

**DENNISON WHEELOCK**

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

GREEN BAY, WIS.

8.

Feb. 8, 1921.

Gen. R. H. Pratt,  
1371 Park Row,  
La Jolla, Cal.

My dear General:

It is unnecessary for me to say how glad I was to receive your letter of Jan. 31, 1921.

Yesterday's paper contained the information that Senator Fall of Arizona will be the next Secretary of the Interior. The man to occupy the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs under Senator Fall will not be determined very likely until after March 4th. this year. I have the unanimous support of my city, who have gone so far as to send State Senator Burke to Washington as a special emissary to secure my appointment. All this is as gratifying to me personally as it would be humiliating if the people, with whom I have both business and social dealings, were in the contrary attitude.

The trouble with the Indian Bureau has all along been that whatever it has done has simply been done to perpetuate itself, regardless of any benefit to the Indians, and its activities has never been in good faith, carried on to end the Indian problem. With the Indian office properly functioned, it would not take longer than five or eight years to practically close up the Indian business. The few Indians who would remain under the care of the Government would be entirely negligible, and their remaining so would simply be because of incompleteness in the legislative scheme affecting their status. I am thoroughly in accord with the sentiments you express in your letter, and I want to say to you that I am afraid if I am made Commissioner I shall have to lean on you very heavily, but knowing you as I do, I am satisfied you will be quite able to bear it.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Pratt,  
I am

Yours sincerely.

*Dennison Wheelock*

CARLOS MONTEZUMA, M. D.

Telephone Douglas 2080 Hours: 9 to 12 A. M. 7 to 8:30 P. M.

3135 SOUTH PARK AVENUE

Gen. R. W. Pratt,  
1371 Park Row,  
La Jolla, Calif.

Chicago, Illinois Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> 1921

My dear General: I very much regret to know that you have been quite ill. And again I am glad that you are improving. The excitement at St. Louis did not help you. It was a good thing that you left when you did or you might have been worse.

I realize that you give a chance to exercise your wide knowledge on Swain matters, the Swains would be on their feet and would be living like the rest of mankind. It is awful to consider how the Swains have been mistreated under selfish management.

It may be that you are aware that we are working with a

great effort to have an Indian appointed as Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I understand that Sloan called on Senator Chas. Curtis and Chairman Snyder of the House Committee on Indian Affairs. They are in favor of Supt. Pairs of Haskell Institute and Asst. Commissioner Merritt as their choice. Both of them are in the Indian Service. The way I look at it is that it is natural for Curtis and Snyder to favor some one from the Indian Service. They are orthodox Indian Bureau men with a political selfish aim and have no more interest in the Indians than Cato Bell. If an Indian Bureau man gets in as Commissioner, that person will wear Cato Bell's shoes and the Indian Bureau

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will continue indefinitely.

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As your memory goes back, you know that all of the Commissioners of Jordan Affairs were backed up by church organizations, Mohawk Conference, Jordan Rights Association and by party reward for service rendered in the campaigns. But the Jordans never had a voice in the appointment who shall look after their affairs.

Since some of us have seen Senator Harding and that since he gave us a great encouragement, I believe it is no more than right that we Jordans be considered as to the appointment of the next Commissioner.

So we have started a campaign to arouse the Jordans that they speak who they want for Commissioner.

of Surian Affairs that is an Surian,  
So far Sloan, Ed Rogers and Dennison  
Wheelock are in the field for that  
position. Locally Ed Rogers is  
strong in Minnesota but weak in  
doing anything for the Surian race.  
He being silent in the real work  
for the Surian race, I concluded that  
he was close in touch with the  
Surian Bureau

Dennison Wheelock called on me  
several weeks ago on his way from  
Washington, where he was congratulated  
by Cato Sells for being named  
as Commissioner of Surian Affairs.  
His State representatives will back  
him for Cato Sells' place, but  
he is not known among Surians  
of the country. He has kept away  
from the Society of American Surians  
Conference. Formerly he was active.  
He has worked for the Oneida Surians

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but lacks the work for the Iovian race.

