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A CHANCE FOR HYSTERICS

Albuquerque Herald, Mar. 9, 1923

Recently we have had an outburst of hysteria over the Pueblo Indians. They were about to lose their homes, have their community life destroyed, be robbed of their lands, their water and tribal customs. They were starving, neglected by the government, menaced by marauders, etc.

We were roundly jumped upon and denounced for describing the outburst as hysterical. Let that pass. In the final analysis the eastern newspapers which permitted themselves to be caught in the flurry and swept to extravagant lengths of misstatement of facts, now agree that they have gone much too far. The official inquiry discloses that the government has spent \$8,000,000.00 on the Pueblos in the past ten years, that \$250,000.00 is being spent annually in maintaining good schools for their children, that they have 32,682 acres under ditch, with ample water rights, whereas they cultivate only 17,000 acres, leaving 15,000 acres unused, that the government has spent one and a quarter million dollars in building irrigation works for them in the past fifteen years, and finally, that out of 8,000 Pueblo Indians only two small pueblos have suffered want and that relief has been promptly provided by the federal authorities in charge.

This state of affairs was made the basis for vicious personal attacks upon New Mexico's representatives in congress, a member of the President's cabinet, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and pretty much everyone else who wanted a settlement of disputed land titles. Such papers as the New York World took the bait and ran with it wildly, making the occasion an excuse for indirect but none the less vicious attack on the entire Harding administration. It was mainly the work of people who did not take the trouble to ascertain the facts, and a few paid propagandists who did not care anything about the facts. It has damaged New Mexico and has done the Indians no good. The essential provisions of the original Bursum bill were retained in a compromise measure, after the fullest investigation. The provisions of the bill, subject to criticism, were not vital to the real issue; an adjudication of the long disputed titles.

Compare the situation of the Pueblos with that of

the people of the Sandia and Manzano mountain villages. Their schools are closed for lack of funds. They appeal to the government for aid to buy seeds with which they hope to recoup themselves after successive failures and livestock losses. Their want is real. Their condition is pitiable—and it merits prompt and generous aid.

Here is a chance for hysteria that would be justified by the facts. Are there any lawyers ready to demand appointment as special attorney for these people; are there any professional publicity agents hankering to volunteer their services to bring them aid; do we hear any of the ladies in that dear Boston weeping over the miseries of these people?

Not so you can notice it!

What is it about an Indian that affects the tear glands of both male and female east of the Alleghenies; glands that are impervious to the tragedies of a stinking tenement at their back doors?

What is it about the noble red man that stirs the mighty pens of metropolitan journals which dribble never a drop over sweat shops and child labor disgraces just around the corner?

ITEMS FROM THE TRADES

The gardeners are planting their seed in the green house for early cabbage and tomato plants.

Plumbers have been doing some sheet metal work recently at the students' dining-room and kitchen.

Ploughing is progressing nicely on our farm. The tractor and teams make quite a showing in a day's time.

A spraying machine for use in our orchards arrived recently and after a test will be set to work on our fruit trees.

Painters are considering outside work now. A number of the buildings have had work done by this detail this winter.

The carpenters and painters have combined to produce a new crop of flower boxes and there are orders for more to be made.

Now that spring has come and nature is awakening to new life it would be well for us to take home the lesson. Particularly does this apply to some individuals who are too dormant to get to work on time, or take the proper interest in their work when they are finally chased down to their several departments by our long-suffering disciplinarian. "Wake up and hear the birds sing."