

REVEALS IN THE INDIAN SERVICE

Work of New Commissioner Francis E. Leupp Both Commended and Criticized.

EXPLAINS PARTICULARS OF HIS PROPOSED PLAN

At Present Does Not Favor Enlisting Full Companies or Appointing to West Point.

(Special Dispatch to the Journal.) Washington, April 8.—The new commissioner of Indian affairs, Francis E. Leupp, is inaugurating reforms in the Indian service with the view to improvement of the wards of the government along practical lines. He is receiving many commendations from those interested in the welfare of the Indians, but at the same time is not exempt from criticisms on the part of those who do not agree with him in the steps he is taking.

Recently the commissioner has been criticized for his alleged intention of enlisting a company of Indians in the regular army. Your correspondent called upon the commissioner in order to get his exact views in regard to this matter. In response to a direct inquiry concerning the particulars of the proposed plan, Mr. Leupp said:

"A good deal of interest appears to have been excited in the west over my reported proposal to enlist Indians in the regular army. Not only have I no such intention, but it is farthest away from my real plans. Any intimation or other statements in regard to my intentions are entirely unauthorized. Whenever spoken to on the subject of enlisting Indians in the army, I have always said that the experience which has already been gained of using Indians in the army, indicates that efforts along these lines have failed. The reason for such failure is two-fold.

First, Adult Indians were taken into the service after they had acquired settled habits of life, and after that they were never content to stay and be away from their families. Their life habits were fixed and they were stiffened into certain ways from which they could not well be changed, and so they were not pliable to the new ways and discipline of army life.

Second, The attempt was made to group them together in companies or troops. At the time the experiment was made, I ventured the prophecy, which is in accord with an idea I have always held, that you never could raise up a people of alien race and graft them into our civilization by keeping them in groups, rubbing elbows one with another. The best way to teach an Indian is to put him in with whites who will teach him by association the lessons of civilization. I would not wholly isolate an Indian and should have no objection if several young men of that race who knew each other in boyhood, would get into a company of white soldiers, for in that condition the boys would get the comforts and benefits of companionship and perhaps be more contented than if wholly separated from any companions of their own race.

But the great object, if the Indian is to be made a soldier, is to get him in with white soldiers when young and plastic, susceptible to training.

The testimony of all army officers I have talked with, who have had Indians as soldiers under their command, has been very favorable to the Indian for their soldierly qualities, and they seem generally to believe that if taken young and given careful training the Indian makes excellent material for military service. It would be a material benefit to the Indian race if a reasonable number should be given military training. I have noticed in observing various communities that the better class of white soldiers after leaving the service of the regular army become valuable and substantial citizens. They have learned obedience, respect for authority; they are truthful, cleanly in habits and dress, and have a self-respecting carriage, which makes them extremely valuable in places of minor authority and obedience, and leads them up to higher positions. An Indian serving a regular enlistment, or perhaps several enlistments in the regular army would acquire the same good traits and would be fitted to become a valuable citizen should he

AMAZING ACCIDENT IN TUNNEL WORK

Shot through eight feet of mud and 25 feet of water is an experience that it seems hardly possible a man could survive. One man in the world who had that experience is Richard Creagan, a New York tunnel worker, says it wasn't very exciting.

Several days ago Creagan was working in the advance portion of the new Brooklyn tunnel. A break occurred and Creagan hustled some bags of sand into the hole to stop the leak. But in that section of the tunnel the air pressure was 35 pounds to the square inch. This pressure blew a hole in the soft mud above the break, and as Creagan came dashing up with the third bag of sand he was caught by the air pressure and buried up through the mud.

There was eight feet of it between the tunnel and the bottom of the river—and then through 25 feet of water to the surface of the East river.

The human cannon ball held on the bag for grim life during his sudden upward flight, but dropped it when he reached the surface. A good swimmer, Creagan managed to keep afloat until he was rescued.



Diagram Showing How One of the Most Remarkable Accidents on Record Occurred.

