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A PRACTICAL SOLUTION.

In speaking of the annual report of Commissioner Jones, the Oregonian, in a recent issue, expressed itself in the following language:

"At last a report has been issued from the Indian Bureau at Washington in which a plain and practical solution of the Indian question is suggested. 'Let the Indian be taught the rudiments of the English language,' says Commissioner of Indian Affairs Jones; 'protect him only to the extent that he may gain confidence in himself, and leave nature and civilization to do the rest.' Thus equipped for self-help, it is further urged that the Indian be given to understand that he 'must work or starve.'

"Discarding sentiment, yet instinct with the principle of justice and the logic of kindness which seeks to equip the individual for life's battle, leave him to fight it and insist that he must fight it or perish, is this tardy official presentment of a solution of the Indian question. By contrast with the policy so long pursued by the Government toward its Indian wards, it is startling. It discards its useless Indian education that runs into the sciences, places a sharp and speedy limitation upon the practice of issuing rations to the Indians who occupy fertile lands, have been supplied with agricultural implements and seed and instructed in the elements of industry, and decrees that the Indian must make use

of the knowledge of farming or other handicraft that he has gained for his own preservation, or drop out of existence.

"There is real humanity in this plain and simple proposition, though at first it may seem harsh. It is clearly no kindness to the Indian, as a race or an individual, to keep him or permit him to hang upon the outskirts of civilization—a strong, able-bodied vagabond—satisfied with the assurance, drawn from the past, that if he does not feed, house and clothe himself the Government will, when a time of stress comes, supply him with food, shelter and apparel.

"A fair sample of the lives that reservation Indians live, and of the death that they not infrequently die, under the mistaken policy that the Government has long pursued toward them, has been presented to the public before the United States Court in this city within the week. Idle, thriftless, vicious; without thought of the morrow, except to wonder whether they can manage to elude the law and procure whisky; nursing bitter feuds and laying plans for vengeance and plots for murder; filthy beyond description in their homes and lives, the mass of reservation Indians mock by their daily existence the methods that have long been pursued for their civilization. Against these methods and utterly discarding them as inefficient and pernicious comes at last a voice from the Indian Bureau saying: 'Let the Indian be taught that he must work or starve.' Supplementing this, Commissioner Jones expresses the opinion that this policy would in a generation or more work the regeneration of the race. It would certainly regenerate the race or cause it to become extinct. In either event the requirements of humanity would be met by the policy recommended."

When you complain of being overworked, think of the time you waste.