

OFFICE OF
DENNISON WHELOCK
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
WEST DE PERE, WISCONSIN

December 20, 1912.

R. H. Pratt,
Brig. Gen. U. S. A.,
Philadelphia, Penn.

My Dear General:-

I have read your letters and the address delivered before the Pennsylvania Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, all of which I return to you herewith. I congratulate you upon the clearness and simplicity with which you present the subject. I am in thorough accord with you as to the true solution of the Indian problem. It can never be for the benefit of any race to isolate them, away from the competitive drills and strife with other races of mankind, whether they are superior or inferior than those so isolated.

I am thoroughly convinced that the white man, with all his civilization and educational endowments, has received great benefit by having come in contact with Indians, either in war or in peace, and that the Indian has materially contributed to the present standard of civilization which is now recognized to be purely American in its characteristics, notwithstanding the effort and policy of the Government to isolate them on barren Indian Reservations.

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The White man has received benefit and unconsciously adopted Indian characteristics because his advanced educational facilities has enabled him to observe the Indian at a distance without actual contact, while the Indian, to a large extent, by reason of his ignorance and environment, without contact, could not adopt or appreciate the characteristics of the white man, which his common sense would have compelled him to adopt, had he not been isolated by powers over which he had no control.

I have not changed my opinion respecting the Society of American Indians, which I told you I had at Columbus, that I did not have very much faith in the Society doing very much good for the Indians because of the limited experience of those who are the leaders in it. The addresses and writings of the Secretary constitute a fair sample of the ideas of a large majority of the Indians who are interested and you know those utterances are but the echo of the Indian Rights Association, Lake Mohonk, and such other paper shooters. All the Indian wants, is a white man's chance, no more and no less.

If it is a good thing for an Indian to be on a Reservation, given special schools, and to be limited in his environments, then why doesn't the Government

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do the same thing for the white man. If it is a good thing for the white man to be permitted to attend Harvard, Yale and such institutions of learning, it ought to be a good thing for the Indian to do the same thing. If it is a good thing for the white man to be able to do what he pleased with his property, there is no reason on earth why it should not be equally beneficial for an Indian to do so. If it is a good thing for the white man, and God knows he would not submit to any restraint without cause, to have the privilege to go any where he pleased, lived the way he pleased, it ought to be equally beneficial for the Indian to do likewise, and this is all the Indians want. We need no special schools, we are not crying to be protected nor are we desirous of being isolated. Nor are we going to throw our property away, but we do demand that we have the white man's chance to have life, liberty and to work out our own salvation. A simply, clearly worded statute, without any jokers concealed in its verbiage, drawn by one familiar with the situation and in sympathy with the desires of the Indians, eliminating all the present machinery of Indian management, would do it. A few thousand dollars to pay the expenses of two or three persons to study the legal status of every tribe and to draft legislation to emancipate every tribe in the

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United States, give them their property and to educate every Congressman and Senator as to the merits and aim of such legislation, would be all that is necessary.

The soliciting of funds to maintain an organization such as the Society of American Indians or any organization of like purpose, has only one tendency and that is, to confuse, becloud and render the whole matter indistinct by its very discussions pro and con, very much of which necessarily must be by inexperienced people and whose information is largely hearsay.

I have been very busy since I saw you at Columbus, or I should have been very glad to write you more fully. However, I am expecting to go to Washington sometime this winter, on a little business trip, and in that event I shall try and see you. Mrs. Wheelock may come along also, and we thank you very much for your invitation.

With very kind regards to you and Mrs. Pratt,
I am,

Yours sincerely,

Simon Wheelock

DW/EC

DENNISON WHELOCK

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

GREEN BAY, WIS.

Folio 298.

Nov. 27, 1920.

Gen. R. H. Pratt,
% Mr. G. L. Stevick,
1616 La Vereda St.,
Berkeley, Cal.

My dear General:

I have been wondering for some time where you and Mrs. Pratt were. I have just received a letter from Nana stating that you were on your way to California to celebrate your 80th. birthday.

X It has seemed to me that the years have gone by so rapidly that it has become impossible for me to appreciate it, and it comes to me as a surprise that you are already 80 years old and I am knocking on 50 myself. It was just the other day, when as a child I was crying in your office to be sent home from Carlisle. This was in 1885.

Blank I am just leaving for Washington D. C. where I had hoped to find you and Mrs. Pratt. I am to meet Senator Lennett of Wisconsin and others high and mighty in the Republican party, with a view to my appointment as ~~Commissioner of Indian Affairs under the incoming administration.~~ *as blank* I am wondering whether your teaching has so permeated me that if appointed ~~Commissioner,~~ the administration of that office will be as if Gen. Pratt was ~~Commissioner.~~ I do not think there will be any doubt of it. My notion is that every Indian needing guardianship should receive protection, but that every Indian capable of taking care of himself should be thrown overboard and made to assume the privileges and responsibilities of American life. ~~I think quite a number of white people in the Indian service should be thrown out with them.~~

Louise and I want to add our good wishes to your host of friends, and trust this shall not be our last privilege of congratulating you on your birthday.

Yours very sincerely,

Dennison Whelock