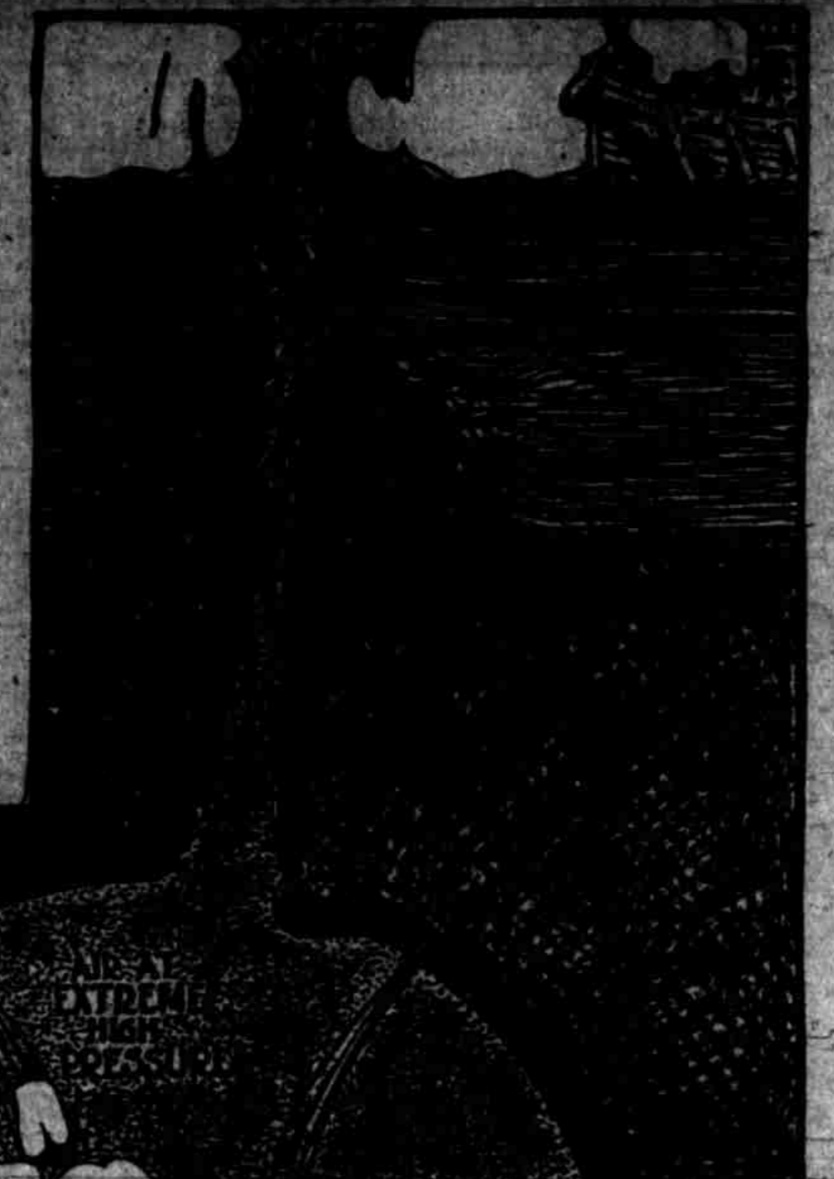
leave the army and return either to his own people or to life among the whites.

Should Have Trade. "My idea in regard to military service among the Indians is to have those boys who graduate from Carlisle, and who are not only prepared by having had military drill and discipline, but who have also been taught some of the trades which may be utilized in military service, enter the army. Equipped with a good elementary knowledge of reading, writing and mathematics, and with a trade besides, which would enable them in an emergency to shoe a horse, mend equipments, repair a wagon or run a telephone line, they would be truly useful as soldiers, and usefulness would promptly be recognized by their superior officers. I would expect a boy of that sort, if he had the instruction of a soldier, to rise promptly from the ranks, and become a non-commissioned officer and possibly he might receive a commission. How soon it may be desirable to issue officers' commissions to Indians or to admit some of the Indians to West Point, may depend somewhat upon the rapidity of their development as a race after having been given a fair chance.

There are a few Indians in the army at the present time, but the Indian has been getting no reports of the standing and record of these Indians, and no special notice has been taken of them. Hereafter the record of every Indian who enlists will be looked into and reported to the Indian office. The Indian office will only permit capable young Indians to enlist, and will follow their careers with great interest.

