallions, 1,048 balls, 12,272 heifers, 2,510 steers, 3,