

INDIANS MAKING RAPID PROGRESS

Progress of the Indians of the United States is outlined in a report recently issued by Hon. Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which shows that the red men are improving their condition and standard of civilization rapidly.

Following are a few of the statistics mentioned in the report:

In 1912 less than 55,000 Indians could read and write English. Now the number is 75,000, 30 per cent of the whole number.

The income of the Indians from farming, stock raising and other employment has increased in the same time from \$22,000,000 to \$28,000,000.

The number of Indians engaged in farming has increased from 29,216 in 1913 to 35,823.

The acreage cultivated in five years has increased from 383,025 to 668,527.

The death rate per 1000 in 1915 was 30, but decreased to 22 per cent in 1916.

In 1914 there were 2391 deaths of children under 3 years of age. In 1916 the number was only 1303.

Four years ago 160,000 Indians had abandoned tribal customs. In the last four years 30,000 more have chosen to live as white men do.

ASSOCIATIONS

Joseph Gale, Secretary, reports the Y. M. C. A. meeting of Sunday evening the 31st as being led by Nick Orloff. The topic was, "Lessons from the Old Year." He also reports very interesting as well as profitable sessions of the Junior Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. The Committee on finance reported that \$20.00 was netted from the sale of refreshments at a social on New Year's night, which will be used to pay expenses of students to the summer conference.

A joint meeting of all associations was held last Sunday. The topic was "Our aim for a New Year."

SOCIETIES**Reliance**

The Reliance Literary Society's program of January 3d was short owing to numerous absences. Several matters of business were discussed and a vice-president, James Crane, elected to fill the vacancy caused by the home going of James Greeley. Mr. Hobucket, Loulin Brewer and Aurelius Talbot, visitors, each made a few remarks and gave some excellent advice.

Nonpareil Society

No program was prepared as the evening was devoted to electing new officers, who are as follows:

President, Mae Adams; vice-president, Ruth McNickle; secretary, Lydia Bauer; treasurer, Martha Sprague; sergeant-at-arms, Zelina Brigham; reporter,

Flora Truitt; yell leader, Marguerite Harney.

Excelsiors

The meeting of the Excelsiors on January 3rd was an open business meeting for the reorganization of the society, owing to the election of new officers at the previous meeting. A new program committee was appointed and different members were called on for speeches. Mr. Woods and Mrs. Estabrook were visitors.

Winona Society

Song	-	-	-	-	-	Laura Therriault
Poem	-	-	-	-	-	Ruth Jones
Recitation	-	-	-	-	-	Rosaline Lambert
Song	-	-	-	-	-	Marina Nelson
Reading	-	-	-	-	-	Thelma Orson
Recitation	-	-	-	-	-	Cecil Russell
Jokes	-	-	-	-	-	Nellie Francis
Poem	-	-	-	-	-	Mamie Frisk
Song	-	-	-	-	-	Henrietta Chamberlin Buelah White

LOCAL LORE

The timber on the school farm is being rapidly cut and made into cord wood.

The garden detail has completed digging the parsnips and beets and storing them in the root house.

Ploughing is nearly completed. In the spring the land will be gone over with a disk harrow and planted.

All three of the big washers in the steam laundry have been given a thorough overhauling by Mr. Stewart and his boys.

Florence Lindell, who spent the holidays at her home in Glacier Park, Montana, upon her return, reported very cold weather and three feet of snow while there.

A hot water connection is being made from the main line to the Superintendent's residence. It is intended to extend the system at once to the employes' building and from thence to McBride Hall.

Much headway is being made by Mr. Herrold, the contractor, in laying the sewer piping. Inasmuch as the trenches are from 7 to 12 feet in depth, with difficult digging, the progress made is fine.

Supervisor Goodall, who is in charge of the Fort Totten School, says the thermometer showed 32 degrees below zero a few days since. He writes that he took a sleigh ride across a portion of Devil's Lake, a distance of ten miles, on ice over four feet in thickness. The Colonel is a man of action and is not deterred by cold weather or other obstacles when he has work to do.