

Report of Morris Wheelock
Retiring Chairman of the Oneida Council
of Indians of Wisconsin

The new Indian policy, partly expressed in the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, has 3 chief objectives:

1. Economic Rehabilitation of the Indians, principally on the land.
2. Organization of the Indian Tribe for managing their own affairs.
3. Civic and Cultural freedom and opportunity for the Indians.

This policy, expressed in the objectives, has been mis-understood by some and misrepresented by others as a radical policy.

But it is not a Radical policy. On the contrary, it is a conservative policy. It goes back to the simple principle of treating the Indians as normal human beings capable of working out a normal adjustment to and a satisfying life within the framework of American civilization, yet maintaining the best of their own culture and racial idiosyncracies.

The Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, strikes at this whole vicious system, the Allotment Evil.

As to those Tribes accepting the Act the further Allotment of land is debarred. The remaining unentered ceded land is restored to the Indians of those reservations where such land still exists and where a public school is served thereby. In other words blocking further losses of Indian land. However, this is not a complete solution of the Indian land problem. Much of the land must be restored to tribal ownership and additional land must be provided.

It is hoped in time to come, that every Oneida families shall have land or a home to call their own, rather than be classed as Renters.

Now, there is, through the credit section of the Reorganization Act, which authorized the appropriation of a certain sum of Monies as a revolving loan fund to promote the economic development of Indian Tribes, and their members. The Oneidas have made an application for a \$5,000.00 loan from the revolving fund, and it has been approved, and in turn the Credit Committee has acted on some of the applications, with the result that on or about, \$1,000.00 has been loaned out to the members of the Tribe.

The land and Credit Committee have worked in the capacity of an Advisory Board to the Executive Committee besides performing

the duties of their own respective Committee.

It has been a pleasure in working with such an intelligent group of men and our women representative; Mrs. Lydia Powless, Secretary, and they have all worked together in working out the plans for the Oneidas. There is no salary connected to the work they have done but rather they have used their own hard earned money to pay their expenses, and they have never been influenced in their decision by any organization, or Federal Officials. Credit should be given to the Chairman of the Credit Committee as well as the Chairman of the Land Committee for their hard work.

I sincerely hope that this coming year will be even better than the one just passed, and that we can get closer cooperation from the Tribe, let us show the State once more, the new Indian policy rests on the conservation assumption that Indians are normal people who can be equipped to assume a Normal part in American Citizenship.

The Historic Policy: That Indian property must pass to whites; that Indian organization be repressed and prevented; that Indian family life must be dismembered; that Indian culture must be killed; and Indians as a race must die.

The Present Policy: That Indian property must not pass to whites; that Indian organization must be encouraged and assisted; that Indian family life must be respected and reinforced; that Indian culture must be appreciated, used, and brought into the streams of American culture as a whole; and that the Indians as a Race must not die, but must grow and live.

On retiring as your Chairman, I wish to make the following report on behalf of myself and other members of the Executive Committee - on what has been accomplished during our term of office. I should also like to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation for the support and sympathy that has been given by members of the Tribe and the Tomah Indian Agency Staff. The formative period of any organization has its difficulties and ours has been no exception.

You, no doubt recall, that we had to start from scratch. The sum total of the Oneida Tribal assets at the time we took office amounted to 85 acres of tribal land valued at approximately \$4,250.00. There was no cash capital to carry on the work. Your Tribal officials have spent many hours, week after week, on tribal matters, on their own time and at their own expense. I do not raise this point with any thought of complaining and I am sure it is not in the mind of any members of the Committee as each one has unselfishly given the best he had to the work. However, I feel that it is worthy of mention and may help the few who some -

times want to criticize - to understand that your tribal officials are working under a decided handicap.

Our tribal assets at the present time, have reached a value of approximately \$ 77,366,00 and are listed as follows:

Land purchased by the Federal Government and turned over to the Tribe -----	\$ 1,289,945.00 A.
at a cost of -----	\$ 49,592.00
Grants of Rehabilitation Funds to the Tribe by the Federal Government amounting to -----	\$ 27,775.00
Of this amount there has been expenditures of, the most of which is out on loans to members of, the tribe for houses, house repair and wells-----	\$ 22,755.00
The balance on hand in this fund amounts to -----	\$ 5,020.00
Repayments on loans to date amounts to the entire balance of Trust Funds,-----	\$ 260.00
To the Credit of the Tribe on deposit with the Tomah Indian Agency is -----	\$ 5,280.00

I should like to mention at this time that W.P.A. has furnished labor and materials in the amount of \$21,261.50 in the construction of new houses for which no charge has been made to members of the Tribe.

