

The CHEMAWA AMERICAN

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THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER Pertaining to Pueblo Indians

Emotional and sentimental people, though well-meaning, often are the authors of a lot of harm. They arrive at conclusions wholly at variance with facts because they do not investigate carefully or fully enough before they take action, or because they are prejudiced, or emotionally blinded to the underlying truth in the matter.

During the past winter the Indian Bureau has been made the target of many vicious and wholly unwarranted attacks by people, who, though they may be well-meaning, are certainly poorly informed. Propaganda has created a most harmful state of public mind in many sections of the country, especially in regard to the treatment of the Pueblo Indians who dwell mainly in New Mexico. This has proved harmful in the truest sense of the word, as distrust has been created both in the minds of the Indians and the whites, and for the purpose of allaying suspicion we are pleased to set forth the truth as borne out by the government records at Washington, D.C., as the result of the hearings before the Committee on Indian Affairs and reported to the House of Representatives, as follows:

The large amount of propaganda that has flooded the mails, newspapers, and magazines can not be passed without comment. Nothing to compare with it has heretofore been seen in connection with Indian legislation pending before Congress. This propaganda has been insidious, untruthful, and malicious and will result in great harm to the Indians of this country if it is permitted to be continued. Some of this propaganda is nothing more nor less than criminal libel. Those responsible for it have attempted to destroy the confidence of the Indians in the Indian Bureau and the officials who are by law charged with their guardianship. They have not only maligned and attempted to destroy the character of these responsible Government officials, but they have severely impugned the motives of Members of Congress. The hearings before this committee have demonstrated that these criticisms are

without foundation. Some of those who are responsible for the propaganda themselves appeared before the committee as witnesses, and their testimony discloses that false and slanderous statements against the executive officers of our Government were without foundation or justification and not a single charge contained in some of the most sensational of the published statements, which were a part of the propaganda, was sustained by any competent evidence before your committee. On the contrary, those responsible for these published statements disclaimed any intention of conveying the sole impression that was possible for the average thinking person to reach after reading such publications. Those responsible for this propaganda deserve the strongest condemnation from all fair-minded people.

It was contended in this propaganda that the health conditions of the Pueblo Indians were deplorable and that they were receiving but little assistance from the Government. The facts as brought out in the hearings show that the Government is operating four hospitals among the 8,000 Pueblo Indians, with a total bed capacity of nearly 100; that there are maintained among the Pueblo Indians 8 physicians, in addition to field matrons and nurses.

It was also shown in the hearings that there has been a substantial increase in the population of the Pueblo Indians during the last year, and that the health of these Indians is fairly good.

The propagandists attempted to make it appear that the Pueblo Indians were starving and were in serious need of assistance. The records disclose that only 2 of the 18 pueblos, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque, with a total population of approximately 240 out of the 8,000 Pueblo Indians were in need of any assistance, and that the Government had provided them with ample funds to meet their needs.

It was also contended that but little had been done in the past for the Pueblo Indians by the Government. The testimony before your committee shows that during the last 10 years the Government has expended more than \$8,000,000 for the Indians in New Mexico; that approximately \$250,000 is being expended annually (out of gratuity appropriations from the Government), for educational work among Pueblo Indians; that two splendid boarding schools are being maintained for them at Albuquerque and Santa Fe, in addition to a large number of day schools, and that practically all of the Pueblo Indian children have excellent educational facilities.

It was claimed in this propaganda that the Indian Bureau had done nothing for these Indians as to irrigation, whereas the records show that during the last 15 years the Government has expended for the Pueblo

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