

Weekly Chemawa American

VOL. 12

OCTOBER 1, 1909.

NO. 12

Helping the Indian to Help Himself.

Charles Dagenett, Supervisor of Indian Employment, with headquarters at Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been at the Indian Office on official business. Mr. Dagenett's duties consist of finding employment for Indians in various occupations throughout the country. He is a quarter blood Peoria, and his wife is a full-blood Miami. He received his education at the United States Indian School, Carlisle, Pa., and at Hampton Institute, and as soon as he completed his course of study, was employed under the Carlisle School in connection with the outing system, which has been in force there for twenty-nine years.

This is a system of placing among farmers young Indian boys and girls where they will be received in the homes and treated as members of the families and learn the life of the ordinary American farmer. As the system has been conducted at the Carlisle School, the boys have been placed in southeastern Pennsylvania and in New Jersey, where the authorities of the school may keep in touch with them and see that

they are well treated.

The idea under which this system grew is that the only practical way of weaning the Indian away from his aboriginal ideas and customs is to show him how a conventional, self-supporting, self-respecting white man lives.

Mr. Dagenett had been employed in connection with this system under the Carlisle School for a number of years, but it proved to be so great a success that former Commissioner Leupp concluded that the idea should be expanded, and Mr. Dagenett was given a larger field and his duties increased to cover the obtaining of employment for Indians of all ages and conditions and in all classes of industries. The idea has been thoroughly exploited by Commissioner Valentine and has been justified by the results that have been accomplished. Employment has been found for Indians on the railroads in the Southwest, on Government Reclamation projects, on other independent irrigation construction, and in the sugar beet fields of Colorado and Wyoming.

Mr. Dagenett now has five assistants

(Continued on page 8.)