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**SECRETARY OF INTERIOR FILES REPORT**

The following excerpts are taken from the report of the secretary of the interior, which was sent to congress today. The report says:

By the act of congress approved June 17, 1902, provision was made for the construction of irrigation works for the reclamation of arid and semi-arid lands of the Western states. Thereafter a reclamation service was organized, surveys made, and various projects considered. A contract has been let for the construction of diversion works in the Truckee River, Nevada, and also of a canal to carry water to a reservoir on the Carson river. Investigations in connection with other projects are rapidly approaching the point where contracts can be let for their construction.

A detailed report of the results of the reclamation work as herein outlined will be submitted to congress, as required by the provisions of section 2 of the act above mentioned.

Two additional forest reservations have been established and two reserves have been slightly reduced in area. The management of these reservations during the year has been satisfactory. I am of the opinion, however, as hereinafter indicated, that the transfer of this service to the agricultural department would be productive of better administrative results.

Existing laws relating to the public lands in many instances do not provide adequate protection for the interests of the government, and remedial legislation in the cases and along the lines as suggested herein should be enacted by congress at the earliest practicable date.

**Public Lands.**

There were disposed of during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, public lands aggregating 22,824,299.65 acres, classified as follows: Cash sales, 3,073,896.99 acres; miscellaneous entries, embracing homesteads, land warrants, scrip locations, state selections, swamp lands, railroad and wagon road selections, Indian allotments, etc., 19,577,931.10 acres, and Indian lands, 173,371.56 acres, showing an increase of 3,335,764.35 acres as compared with the aggregate disposals for the preceding fiscal year.

The total cash receipts during the fiscal year from various sources, including disposal of public land, \$10,557,618.66, and Indian land, \$308,829.14; from depredations on public lands, \$95,251.31; from sales of timber on forest reserves, \$31,966.24; from sales of government property, \$849.82; and for furnishing copies of records and plats, \$30,118.48; aggregate, \$11,924,743.65, an increase of \$4,762,816.47 over the preceding fiscal year.

The total expenses of district land offices for salaries and commissions of registers and receivers, incidental expenses and expenses of depositing public moneys during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, were \$828,862.62, an increase, as compared with the fiscal year ended June 30, 1902, of \$10,564.92.

**Pensions.**

The report of the commissioner of pensions shows that during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, the total number of pensioners on the roll was 1,943,933, and the number remaining on the roll at the close of the year was 996,545, a net loss of 2,901 from the previous year.

The gains to the rolls during the year were 40,056 new pensioners and 4,401 restorations and renewals, a total of 44,457; of this number 231 were pensioned by special acts of congress. The losses to the rolls during the same time by death were 40,907 and from other causes 6,481, a total of 47,388, a net loss for the year of 2,901. The number of deaths of soldier pensioners for the year was 29,123 and of this number 27,842 were

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F. W. Schmidt, special agent.

volunteers of the civil war. The pension roll at the close of the year contained the names of 728,732 soldiers, 267,189 widows and dependents and 624 army nurses.

**Indian Affairs.**

The total Indian population of the United States remains about the same as last year, approximately about 270,000, of which the five civilized tribes and New York Indians embrace about 90,000, leaving about 180,000 occupying 156 reservations, containing 55,127,000 acres outside of the Indian Territory and the state of New York.

One thousand six hundred and nineteen allotments were made during the year, the area thereof being approximately 211,326 acres. Allotments in severalty aggregating 8,823,000 acres have been made since the passage of the general allotment act (February 8, 1887, 24 Stat. L., 388) to approximately 73,040 Indians.

General conditions among the Indians have been satisfactory during the year, no serious trouble having occurred. The marked progress toward civilization noted in recent years still continues, more Indians than ever before having engaged in industrial pursuits and in earning a livelihood for themselves and families.

In pursuance of the policy adopted by the department under authority of law, the abolishment of Indian agencies, and the devolving of the duties appertaining thereto upon bonded superintendents in charge of Indian training schools located at such agencies, has been continued, with the result that the number of agencies provided for in the appropriation for the present fiscal year in 33, as against 43 for the past year.

Great emphasis is placed upon this policy by the Indian department, and it is claimed that it meets the conditions which will best enable the Indian to break away from ancient tribal traditions and influences, and to become self-supporting.

The policy of requiring Indian allottees to work portions of their allotments has been continued during the past year, thus, by their industry, largely contributing to their support.

The New York Indians number 5,232, and occupy eight small reservations of about 88,000 acres in the northwestern part of the state of New York. These Indians receive small annuities in money and goods under treaty stipulations. The Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole, known as the five civilized tribes, located in the Indian Territory, including freedmen, number about 84,500, and occupy reservations whose aggregate area is 19,475,614 acres. More than 300,000 non-citizen whites are said to be living on the lands of the said tribes. Allotments to the Creeks have been practically completed, and allotment work in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations and the Cherokee nation is progressing.

Indians were largely employed during the year in the agency and field service as harnessmakers, shoemakers, blacksmiths, herders, butchers, teamsters, police and in like occupations and in the school service as nurses, matrons, clerks, cooks, laundresses and as industrial and other teachers, whose salaries aggregated nearly \$600,000.

The amount appropriated by the Indian appropriation act for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, is \$5,521,306.77. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, the sum of \$5,132,028.10 was appropriated, and in the general deficiency act of March 3, 1903, the additional amount of \$40,245 was appropriated, making the total appropriation for the fiscal year 1903, \$9,172,273.10.

The following was the income of the various Indian tribes from all sources during the fiscal year 1903: Interest on trust funds, \$1,525,171.39; treaty and agreement obligations, \$2,118,304.95; gratuities, \$799,900; Indian moneys, proceeds of leases, labor, etc., \$1,698,639.01; aggregating \$6,142,015.35, as against \$5,419,106.35 for the fiscal year 1902, an increase of \$722,909.

**Indian Education.**

During the fiscal year 1903 there were in operation 257 Indian schools, as against 249 the previous year. Of these, 26 were nonreservation boarding schools (one more than last year); 51 reservation boarding schools (one more than last year); and 140 day schools (six more than last year), with a total enrollment of 24,357 pupils and an average attendance of 20,876, against a total average attendance for 1902 of 20,540, or an increased average attendance for 1903 of 336.

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