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GREAT WASTE IS CHARGED TO INDIAN BUREAU

(N. Y. Tribune)

Congressman Homer P. Snyder, of Herkimer, chairman of the committee on Indian Affairs in the House of Representatives, says that Cato Sells, of Texas, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, while an efficient manager of Indian schools and a fine gentleman, is "impossible as a business executive", and he has introduced a bill in the House which would completely reorganize the administration of the commission.

"In the seven years that Commissioner Sells has had charge of the Indian Bureau," Congressman Snyder said yesterday, "the cost of operating it has increased \$1,000,000 a year. During that period the number of Indians has been reduced to 21,000 or 71,000, God knows which.

"When the present Commissioner took it over the expenditures were about \$9,000,000 or \$9,400,000. In the estimates for this year they asked us to legislate into the appropriation bill \$17,400,000. During that period the number of statutory employees on the rolls of the bureau has increased by thousands, until today it is more than 6,000. Think of it in one little bureau!

Bureau Costs \$10,000,000.

"My opinion is, and I state it without fear of contradiction by the Commissioner or anyone else, that this present Commissioner has cost the government of the United States in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000. Think of an increase of \$6,000,000 a year, and the number of restricted Indians reduced to 21,000 or 71,000.

"Commissioner Sells is a splendid gentleman, and undoubtedly has a general knowledge of Indian affairs, but as a business proposition he is impossible. Originally it was the plan to develop the Indian bureau in the interest of the Indian, to educate him and to encourage him to become a citizen. But every single activity which could be dragged into the bureau under the guise of some benefit to the Indian has been injected.

"For instance, the first witness we had on the stand in our investigation of the bureau was the Commissioner himself. When we got to the point of discussing the reimbursable irrigation items he made a speech in which he stated that probably 50 per cent of those projects were defensible; that many of them were of a doubtful character and that some should be eliminated altogether.

Unable to Get Information.

"Later on in the investigation when we insisted that the information desired from him should be of his own knowledge and not from the members of his staff who sat around him he was practically helpless, and when the question was put to him as to whether or not the work under these projects was being done by force account or by contract he was able to state that he thought there was some done each way, but he could not tell whether any part of the work was being done by contract or any particular project, or any part of it was being done by force account, or whether any of the work that was being done by the Reclamation Service under his supervision was being done by contract or by force account.

"Neither could he give the name of one single contractor, although he admitted that much of the work was being done by contract; and, finally, after having made the statement which I have quoted, that probably 50 per cent of these subjects were defensible, that some of them were of a doubtful character, and that some should be eliminated entirely, he left the stand with the agreement with the chairman that he did not know anything about any particular one of these projects, in particular or general.

Indian Balks at Farming.

"Ninety percent of the land irrigated ostensibly for the use of the Indians at government expense is being cultivated or used by white men. Irrigation of Indian lands was designed originally to benefit the Indian as an agriculturist. He will not be a

farmer except to a very limited degree.

"Secretary Lane, before our committee, practically admitted that now they are irrigating the Indian's land for the use of the white man, for the indirect benefit of the Indian. In the large projects, where there are 30,000 acres being cultivated, 25,000 or 26,000 acres are being cultivated by white men and only 3,000 or 4,000 by the Indians. In many of these irrigation projects the Indian leases the land that has been allotted to him for so much a month or so much a year. That, of course, goes into a tribal fund. Eventually some part of it may find its way back to the Indian.

Unable to Collect \$2,500,000.

"Nearly \$8,000,000 has been appropriated for improvement projects under the guise of 'reimbursable', of which I believe not one dollar can even be collected. The same thing applies to \$2,500,000 that has been appropriated for the purpose of surveying Indian lands. There is a charge on the books of the bureau against unknown Indians of \$2,500,000 that is absolutely uncollectible.

"In the judgment of the committee it would cost \$10 to collect every \$1 that might be recovered. On August 4, 1914, under the Wilson administration, in order that a liability should be turned into an asset to make a showing, some one amended the law that all moneys expended for certain improvement projects on Indian lands should be a charge against the land.

"Altogether the sum of \$20,000,000 has been expended on these improvement projects, not one penny of which has ever been returned, and until our committee bored into the matter nobody on earth had ever suggested that there would ever be a time when any part of it should be returned or any arrangement made to have it returned.

Payment for Water Sought.

