

# The CHEMAWA AMERICAN

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## PRODUCTION OF FOODSTUFFS BY THE INDIANS

Hon. Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, under date of April 12th, has issued the following circular letter to all superintendents throughout the Indian service:

I am much gratified at the prompt and enthusiastic responses to my telegram of April 9, urging increased production of foodstuffs by the Indians. Plans are already under way on practically every reservation. This campaign must be aggressively followed up by every means within our reach. The exact methods to be followed will depend upon the conditions on each reservation and upon the superintendent's ingenuity in devising ways and means.

As stated in my telegram the war situation makes it imperative that every tillable acre of land be intensively cultivated. With the entry of the United States into the world war the importance of an increased food supply can not be over-estimated. We must sacrifice every non-essential along other lines for this supreme object. The Service farmers should get into the field early and stay late, encouraging and assisting the Indians in every way possible. Enlist the cooperation of the lessees of Indian land and of the white farmers in the vicinity. This appeal is based on both economic and patriotic grounds. See that it is brought home to every employee and Indian on the reservation, through the farmer and other industrial employees. Publish it in the school and agency papers and circulate it by every other means which may occur to you. Appeal to the patriotism of the Indians. Show how they can serve their country effectively in the present emergency by exerting themselves to the uttermost in the production of foodstuffs. While my telegram mentioned foodstuffs, "particularly wheat, beans, potatoes, corn and meat", there should be no diminution in the production of forage for your own use.

With "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together", I feel that the Indians will play a large and important part in the economic history of the nation during this period of war stress.

Bread and meat are an essential factor in this dread-

ful emergency and I am extremely anxious that the Indians shall fully demonstrate their devotion to our country and their capacity for industrial accomplishment, as well as otherwise should circumstances require.

The success of our efforts in this respect will depend very largely upon the capacity, aggressiveness, and diligence of the superintendents having immediate supervision. Report progress from time to time by letter and do not permit any let-up in this campaign.

## NOTES FROM AFAR

A few days ago we received a "newsy" letter from Mr. M. W. Cooper of Busby, Montana. For many years Mr. and Mrs. Cooper were employes at Chemawa, but resigned here in order that Mr. Cooper could accept the position of principal at the Tongue River school a couple of years ago. Mr. Cooper mentioned many former Chemawaites, where they are, what doing, what their intentions are, and we are pleased to quote some of his observations, as follows:

Walter Haight, former noted runner in relay races held annually in the past between teams from Chemawa and the Portland Y. M. C. A., over the course from Salem to Portland, took sick February 1st and entered the Lapwai Sanatorium. He had been employed for some time as disciplinarian at the Tongue River Training School. He reports rapid improvement. His wife, nee Jennie Luke, formerly laundress at this school, resigned recently to join her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mason (latter nee Katie Brewer, Chemawa, class '08) expect to resign their positions soon and go to ranching in Montana, near Rosebud.

Miss Belle Dillstrom of class '08, Chemawa, has accepted the position of laundress at Tongue River, having entered for duty on April 10th.

Mr. Elmer Dillstrom, also from Chemawa, undertook the duties of disciplinarian at Tongue River on April 1st.

## AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Since clear and sunshiny weather is again with us, every activity at Chemawa has taken on a new lease of life. The farmer is trying to be in a half dozen places at the same time, ploughing, seeding, blasting out stumps, preparing gardens for the girls, and other farm work, while the dairyman is fencing the lake, rebuilding a fence near the Oregon Electric Railway, leveling ground and preparing to plant corn for ensilage.

The gardener is as busy as a man can be planting garden truck on his 57-acre tract.

The school landscape gardener is also beautifying the grounds, cultivating the shrubbery, flowers and plants, sowing grass seed and otherwise caring for the grounds. In fact, throughout the plant there is a general air of activity and a desire to secure quick results.