

CT 1926 I20

The Chemawa American

Printed at Chemawa, Oregon, and Devoted to the Interests of Indian Education

Vol. XXVIII

Wednesday, September 22

3 MAY 8

1926

No. 1

COPY - 1956

CHEMAWA VISITS SPOKANE

Just before the vacation period reached us we were informed that those in authority desired that Chemawa should be represented at the Second Annual Indian Congress to be held in the latter part of July in Spokane, Wash. Mr. Lipps, our district superintendent, was strongly in favor of our taking a part; so was Supt. McGregor of Chemawa. It was suggested that a play be given, and it was decided that, all things considered, the operetta "Paul Revere" was the best for us. Then work began in earnest. To the great credit of our student body, to a pupil they were loyal to their school and cast aside all thoughts of a visit home, or working out, or any plans that they may have had for the vacation period. They buckled down to rehearsals. Miss White had charge of the dramatic end of the rehearsals, while Mrs. Turney was in charge of the musical part of it. It was real work for everybody and the time was short.

It was decided that our operetta was to be produced on the evenings of July 22 and 23 in the Auditorium, next to the largest theatre in Spokane. To our consternation, we found on arrival in Spokane that tickets had been sold for two performances an evening—an unheard-of thing for a performance such as ours—but, we did it. It would appear that we were classed as vaudeville performers—had a "continuous" show. Any way, we more than made good. From beginning to end our audiences grew larger and more enthusiastic with each succeeding performance.

We took our orchestra to support the operetta and all told we had a little better than fifty people with us up there. Supt. McGregor and Mrs. Iliff accompanied our party, as did Miss White, who was in charge of the dramatic part of the work. Our entire party put up at the famous Davenport hotel and it is impossible to say too much for that wonderful hostelry—every courtesy was extended us, one and all, during the entire time that we were in Spokane.

Chemawa made good in Spokane and from Commissioner Burke on down everybody said so—and we are happy.

It has been suggested that we reprint an article written by Frank P. Corbett and published in the Lewiston (Idaho) Morning Tribune, commenting on our Spo-

kane presentation of the operetta, as follows:

Now that the Indian congress held at Spokane in July is over, much attention was given the Indians of the "blanket type" and little mention was made of the Chemawa Indian students who gave an excellent rendition of the operetta "Paul Revere," giving two programs each night for two evenings in connection with the congress. From the beginning of the entertainments after each intermission, large crowds were seen outside the doors in readiness to gain first admission and such a mob it was, necessitating to have the police in patrol, the crowd jamming into the auditorium theater to see the well-trained Indian students perform the well-known operetta. The papers advertised it as "the hit of the congress" and it certainly brought tremendous ovation and voluminous applause from the guests, many of whom were prominent business people representing well-established firms who fostered the congress. Forty players composed the cast. The school orchestra of seven pieces, directed by Mr. Ruthyn Turney, accompanied the operetta. Good as the program was, the play without Mr. Turney was just a good one, for he and his wife were largely instrumental in adding spice to the program with original transposition of the music and interpretation. The same play was given at Chemawa at the close of the school term, but the entire cast was held over in preparation of the similar program to be given at the Indian Congress at Spokane.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Turney have for many years been connected with the Chemawa school and during that time have given their best work in the interests of the Indian students. Mr. Turney conducts the orchestra and teaches all branches of string instruments, while Mrs. Turney gives piano and voice instruction. The good superintendent, James H. McGregor, accompanied the cast to Spokane. The impression gained from contact with the new head of the institution, will doubtless influence many of the Indian parents to send their children to Chemawa, the indication being for bigger and better schools for the Indian students.

Once again The American greets you and extends best wishes.