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REAL AMERICANS CONFER

On March 8th and 9th there assembled at Chemawa delegates from the Northwest tribes to consider the new legislation proposed by John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to promote self-government, provide land for landless Indians and to improve educational opportunities. The local conference was one of six scheduled throughout western and central states. In the absence of Commissioner Collier it was presided over by William Zimmerman, Jr., Assistant Commissioner. There were present about 150 delegates representing the tribes, and 200 visitors. Group meetings were held in the evenings to discuss the bill.

The black-eyed and stern-faced delegates, dressed in the garb from the latest cut in clothes to the tribal costumes, created the impression of the great transition which is occurring. Interpreters were numerous in the audience and as each statement was made by the speaker a pause was permitted, either for the murmur of interpreters or for a general interpretation.

Some of the famous chiefs were present at the conference, among whom were Ellis Kip Kip Pelican, son of the former chief of the Nez Perce; Black Eagle, direct decendent of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce; and J. M. Parsons, a Carlisle graduate and son of Chief Eugene Mallikan.

One thing that made the conference most interesting was that the leader of each tribe was a full-blood Indian. Each Chief who expressed his veiws spoke with the polish and forcefulness of his white brother officiating at the conference. Each Indian speaker also disclosed unusually keen knowledge of parliamentary law. No word in the Indian language covered the word "Communism," and as a result, one of the interpreters broke the tenseness of the conference by requesting how the word could be translated. Ward Shepard, who was explaining the land policies in the measure, put the term in other words for their accomodation.

Banners of delegates from Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and northern California displayed names of tribes including Coeur d'Alene, Hoopa Valley, Grande Ronde, Colville, Kootenais, Tulalip, Flathead, Kalispell, Yakima, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Siletz, Klamath, Sacramento, Taholah and Spokane.

The delegates were entertained by students who gave a program and a dance and a scheduled basketball game. Supt. Ryan, who had charge of all local

arrangements, was hard pressed for supplies as a result of the fire that destroyed the school commissary just before the opening of the convention.

Two dormitories and other buildings closed since last year were opened to accomodate the delegates and visitors. It is no small task to care for so many adult visitors, but the children and employes were happy to have this opportunity. While all hoped the Commissioner would be present they were pleased with the graciousness and ability of the Assistant Commissioner and his staff.

The following is a list of officials attending the conference:

Mr. E. M. Johnson, farm adviser, Alturas, Calif.; Mr. John E. White, extension agent, Sacramento, Calif.; Supt. and Mrs. O. H. Lipps, Sacramento agency; Supt. N. O. Nickolson, Taholah agency; Supt. and Mrs. O. L. Babcock, Umatilla agency; Supt. F. W. Boyd, Warm Springs; Supt. E. C. Coe, Flathead agency; Supt. O. C. Upchurch, Tulalip agency; Supt. and Mrs. O. M. Bogges, Hoopa Valley; Supt. and Mrs. Wade Crawford, Klamath agency; Supt. F. A. Gross, Fort Hall agency; Supt. and Mrs. A. G. Wilson, Coeur d'Alene-Nez Perce agency; Supt. H. K. Meyer, Colville agency; Dr. Pritchard, IECW supervisor; William Zimmerman, jr. asst. commissioner, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Walter V. Woehlke, Wash., D. C.; Mr. Robert Marshall, Wash., D. C.; Mr. Melvin Siegel, Wash., D. C.; Mr. Ward Shepard, Wash., D. C.; Dr. Henry Roe Cloud, head of Haskell Institute and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nash, field representative of the Department of the Interior.

COMMISSARY BURNS

A stupendous loss, which is noted by all, was the destruction of the school's commissary by fire. The fire is thought to have been due to defective wiring and resulted in the loss of considerable property and approximately all of the school food supply. To date it is still unknown whether or not the building will be rebuilt. A fire caused by the same source was also started in the old club building. This was immediately put under control and very little damage was done. All occupants have abandoned the building and have sought residence elsewhere. The students are to be commended on their conduct in helping the different employees whose homes were menaced by close proximity to the burning building.