

## The Chemawa American.

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## The Alaska Indian Problem.

What to do with the Alaska Indians is a problem that is being brought forcibly to the attention of Government officials. For several years appeals have been made, principally to Army officers, to send relief to suffering Indians in one community or another. It has been stated that since the advent of the white man in Alaska he has largely deprived the native of his means of support, and that the enactment of more stringent game and fish laws have done much towards cutting off the food supplies of the tribes scattered throughout the vast territory. There seems to be no doubt that there is a great deal of suffering among the Alaskan Indians, but the Government is in an awkward position, not knowing what course to pursue. To establish the policy of furnishing food outright to these Indians, year after year, would mean a good-sized appropriation. Aside from \$10,000 appropriated last session for the relief of the Copper River Indians, there is no fund available for the relief of the Alaskan Indians. Yet demands for aid are coming in from all sections, and only such assistance can be given as seems absolutely necessary. The department rather looks to Congress to provide the remedy, but Congress declines or act. So far as the Copper River Indians

are concerned, a proposition has been laid before the Interior Department for creating a reservation for their use and benefit, on lines similar to the Indian reservations in the states, but there would be considerable opposition to the policy of creating Indian reservations all over Alaska. Therefore the investigation that has been proposed, with a view to learning the exact facts, in order that a comprehensive report may be made to Congress next session, with a view to securing legislation outlining, in a general way, at least, the future policy of this Government towards the Alaska Indians.—[Oregonian]

## Supt. Chos. W. Potter.

The gentleman whose portrait we give on this page is the superintendent of the Chemawa Indian Training school, near Salem, Oregon. This institution has become one of the great schools of the Indian service largely through the efforts of Supt. Potter, who has shown himself to be an energetic, wide-awake, skillful superintendent. The Oregon Statesman thus speaks of him:

"Thos. W. Potter, the Superintendent, is one of the greatest workers in the Indian Service. He has been here about eight years, and to his efforts is largely due to the growth and improvements in a hundred ways of the institution. Mr. Potter has been long in the Indian service, and the best years of his life are being given to the upbuilding of Indian character and the bettering of the conditions for his training into the ways of civilization."—Puget Sound Indian Guide.

Miss Irene Campbell, of Chemawa, Oregon, (once our little Irene) has written a song called "Chemawa." It was given by her at their 23rd Anniversary exercises recently.—[Red Man and Helper, Carlisle]

Miss Davie, who has been acting assistant clerk at Chemawa during Mr. Calise's absence, returned to her home in Salem first of the week.