Very Businesslike. "I would be very reluctant to make such a recommendation. I would not be willing to give my direct assent at present, because the Indian race has not, as a whole, reached such a sufficient stage of development to warrant that. It will take several generations of inheritance of certain traits of independence and responsibility to put them in the same position as the white race. All I am seeking is to give the Indian the same show as the whites, and racially as well as individually, I want him to have every advantage which should make of him a useful citizen. Of course there are exceptional cases where Indian boys are qualified perhaps to enter West Point, but my idea is to first try apprenticeships with less important positions in the army.

"Boys hereafter will be given opportunity to enlist, and when they go before the recruiting officers of the army, they will be found not only mentally but physically qualified, and will have to their credit experience gained in a small way in military affairs and in the acquirements of useful trades, and will be able to do something besides fight. There is a demand in the army for some



of our Carlisle boys who are in the military band at that school, and some of them will probably go into the bands of the regular army. One very pleasant feature of the subject is the fact that no race prejudice exists against the Indian. There is no antipathy against him by the whites on account of his race, and no hesitation in associating with him on the same terms as with white men."

Fallen Into Error. The attention of the commissioner was called to the criticism that under his administration specialisation was becoming the feature of education, especially at Carlisle. In regard to this Mr. Leupp said:

"My critics on these subjects doubtless, unintentionally, have fallen into error. I have never thought, and much less proposed, to make a strictly military school out of Carlisle, to the exclusion of other matters. I have simply had the same ideas as those concerning other large non-reservation schools, and that is to emphasize certain features of their instruction. The emphatic military feature of the course at Carlisle does not by any means imply that every boy must, and would be a soldier. The emphatic agricultural feature at some other school does not mean that every student that graduates would be a farmer. The emphatic business training at a third institution does not mean that all of the scholars would be stenographers and typewriters and bookkeepers. But in these institutions, just as we do in those for the education of our own people, we lay special stress on certain lines. My plan is to methodize the work at a number of our Indian schools so that each one will have some distinctive and well known feature, instead of leaving them in a semi-chaotic, haphazard condition."

GIGANTIC FRAUDS IN MONTANA LANDS

Special Train of Pseudo Settlers Took Up Lands and Deeded Them Away.

SENATOR CLARK DEEPLY INVOLVED IN SWINDLES

Starting Developments Show Fraudulent Transactions Rival Those of Oregon.

(Special Dispatch to the Journal.) Helena, Mont., April 8.—It is learned from authoritative sources that the government is investigating alleged land frauds in Montana and reports are current that startling developments may be expected with the convening of the grand jury here early this month.

A bureau with a corps of 11 inspectors has been established here and these men are busily engaged in investigating the alleged illegal entries. A government official in this city is authority for the statement that a force of three times the size of the one so engaged could be profitably employed.

"It is a matter of shame," said he, "that the government has been so ruthlessly defrauded in Montana and Idaho of such vast quantities of valuable lands. And the audacity with which these operations have been carried on is temerity personified.

"It will be one instance in substantiation of such a broad statement. It has come to light that a special train was run for the purpose of carrying the pseudo settlers to the land office where each member of the party took over government lands, and the next day they were deeded to the originator of the plan.

"Instances have been brought to light where through travelers on passenger trains have been offered as much as \$150 to stop over a day and take up a section of land under the timber and stone act, with the understanding that in the course of a few days or a few hours even that it would be transferred to the person who proffered the money. "I am not pandering to sensationalism when I say that startling developments may be looked for—even on a gigantic scale as those brought to light in Oregon, if, indeed, more glaring frauds are not discovered.

In this connection the trial here next week of 23 defendants in what are known as the western Montana land frauds becomes of great interest. About a year ago the federal grand jury sitting in this city returned 102 indictments, charging perjury and subornation of perjury in connection with the alleged false entry of government lands. Simultaneously the government brought suit against United States Senator W. A.

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Clark, it being charged that the indicted persons had taken over the lands at the instigation of R. M. Cobban, an alleged agent of the senator, to whom the lands had been deeded by the indicted individuals.

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