

INDIAN EDUCATION.

Indian Agent Erwin (this is an error, he is Agent Johnson) of Oklahoma is not wed to the education of the Indians. It is a report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs he declares that the task of educating the Indians, young or old, is a useless and hopeless one. In the report he says:

"Hardly any of the young Indians, those who have graduated from non-reservation schools, as well as those who have attended for a number of years, do any work at all. I can bear down as a perfectly safe rule that, as a class, the young educated Indians are the most worthless ones in the whole tribe. Nearly all the work performed by the tribes is done by the 'uneducated ones, who cannot write or speak English."

The educated Indian coming from the reservation gives the excuse that he has nothing with which to work, neither money, implements nor stock of any kind. This is true, but I noticed that they managed to live on their annuities and lease money and buy horses, buggies, etc., on credit and borrow money from the banks with but little prospect of ever being able to repay their debts.

But there are other men who have given this subject thought and attention who are equally sure that the education of the Indian is a great work, and that it is having good effect already, and is sure to have a more marked effect in the future.

The Indian with Mr. Erwin, and those who think like him, appear to be that they expect too much. They look to see the fields of the West for thousands of years cultivated in two or three years of the white man's school. All the white boys who go to college are not benefited thereby. Many of them would be better off, and would be of more use to the world, if they were set to work with in the training of their brains with a mass of knowledge that they do not understand and care nothing about. Surely when the whites—the children of centuries of civilization and intellectual development—can not all profit by higher education, surely we should not

expect too much from the children of the wilds.

The Indian can not be brought up to the white level by two or three years' education. It will take centuries to do that. But the Indian can and is improved by the contact with a superior civilization, and the effects of that contact is irresistible in time. Meantime the government perhaps ought to give more attention to putting the Indian to useful employment after it gives him an education than it does. It should endeavor to prevent him from drifting back into the old habits of the tribe.—[Daily Tribune.]

A Timely Lesson.

The smothering which Col. H. H. Pratt is giving the fake story writer who has been manufacturing lies by the wholesale to the detriment of the Indian and the whole Indian Service, is one which will save the said fake squires and cronies, and will prove a timely lesson to newspapers to exercise greater care in the future before publishing flimsy stories against even the Indians of this country without first fully investigating the truth of the matter. All friends of the Indian as well as lovers of right, truth and justice cannot thank Col. Pratt sufficiently for his earnest and fearless prosecution of the Philadelphia newspaper and its fake St. Louis correspondent for writing and publishing an article which was false in the base, charging White Buffalo, a young Cheyenne Indian, a former student of Carlisle, with introducing three white women. And stories have been frequently published in leading Sunday newspapers wandering and misrepresenting the Indian and cause the people of the country who might read and believe such imaginary yarns to entertain prejudice and preconceived ideas of the Indian character. It was time call a halt and Col. Pratt, the true staunch friend of the Indian, did not miss the opportunity to do so.

There are no failures in life more pitiable perhaps than those which result from too much success.—[E.].