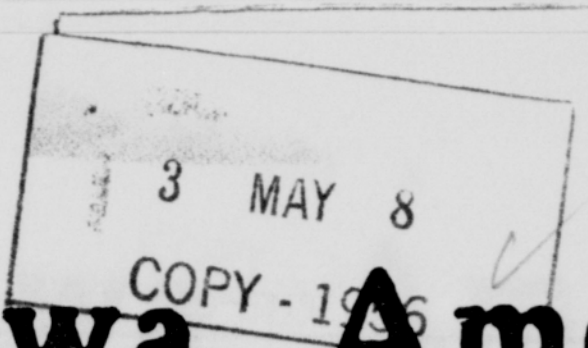




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OUR "EXCEPTIONAL" STUDENTS

Yes, we believe we have some exceptions at Chemawa. Some facts seem to indicate that condition. The Capital Business College of Salem sent out one of our boys a few days ago, "graduated with high honors," to an excellent position with the Reclamation Service. This young man is one-half Sioux. Salem High has recognized one of our girls by awarding her first place in the inter-class declamation contest; another Chemawa girl came in second. Both these girls are one-half (or more) Indian. In another competition a third Chemawa girl, again one-half Indian, won the honor of representing the Salem High School in the County Contest in declamation. This same girl lacked but one point of winning the university scholarship awarded to the high school pupil who makes the highest academic average in the Senior class.

These honors are in addition to those we have previously mentioned in an American article which has been quoted by some other Indian School publications.

Before condemning these mixed blood children who have become "exceptional" students as "Just the same as white," very significant facts should be taken into consideration: They were all reared by Indian mothers, in Indian homes, on Indian reservations, surrounded by Indian environment, and educated in Indian schools.

Of the nineteen pupils who are attending school in Salem not one is less than 50 percent Indian, three are 100 percent Indian, and the others are between these percents.

Four pupils are studying in the Business College and two are in Willamette University. The remaining thirteen are in the last years of the High School. Of the entire number there has been but one failing, and in all justice we must confess that this report refers to one of those with the smallest proportion of of Indian blood. Our three full-blood pupils are bringing home, not average, but excellent, report cards.

From the records of some of our best educators we have selected a few facts concerning the work of the public schools which have been quite comforting to us. No less person than Dr. Strayer is authority for the statement, based upon statistics taken from 23 Amer-

ican cities of a population of 25,000 or over, that of each 100 pupils who enter the elementary schools not more than eight complete high school. Dr. Pickell, principal of the high school at Lincoln, Nebraska, says in an article in the School Review that less than 36 pupils out of each 100 who enter the first year high school, or 9th grade, complete the course and graduate. Dr. Leonard P. Ayers of the Russell Sage Foundation states that facts prove that not one-fifth of the pupils who enter our public schools remain to complete the 8th grade. In his study of 386 cities, over a period of four years, he found that only 56 pupils in 1,000 completed the high school. These are the most recent figures available and from our best authorities.

With these records before us we feel that we are completely justified in saying that our Indian children can attain the average along with the average child in the public school and that a proportional percent of them can be exceptional pupils along with the exceptional pupils in the public school.

We are free to own that not all of our pupils can go to high school. We have our share of the 92 who are unequal to the work, but we take pride in our share of the eight who can. We are equally proud of those who succeed in any other line for we know full well that "identical opportunity is not equal opportunity" and we strive to give to our children the equal opportunity. In fact, we believe that our much-discussed course of study is designed for just that purpose and that in the hands of wise, broad-minded teachers it does the work.

Mr. Henderson and Mr. Francisco are in together in the erection of a double garage for their cars. The new garage will occupy ground formerly used by Mr. Henderson for his single garage, which was torn down recently.

Supt. and Mrs. Hall received a nice invitation from Frank R. Johnson to attend the graduation exercises of the Kamiah, Idaho, High School, he being one of the members of the graduating class. Frank was a member of Chemawa's graduating class two years ago and we are pleased to note that he has continued his studies and has done so well for himself.