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ADDRESS OF HON. HUBERT WORK

Secretary of Interior

The following note-worthy address was delivered by Secretary Work at the dedication of the athletic stadium of Haskell Institute on October 30, 1926:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Students of Haskell Institute and Indian Fathers and Mothers:

It gives me unusual pleasure to be here with you at this time and as one of the official family of the President of the United States to extend the hand of friendship and good will. This is an occasion, unique in the annals of world history. Marvelous have been the changes wrought among American Indians in the last half century. Only 50 years ago Sitting Bull and his followers were on the warpath. During the summer of 1876, on the Little Big Horn River in Montana, occurred the Custer Battle, an incident in history which will never be forgotten.

It was about that time, however, that the policy of the Government was changed. Warfare conducted by soldiers with rifles and bullets gave way to campaigns of education conducted by teachers. The earlier method of warfare which had lasted from the days of King Philip to Sitting Bull had failed. The wonderful success of the educational method of dealing with the Indians may be appreciated in a slight degree by contrasts of this occasion. The camp, its occupants in the dress of bygone days, the buffalo, the barbecue, the dance—all of these forming the background of this picture. The school, its students in the modern dress of the times, the classrooms, the shops, the dairy, the gardens and farm, the tennis courts, the baseball field, the gridiron and the stadium we are about to dedicate in the foreground. A wonderful picture representing the progress of a half century, through education.

As the incidents leading up to the Custer Battle 50 years ago awakened thought which led to the adoption of a new policy in dealing with Indians, it is believed that when the real significance of this occasion is appreciated, still greater opportunities for the progress of the Indian may be developed by the Government, supported by an understanding people.

This magnificent stadium is the gift of Indians and Indians only. It is an expression of the gratitude of

representatives of 50 tribes of Indians for what has been done for them during the past 50 years in providing educational facilities for native Americans. It is a substantial financial dividend on the investment made by the Government in education. It represents much more than that. It is an expression of the desire of the donors to provide a suitable, adequate place for outdoor recreation as a positive means of developing strong, healthy boys and girls capable of meeting the physical demands of life.

In a book recently published, the author said, "The curing of disease is necessary. the prevention of illness is good sense; the cultivation of health is statesmanship." No wiser statement was ever made and it is fortunate indeed that the educated Indians have appreciated the principle involved therein.

That health education has been neglected in the past is proved by the following statements: Every year, more than 500,000 citizens of the United States are slain by germs and millions of others are laid on beds of sickness and pain by germ diseases that are preventable. About 75 per cent or 16,000,000 of the 22,000,000 school children in the United States have physical defects which are potentially or actually detrimental to health. The military draft statistics showed 56 defects to every 100 men, 21 per cent of those economically available for military service were found to be physically unfit. In other words, 1 out of every 5 young men called was found to be unfit to perform any type of military service either at home or abroad. The foregoing statistics strongly support the statement that "the cultivation of health is statesmanship."

President Coolidge, when he called a conference in 1924 of those interested in outdoor recreation by that action strongly endorsed the policy which favors health education. At the opening session of the conference, the president expressed the hope that out of the conference there would evolve a broad, comprehensive, permanent program to stress the need of and develop outdoor play, athletics and recreation. He also said, "Side by side with the industrial plant should be the gymnasium and the athletic field."

One of the greatest battles that had to be fought in

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