

SALUTATORY

WELCOME

Classmates, parents, teachers and friends:

We, the class of 1949 of Chemawa, salute you and welcome you to our graduating exercises. For twelve long years we have worked for this happy occasion. I say happy because it means the ending of long years of work, yet sad, because it means that, after today, we will all go our separate ways and many of us may never see each other again.

Commencement is merely the beginning for most of us, to something else. In Commencement we have only reached a certain stage in our life. The question with all of us is, "Where do we go from here?" Perhaps many of us already have some idea about that, but perhaps some are still undecided. Let us hope the summer months will not find us "asleep at the switch." September will soon be here again and by that time every one of us should have made a definite decision.

You do not expect us to stop here. If that were the end you would be disappointed. We do not know how much more you may anticipate for us, but whatever it is we join with you in future hopes.

As we bid you welcome, we also wish to express our thanks to all those who made this occasion possible. After all, we have had but a small part in our own victory. We have learned many things for which our Administrators and teachers are responsible. We want to thank our parents for making it possible to be here and to con-

tinue until our work was completed. All this adds up to a huge debt we can never repay.

No matter how dark the future, how discouraging, school must go on. Only through education can we emerge from darkness, stupidity and superstition.

Let us look for a moment at some of the objectives of the Indian Schools. To give pupils an understanding and appreciation of their own tribal lore, art, music and community organization, to teach students, through their own participation in school and governments, to become constructive citizens of their communities, to help students in analyzing the economic resources of their community and how to use them wisely; livestock management, housing and clothing, gardening, marketing, farm mechanics; health habits, disease prevention and limitless practical information. In short, helping us to help ourselves.

Not every community is so enlightened as ours.

In welcoming you we appreciate our own position in being here today and having reached this stage of our progress. Without you this would not be possible. So again, we thank you all for having given us this priceless heritage.—Frieda Bent

WE LIVE IN ONE WORLD

Members of the Faculty, Parents, Classmates, and Friends:

Today we, the class of 1949, are here to celebrate the attainment of our goal and to thank all of those who have been re-

sponsible for our having come this far.

We consider it a privilege to be graduating from a school which for 69 years has served the Indian people. Most of the members of the class entered Chemawa in the grade school and two of the members had twelve years here at Chemawa.

We do not know what the future may hold for us. But we have learned over the 12 years we have been in school that the only sound preparation for the future is the gaining and retaining of knowledge. One need only to make a brief review of a few of the happenings which have combined to make the history which has transpired in our brief lifetime to realize how important a good educational foundation is.

Many special inventions and discoveries which offer undreamed-of possibilities for good or evil have been developed during our time. Among these, television, guided missiles, rocket artillery, supersonic speeds and global range of aircraft, new fuels, the atom bomb and atomic energy—these are only a partial inventory which indicates the scope of the changes and challenges which confront us as we start to build our careers and our life's work.

We are very happy to be graduating, but we also realize that the carefree days of high school are over and a more serious and sober time lies ahead for all of us. We have a great deal to look forward to and as our motto states, "If there isn't a way, we'll make one."—Victor Jackson