Out of Rehabilitation funds there has been constructed the following:

20 new houses.
57 houses repaired
23 wells drilled

Of the Government land purchased for the Tribe, there has been 30 assignments made and there still remains 310 acres, which have not been assigned.

Medical service has been provided for the people and a clinic is held each week where individuals may go for medical care.

Transportation has been provided for High School students and some 30 or 40 of our boys and girls availed themselves of this service last year. There is some chance that in time a junior-senior high school will be provided for our people as this matter is being given serious consideration at this time.

Morris Wheelock, Tribal Chairman

August 16, 1939

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4-1
Oasida
1937 Exp.

754 Plymouth Building
Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 3, 1937

Mr. J. H. Stewart
Director of Lands
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Stewart:

This letter will refer to the Land Acquisition Project on the Oasida Reservation in Wisconsin.

We have received a number of applications from Indians whose property is in danger of being lost through mortgage foreclosure or tax delinquency. It is the desire of the Indian owners that the United States Government take over such property in trust for the tribe in accordance with the general practice on other reservations.

It will be recalled that we have had considerable opposition to our program in Outagamie County and it is for this reason that we have withheld recommendations for purchase of this class of property. The holdings of the Indians are widely scattered throughout the reservation and acquisition of their property by the United States Government would result in a scattered area of Government owned property within the two townships which constitute the reservation. On various occasions when we have met with representatives of Outagamie County this question has been brought up and it is evident that the practice would be met with opposition by Outagamie County and officials of the respective townships. There are a number of cases where the need for such procedure would be well justified and it seems unfortunate that these Indian owners should be dispossessed of their property. However, if such a practice was to be approved, all cases would necessarily have to be considered and we anticipate a wholesale application by Indian owners for transfer of their property to the United States Government.

Another fact which must be considered is the value of the property under consideration. In many cases such holdings have little more than a sentimental valuation to the owners, the indebtedness far exceeding the present valuation. Acquisition in such cases would be little more than liquidation of the present creditors with the possibility of an ultimate detriment to our Indian Land Purchase Program on the reservation.

Mr. J. H. Stewart
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In consideration of the facts presented above, we would welcome
the reaction of the Office in respect to this property.

Respectfully,



E. J. Hook
Land Field Agent

ALH:gs

cc: Mr. Frank Christy, Supt.
Mr. Morris Kneelock, Pres. _____
Onida Tribal Council

O. T. I. W.

Minutes of the Council held at Epworth Hall June 3, 1937. Oneida Reservation
at 8:00 o'clock P.M.

Meeting was opened by Chairman Morris Wheelock.

Purpose of this meeting was to have Mr. McKinney explain the Credit system to the Tribe, one step at a time he explained.

People dissatisfied about borrowing they understood that very few have a chance to borrow.

Election date postponed to July 6, 1937. on account of 4th of July coming on Sun.

Chairman suggested we have 3 credit on committee and 2 on assignment committee as advisory board.

Polls will open July 6 at 1: P.M. to 3: P.M.

House opened to audience as to what they think about cutting 9 men board to 5 men. Discussion! Eastman Cornelius, Melissa Cornelius, Levi Baird, and Harrison strongly favored 5 men Advisory Board.

Anderson Skenandore ask people to discuss on how many people should work on a project job from a family.

Harrison Smith let some one make a resolution to this effect that no 2 work on a project job from one family. Resolution should be written out by the Tribe then presented it to the executive committee.

Meeting adjourned until Monday at 10:40 p.m.

O. T. I. W.

Tribal Meeting at Epworth Hall held June 28, 1937, at Oneida Reservation.

Tribal Meeting for nomination of candidates for new officers.

Chairman, Morris Wheelock.

First July 6 for election of new officers, suggested because 5th is celebration of 4th of July.

Officers are called upon to report on their work.

Chairman suggest that of reducing 9 man board down to 5 men, 3 for Credit Committee and 2 for Land assignment.