Now, comes Tom Sloan. He is called radical. He has enemies. Former officers of the Society of American Iovians do not like him. The Iovian Bureau hates him like a rattlesnake. The Iovian Rights Association would rather have any body else as Commissioner of Iovian Affairs than Tom Sloan. Those who are against Sloan say that he has not a good name at his home and that he is not an Iovian. There is a question to his legal business. by those who wish to down him in his undertakings.

General, I had known Tom Sloan since 1905, when several of us met at Haskell to organize an Iovian Society. He was elected President. ~~Ever since~~ <sup>Ever since</sup> that time, he has been on the go in behalf of

the Iroquois race. At every Conference  
of the Society of <sup>CARLOS MONTEZUMA, M.D.</sup> ~~American~~ <sup>Indians</sup>, he  
proclaimed and stood up for the Iroquois.  
He has gone in the West to help the  
Iroquois and most of the time paid his  
own expenses. He has been in Washington  
neglecting his private practice to help  
the Iroquois. He has spoken to the  
public in behalf of the Iroquois more  
than any Iroquois I know of, excepting  
Red Fox.

Gen. Pratt, Tom Alva has the right  
wing for the abolishment of the Iroquois  
Bureau and bestowing on Iroquois  
their full citizenship. He has enemies  
because he proclaimed justice for  
the Iroquois people. He has gone out  
on reservations and tells the truth  
of the Iroquois Bureau system. He  
told the Iroquois that the Iroquois  
Bureau had failed without God's cause.

[1921 Jan 25]

Tom Sloane has <sup>4</sup>Confidert in me of many things that others had against him and he has <sup>always</sup> gained my confidence. General, those people who are against you & me are against Tom Sloane.

Now comes the telling story. I wish to inform you that majority of the Jurraies are for Sloane as their choice for the Commissioner of Jurraie Affairs. Organizations for Sloane are being formed to work for Sloane. Sloane leads by the voice of the Jurraies. Using that as my guide I have thrown my dice with Tom Sloane in the Wassaia.

If you are of the same mind, your approval will have a great weight with Senator Harding & others whom you can touch. Tommy may be weak in many



in many things but who is not  
weak. That is not the question when  
such important matter is involved.  
The greatest thing to do for the Luvians  
is to free them from the bondage system  
of the Luvian Bureau and give the  
Luvians the same privileges and rights  
of effective citizenship. Now, who  
has that in mind but Thomas  
L. Sloan. Who should be more  
interested in Luvian affairs than  
an Luvian? Tom has that heart.

I may be wrong but I am  
sincere about it.

Remember us to Mrs. Pratt.  
God bless you & restore you to health.

Your loyal Spacke friend,  
Carlos Montezuma

1371 Park Row,  
La Jolla,  
California.

January 31, 1921.

Mr. Demmon Wheelock,  
Green Bay, Wisconsin.

My dear Dem:

I answered that part of your letter of November 27th in which you said you were going to Washington to meet Senator ----- and others with a view to your appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs under the coming administration. You also said, "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."

This means that you will inflexibly demand untrammelled citizenship rights for Indians and urge the Indians to undertake all its responsibilities, for this is the only route to their escape from special supervision, and government release from the burden of Bureau maladministration.

It means also that you will prove that each Indian only needs co-equal chances among our people to become co-equally efficient in character and ability. You must also permeate the Indians with this fact. To help you do this you will have multitudes of incontrovertible illustrations, and backed by your good common sense and exposure of the facts, the country will be with you.

It means also that you will at once clear the decks for success in these purposes by getting rid of the overlording and emicane of subordinates in the Indian and Ethnological Bureaus who have long smothered these purposes through lobbying Congress and concealing it and the public to the contrary of such purposes.

Enforcing tribal segregation has been the only way the Bureau and other co-ordinate enemies of Indian progress into competent citizenship have succeeded. As Commissioner you can effectively expose and end this control and condition.

If to these ends you are successful in your ambition, I will muster every influence I can to hold up your hands.

Faithfully your friend,

RH/MP