"It was found by the committee that men have been operating farms on projects where great profits were being made, and they were getting the same value from the water by the use of it as if the project was completed fifty years ago. We have written into our bill a clause that will make it necessary for every user of water to recompense the government.

"In rebuttal of my statement in the House about Commissioner Sells having cost the government or the Treasury of the United States, during his incumbency, \$10,000,000, Congressman Hayden, of Arizona, cut the cost in his estimate to \$16,500,000, but he overlooked the fact that under the present Indian administration unjustifiable activities have been put into the service which it will cost many millions to dispend with."

SEES MENACE FROM RUSSIA

SUNDERLAND, Eng., Jan. 17. (By Mail).—Winston Churchill, British Secretary of State for War, declared in an address he delivered here that while no one can tell what will emerge from Russia "it will be something very menacing to civilization and especially dangerous to the British Empire."

"Bolshevist fanatics are determined to destroy civilization, democratic parliaments, and the liberties of free peoples," declared the Minister.

"Europe and Asia are in a desperate condition. The Allies may abandon Russia but Russia will not abandon them. The ghost of the bear will cross the snows and menace them.

"New forces are bringing up in Asia Minor, and if Russian Bolshevism and Turkish Mahometanism should join hands the situation for Great Britain would be grave. Koltchak and Denikene have protected British interests in the past, but the armies of Koltchak are to disappear serious danger would immediately arise.

"It is possible that there may be a combination between Kaiser militarism and German Bolshevism to destroy the German republic. We must see that does not happen. We are continually being told that we should not trade with Germany again, but how are we to get our indemnities unless we trade with her? France and America are taking all steps to trade with Germany, and we should not be called on to stand aside."

MONTANA TROUT DECREASE

BUTTE, Mont., Jan. 4.—J. H. Brunson, superintendent of the state fish hatchery at Anaconda, believes Montana should institute a closed season for fishing in the state. He declared trout are being fished out of many streams faster than the state game and fish commission can replace them, since automobiles carry fishermen up the headwaters and other almost inaccessible places.

GLASS OF SALTS CLEANS KIDNEYS

If your Back hurts or Bladder bothers you, drink lots of water

When your kidneys hurt and your back feels sore, don't get scared and proceed to load your stomach with a lot of drugs that excite the kidneys and irritate the entire urinary tract. Keep your kidneys clean like you keep your bowels clean, by flushing them with a mild, harmless salts which removes the body's urinous waste and stimulates them to their normal activity. The function of the kidneys is to filter the blood. In 24 hours they strain from it 500 grams of acid and waste, so we can readily understand the vital importance of keeping the kidneys active.

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JEWISH WOMEN BEST MOTHERS

LONDON, Jan. 17.—(By Mail).—The best mothers in London's East Side, the poor district, are Jewish, in the opinion of Dr. C. W. Saleeby, Chairman of the Nation Birth-rate Commission, as expressed in an address at University College. Dr. Saleeby added that Irish mothers were not a bad second, and that English ranked a very bad third.

He explained that in the case of the Jewish and Irish mothers this was a direct result of race ethics. Breast feeding was virtually universal among them, and there was a minimum of that dreaded disease arising from immorality. He declared that infant mortality was not really a medical problem, but a social problem of motherhood and a question of racial morals.

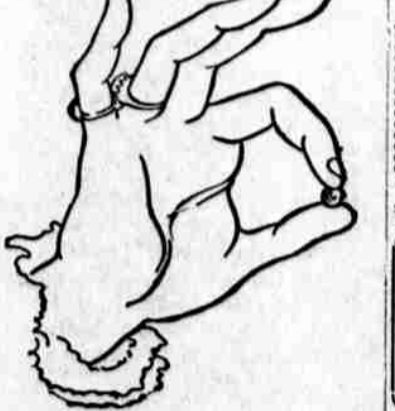
During his address Dr. Saleeby quoted figures showing that despite bad housing, bad sanitation and virtually no child welfare efforts, infant mortality in Western Ireland was only about 35 per thousand, as compared with 135 in 1,000 in Bradford, England, which has the best equipment for infant welfare in the world.

ALASKAN MINE BOOM.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Feb. 6.—A boom in mining, particularly in the Stewart and Alice Arm districts near the Alaska boundary line, was predicted recently by Major Geo. Hull, district engineer of the Dominion Department of Public Works, of Prince Rupert, on his arrival here from the North. The summer's boom, in Major Hull's opinion, will eclipse anything in the history of British Columbia.

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