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R. G. VALENTINE, COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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FOR THE TRUST

By John E. Lathrop

Washington, D. C., Oct. 23.—“Sometimes, in the midst of the worrying details of the business of this office, things happen that appeal to one's emotional nature. They make a man want to accomplish well for those who, are under his care officially, depend on his wisdom and faithfulness. It benefits an official occasionally to meet these experiences. If they were not met, these official jobs would deteriorate to the dull dead level of monotony, and the incumbent would become a mere machine, and get out of touch with the human side of his office affairs.”

R. G. Valentine, Commissioner of Indian affairs, since last June, thus revealed in part the obviously fine qualities which he brings to his new office. So far, he has succeeded in carrying into

official work the sentiments hinted at in his words just quoted.

Valentine has been in the Indian service since 1905. When he became private secretary to Commissioner Leupp; in 1908 he was made Supervisor of Indian schools, and that fall Assistant Commissioner.

His training was varied—graduate of Harvard, class '96; instructor in English at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and New York banker for four years, and a railroad accountant. This during the 37 years he has lived.

He was appointed commissioner without preferring a request for it. He owes his position to no one man or set of men. He therefore is in an ideal situation to run his office without fear or favor. And he's doing it, too. He is the real head of his bureau.

Commissioner Valentine insists on being the real head; yet, in four months, he has harmonized a lot of warring elements which for years have made of the Indian office the center of contention. The Indian Rights Association and the Catholic Indian Association no longer go to the commissioner to register their protests; they go there to discuss mat-

(Continued on page 6.)