

*371.975

8516

v.31

c.1

OREGON STATE LIBRARY

MAY 1 1930

CHEMAWA AMERICAN

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

OREGON
COLLECTION

Vol. XXXI

Wednesday, Apr. 30, 1930

No. 33

THIS IS INTERESTING

Some few weeks ago Miss Elta Van Norman, librarian of the Canandaigua Academy, New York, in a letter sent to Chemawa, expressed a desire to have some of our students write to her. It was a nice request, made in a modest and sincere manner. Mrs. Lobdell and some of the girls of her class responded and in due time they were rewarded by the receipt of two letters from Miss Van Norman—one to Mrs. Lobdell and the other to the girls of her class. The following letter was addressed to Mrs. Lobdell:

"I want to express to you and to your principal my appreciation for the letters from the girls. They are not only of use to me, but of intense interest. I am a high school librarian and I have given students in the library the letters. It is needless to say that they found them as interesting as I did.

"You are to be congratulated on your school and the splendid work it is doing. I would speak of these letters also from the standpoint of a teacher. It seems to me they show a care in English and in writing which is at least equal to that shown in the work of our high school students here.

"I feel that one of the greatest needs in our secondary schools today is instruction along sociological lines—to try to understand other races, other nations and other classes, so that whether we are white or red we may have (to use the trite expression) a feeling of brotherhood.

"In my letter to the girls I shall try to tell them something of our town and its historical background and I think they may find we have something in common as far as interests are concerned.

"Again let me thank you for your cooperation, and if ever I have the opportunity to be of service to you I shall be most pleased."

Here follows the letter to the girls. No doubt it was of great interest to them, and we feel that it will please all who read it, as follows:

"Your letters came to me this morning and I want to extend to you not only my thanks, but my congratulations on your lovely school, on your splendid English teacher, and upon this sample of your work. While your letters are certainly evidence of careful school training, it is not as schoolwork that I find them of the most value or of the most interest. They tell me something of yourselves, of your lives, and

how you are getting an education, and for that I like them most.

"I think I now have a very good picture of the Salem school and its program of activities, and I agree with some of you when you say you have a better opportunity for an education than many white children have. Of course, in our state we do have very good schools, but you and I know that is not true of all sections of our country. So I am sure you do appreciate your school and love it, and I am doubly sure that when you leave it and you return to your people you will have very much to carry back to them from it.

"Are you surprised to learn that I, too, am in school? I am the librarian in Canandaigua Academy, a school of five hundred boys and girls. And I was so glad Anna Johnson told me of the library because I believe a library is a great part of every school. I hope some of you girls go on to college and become librarians in some of your schools, or in any other schools, for there are too few libraries and too few people to care for them.

"Our school is a day school, a regular public school, but it is an exceedingly attractive one and this year there has been added a new building containing shops, gymnasium, auditorium, and a most beautiful swimming pool. I cannot send you a picture of that, but I am sending a small print of the older part of our building, as well as a view of our beautiful lake.

"I want to tell you a little about the lake and about the town: Canandaigua is an Indian name and means 'Sleeping Beauty.' The name fits very well, indeed, for it is a quiet town and I know all of you would call it beautiful.

"Canandaigua was settled by white people in 1786 and the region had long been the home of the Seneca Indians. In fact, Bare Hill, which you can see in this picture was for many, many years the council place of all the Senecas. There are some very interesting legends concerning this historic spot. Many other things of interest concerning the relations of the white people and the Indians there are, but one may be of special interest to you here. I suppose, even though you are of the West, you have heard of Red Jacket, the great Seneca orator. In Canandaigua he had his headquarters for a long period of time, and

(Continued on page 4)