

REPORT ON CHEMAWA INSTITUTE

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horticulture, agronomy, animal husbandry, dairying, and home economics. The practical value of this work is emphasized by the fact that these instructors were men and women whose daily life is not necessarily of theory but of achievement and know thoroughly this section of the country. The arrangement of the classes in connection with the work of the Institute has been excellent, the subjects first presented being those which did not require mechanical preparation.

The chief inspiration of the whole institute was the presence of our Commissioner, Honorable Cato Sells, who holds the unique record of being the only Commissioner who has ever visited all of the Summer Institutes. His personal contact with so many of the field employees throughout the entire service, his masterly address delivered at the Institute, and his devotion to the cause of Indian civilization, have done much to inspire his co-workers to give their united efforts to the practical accomplishment in every line of activity of the high aims and ideals of the Indian Service.

So far as Institutes of preceding years are concerned, the new course of study which the Commissioner has made possible marks an epoch in the history of Institutes of the Indian Service. The Institute has brought home to the members the lesson of what has been done and what they can themselves do. They have seen these instructors in and out of the Service accomplish a great deal more in the two weeks of the Institute's existence than has been outlined in a much longer term in the same subjects in the pre-vocational and vocational courses of our Indian Schools, and some of the work has been done by using the Indian pupils of the Salem Indian School in the daily class-work at the Institute. A direct exemplification of the work was made under working conditions of the Service. The value of the work accomplished was enhanced by the fact that the corps of instructors are persons who are accustomed to teaching their subjects with definite outlines, definitely followed and the program was one of definite accomplishment.

As an outgrowth of the Institutes held two years ago, this institute has furnished abundant evidence of increased seriousness and earnestness in the work of the Service and to the efficient and untiring direction of affairs by Mr. H. B. Peairs, our Supervisor of Schools, and his assistant, Mr. W. W. Coon, is attributable to a large measure its unqualified success. The arrangements for the accommodation of visitors and the care shown in providing for their welfare

were most creditable to Supt. Harwood Hall and the employees at the school and assisted in a real get-together movement and better acquaintance among all present.

The program of both day and evening events was sufficiently varied to arouse the continued interest of all and was marked by a constantly increasing attendance at the Institute which totalled 216 and represented all jurisdictions of the Northwestern states with one exception.

The group conferences of the different sections comprising the primary group, the prevocational group, and the vocational group, were well attended and formed a very important part of the work accomplished at the Institute and afforded an opportunity for the constructive criticism of the course of study and the consideration of any genuine obstacles to its installation and elaboration. Copies of model daily programs have been sent out to the teachers and employees in the different districts, which will be followed.

One of the most important sessions of the Institute was the General Conference held during the first week, presided over by Supervisor H. B. Peairs, at which he outlined very clearly the benefits to be derived in the Indian Schools by the adoption of the course of study and the methods to be followed in making its introduction a success. The general discussion of the subject by many members of the Institute proved very helpful and a continuation of this method was also a feature of the General Conference lead by Supervisor W. W. Coon during the second week's session of the Institute. The Superintendents' Conferences held daily during the second week of the Institute were devoted to an open discussion of many matters of special interest to them and were led by those having extensive jurisdiction and responsibilities and these meetings proved of great value to the Supervisors and Superintendents who attended them.

A very important feature of the Institute was the largely attended meetings of the Superintendents and the accounting clerks of the Service representing the schools and agencies of the Northwest at which General Order No. 7 of the Department of the Interior Office of Indian Affairs, approved May 9th, 1916, and containing regulations governing the new system of bookkeeping which has just been installed in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington, was carefully explained by Special Agent William A. Randall, of the Indian Service. These meetings were held on August 1st, 2d and 3d, 8:15 to 10:15 a. m. each day, and all matters pertaining to the new system of bookkeeping were discussed in detail under this General Order, paragraph by paragraph.

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