Explanation of \$8,000. a grant to us and how spent.

Hand in names to the Sec. those who want homes repaired.

Mrs. Zachariah Skenandore we don't need a quorum for election.

Anderson Cornelius favors nominations to be held now. Milton Smith moves that we nominate officers now. Motion carried, Ayes have it Naes none. Election July 6, 1937 1 P.M. to 6 P.M. at both halls.

Adjourned 9:50 o'clock P.M.

1-27-31

The meeting was opened at 7:30 P.M. by the Chairman Morris Wheelock and the four forms of land assignments were passed out and were explained in order by the chair, advised that they can be approved or disapproved, modified or have new form drawn up entirely suitable to the Oneida Tribe.

The chair further explains the rehabilitation program here on the Oneida reservation: The delay in building and the tentative set up of the new appropriation for rehabilitation purposes.

Rev. J.H. Winberg was called upon to speak and he responded by saying that the work of the government was slow, but the people should be patient. Following Rev. Winbergs remarks the chair called an open meeting for discussion. The following discussions were in order to wit:

Anderson Cornelius asked if all building were to be built by bids and why bids were accepted when supply was not on hand? Eastman Cornelius asked if the last election was approved by the Washington office? ans - It was approved by the Tomah office but never had any notice from Washington.

Eastman Cornelius - "I am not a christian and I don't claim to be, neither do I make the people believe I am one, there was a lot of people who did not know anything about the last tribal election. You know the crowd you had here and the few respectable people who did vote I got them."

Anderson Cornelius -- what I have to say to you people is the truth and I stand back of every word I say. You have elected me on the credit committee and I want you people to tell me what to do. I haven't gotten any information as to the amount of funds paid out and therefore I do not know who I will have to collect from.

Milton Summers asked for treasurer's report. The treasurer reported that on:

July 1, 1937 on hand	\$ 10.31
Printed forms	5.00
	<u>5.31</u>
Statistical second	5.00
Oct. 27, 1937 Bal. on hand	<u>.31</u> ¢

The treasurer finished reported that he had to pay \$5.00 out of his own pocket because of the statistical second book was \$10.00.

Rev. Wendberg rendered good advice.

Chairman showed on map where the optioned lands were located.

Wm Skerandore, self styled Chief, was reported to Washington for collecting money from old age pensioned people, for his work. Interpreted.

Chairman explains sec. 10, as to how we will have our money cared for.

Harrison Smith, Treas. explains his version on money question. Mr McKinley will come and explain money matters.

Oscar Archiquette made motion that we accept the Federal Charter as it stands now and not wait for Peru Tauber because we are all satisfied as it is recorded. Ayes carried - Noes none with about 200 Onidas present.

Mrs Louis Webster made motion we have monthly socials for raising fund to help pay our expenses recorded - Ayes carried - Noes none.

Chauncey Baird speaks for an extra social for raising a little money as a gift to our Chairman Morris Wheelock who is our leading man of Onidas.

Mr Louis Webster motions to adjourn recorded Ayes carried - noes none at 10:30 o'clock, subject to the call of the executive board

Mrs. Katie Cornelius

Sec. of Council

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin,
Minutes of the Tribal Meeting held at the
Epworth Hall Oneida Reservation,

EPWORTH SCHOOL
MAY 13 1937

March 15, 1937.

RECEIVED

Meeting called to order at 8 o'clock P.M. by the
Chairman Morris Wheelock.

The purpose of this meeting is to study the
Federal Charter. We may have Peru Fauber with
us soon to explain this Federal Charter.

Chairman reported the Executive Committee's call
at County Court in Appleton Wis. concerning Govt.
Officials meeting with Town Board and its Committee
for Cooperation with Govt. program. The meeting
was open by Chairman Mr. Schaefer at about 9.30
o'clock A.M. March 10, 1937. Town Board asked many
questions, about school, churches, roads, will Indians
pay for lands they get. How much will each
family get. How will they built houses for
themselves. Will they be able to support themselves
etc., etc. Mr. Hooks answered in few words
that whites will not need to worry, all will be
taken care of, All we ask is cooperation and
both will benefit by the program.

Chairman suggests a celebration on the 18th
of June for three years ago President Roosevelt
signed the Reorganization Act for Indians.