

The Evening Herald

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1919

THE OPENING OF THE RESERVATION

We are glad that Mr. Baker stepped into the limelight and opposed the proposed bill offered by Mr. Ashurst. It has done the very thing that should be done to accomplish the best results—it has brought about a public discussion of its provisions and centered upon it the minds of the people in this section who are most deeply interested in the object of the measure—the opening of the reservation. No one can honestly dispute Mr. Baker's earnest desire to work for the best interests of the community, no matter how vigorously they may differ with his proposals. Neither can Mr. Ashurst's position be unreservedly supported, even though it has the backing of the Indians themselves. Both men have gone too far in their own directions, forgetting that there is a middle ground upon which they must stand if they are going to meet with success and at the same time protect the rights and interests of the Indians and the people of Klamath county.

One thing is certain—the reservation must not be thrown open unreservedly, leaving the Indians—the incompetent ones—to be the victims of their more advanced brothers, as well as the unscrupulous white vultures who are waiting for an opportunity to prey upon them. They must not be denied the right of self-government—self-determination if you go out into the broad field of world politics to choose a term that fits with a nicety into a question so close at home. It is our belief that the suggestions of both Mr. Baker and Mr. Ashurst can be amalgamated and formed into a workable plan

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that will give to the Indians just what they are asking for and have a right to demand, will free the Indians and the county from the curse of the administrative influence of the Indian Bureau, protect the timber resources of the reservation for the benefit of the Indians themselves, as well as for the watershed that is so important to the future of this county.

This plan simply provides for the administration of the affairs of the Indians by the Indians themselves, through a tribal council, assisted by a board of consultants, consisting of one member appointed by the governor of the state, one by the Indians and the third selected by these two, no one of the three having any direct or indirect connection with the reservation. This board would act as a bulwark between the aggression of the whites and the Indians; it would keep a watchful eye on the administrative affairs of the reservation and the actions of the Indian council. It could make investigations either on request or on its own initiative. It could offer suggestions to the council—in a word it would be the good friend that would stand as the "mandatory" for the Indians. The timberland of the reservation could be sold by the Indians through their council, to be logged under the most modern methods, the proceeds to be distributed among the tribe in perpetuity. It would be an "indissoluble asset" that would be an insurance to the Indians against want

and prevent them ever becoming a charge upon this county.

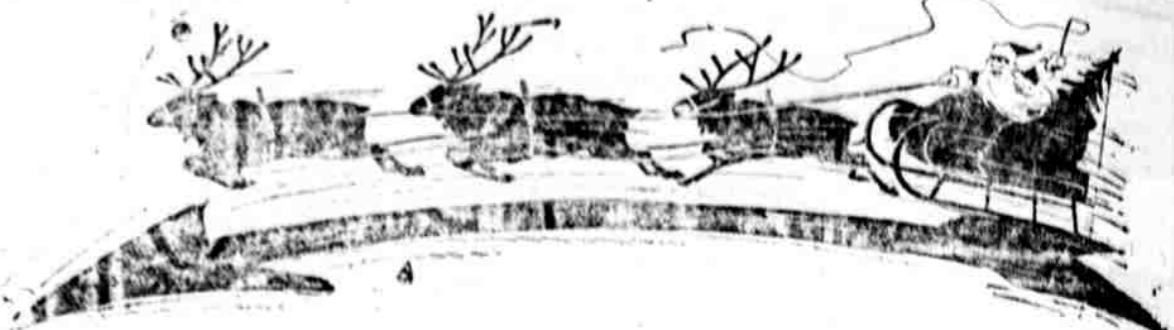
Some objection has been raised to this plan on the ground that it does not give to the Indian that freedom enjoyed by his white brother, but this argument is not well taken. The white brother has his forest reserve, with this difference—he has nothing to say about its administration. The government autocrats at Washington dictate that. Under the proposed plan, Washington is out of the reservation completely. No measure should be considered for an instant that would give to Washington one iota of a say in the affairs of the reservation. Every provision to protect the Indian against these pocket-pickers should be taken just as carefully as they should be protected against any other unscrupulous white man. Let us unite to stop it now, but in stopping the bureau thieves, do not let us turn loose on the Indians a horde of other thieves equally as bad. Let us remember that our first duty is to protect all of the Indians, not only against dishonest whites but against dishonest Indians. This can be accomplished through a well designed board of consultants, with sufficient authority to help, but not enough to govern or control the Indians. With such a plan laid before Congress, having the indorsement of the Indians and the people of this county and state, the Klamath Indian reservation will be opened at an early date. Follow either of the plans proposed by Mr. Baker or Mr. Ashurst, and it will still remain in the hands of the Indian bureau and an asset not for the Indians but a plaything for dishonest officials, who care more for their own comfort and pleasure than the rights and welfare of the innocent Indian wards they have been hired to protect.

YESTERDAY'S ELECTION

The result of yesterday's election was not a surprise. It was confidently expected by those who have sounded the sentiment of the citizens, and another election would be sure to meet with the same decision. The people of the city are dissatisfied with present conditions and they are not going to vote additional funds until they are assured that they will be spent with less prodigality. The city is face to face with a serious situation. Some means of financing its affairs must be found, other than the issuance of warrants for the payment of which there are no funds. The election has brought forcibly to the at-

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Attention of the business men of the city the urgent necessity of action, to the end that Klamath Falls be saved from the disaster that confronts it.

The best solution of the question that we have heard advanced is that a conference be held at which business men will be selected to administer the affairs of the city, under a pledge of the present officials to carry out the suggestions made, or, if this cannot be done, the replacement of the present administration by new officials, the present incumbents voluntarily resigning.

In either event arrangements could undoubtedly be made with the banks to finance the city until funds for doing so are provided by the taxpayers. Otherwise, it is doubtful if warrants will be honored, and without funds the city is in a dangerous predicament.

NOTICE

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