

# Weekly Chemawa American

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## Notes from Address of Col. James L. Randlett (In the school chapel.)

Superintendent Chalcraft, employees and pupils of Chemawa: I have this to say that I hope none of you came here expecting to hear a fine orator but will be satisfied with the words of an old soldier and Indian Agent. I am not accustomed to talking to audience. Mr. Campbell said when he introduced me that I "love to talk to children" and so I do but there are many here tonight, who are past their childhood and are now young men and women.

I suppose you boys and girls would like to hear much of my experience and life as a soldier but of that we cannot talk as we have no time. I want to tell you of the work I have been associated with last twenty years. For twelve years I was associated with the Utes at Uintah. With my duties as post-commander I was made Indian agent and I had a hard time there in attending to grafters and people who were attempting to rob the Indians. When I went there there were poor apologies for a school. There was one school at which seven or eight children attended. When I was appointed to that agency I rounded them up and kept them on the reservation and put the children in school. There was

scarcely a child in those schools who could speak a word of English. I filled up two schools—one of them had over 100 children. The other about sixty. Now these children were interesting to me. They were Comanches and I took a great deal of interest in them and I worked hard there as Superintendent helping these Indians along.

At Kiowa Agency we had three large schools, which were very prosperous at the time I went there. They had not been established many years. Twenty years before I went there I was chasing the Kiowas and Comanches around. It was not very pleasant work. But with these schools at the agency there was room for doing much good work. On the first of January we included in our estimates band instruments. There was not a boy or girl in that school who had ever touched an instrument. They opened their exhibition with band music. They played six pieces of difficult music a few months later.

The people of the surrounding country who were there were delighted and after the service was opened a gentleman asked to be permitted to speak. He said he had been a band instructor for over