

MORE ALASKA TESTIMONY.

The well known Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, who has charge of education, in Alaska, writes to a friend in the suburbs of this city: "Your letter containing extract from *The New York World*, and also a letter from one of your members concerning the same, reached me just as I was starting East, from Alaska. The revelations concerning things there are too true. Now that they have aroused the public, perhaps we can secure some needed legislation from Congress. Next week I hope to go to Washington, and will try to see Senator Dawes, who has already introduced the matter into the Senate. Petitions to your Congressmen, both in the Senate and House, are always in order, and always useful.

Congress never makes a move in such matters unless compelled to by public opinion. The licentiousness of the whites and the proneness of the natives to intemperance, have been the two great foes to the progress of the mission work in Alaska."

VIGOROUS WORK IN WISCONSIN.

Our new auxiliary in that State at once began active work for the Indians within its borders. Its secretary, Mrs. Hiles, writes: "Are we so far away that you cannot feel our pulse, beat? I assure you the blood is coursing through our veins, with a rapidity which prevents stagnation. There are 8,000 Indians in Wisconsin, and they form no exception to the general rule of need of protection and care. The extensive pine forests on their reservations, in the northern and eastern parts of the State, are being cut, and, so far as we know, the money paid, has been paid directly to the Indians, and revolves in a circle. It is paid and with very little delay comes back, having been exchanged for whisky.

A bill has been already before Congress for several months, the passage of which has been determinedly urged, providing for allotment to the Oneidas with the privilege of patents, allowing sale at the end of five years or less. Some of these Indians have considerable cultivated land, and many are sober and industrious. A few years ago they raised \$2,500 to build a church, but, owing to the failure of the bank in which it was deposited, they lost every cent of it. But they began again, and now have a church, with a debt of a thousand dollars on it. They have a school and an Episcopal mission. The Wisconsin Women's Indian Association have been and are putting themselves against this five year clause, with whatever strength they possess, and they are working to secure legislation against the payment of money for timber, to the Indians. We want it paid to some responsible party, to know that it is paid, and then we wish it funded for the Indians, to be paid as they may need it. An act is now before Congress, for the sale of timber on one reservation alone, which, we are authoritatively informed, is worth in stumpage, at minimum price, \$800,000.

As Chairman of your Committee on the Mission Indians, of California, I have written to Mr. Peel, Chairman of the Committee to which the Mission Indians Bill has been referred. When your leaflet of my report is ready, please send me a few for use.

I have to-night sent Miss Foote a list of fourteen subscribers for THE INDIAN'S FRIEND.

For the past two months, I have been

insisting that, if the lands are given to the Indians in severalty, they shall not be permitted to sell until at least fifteen years after the allotment. Such an interval of time would afford the Indians an opportunity to acquire a sense of the value and responsibilities of individual ownership. Their children would grow up under the new system, their methods of agriculture would improve, and they would be in a far better position to judge whether it would be wise to sell their lands than they are at the present time.

In the same paper the protest of our Wisconsin auxiliary against this unjust Indian legislation appears, which says:

When we, members of the Wisconsin Indian Association, learned that a bill was before Congress, the passage of which would give to the Oneida Indians in this state land in severalty, and that patents therefore, with privilege of sale would be given either immediately after allotment or within a very short period thereafter, we instituted inquiries to gain what information we could concerning the measures proposed. It was stated from Washington that the bill as presented represented that not only the wishes of every male adult in the tribe had been consulted, but that the consent of each had been gained as being in favor of the bill. We found that the sober, industrious, working members of the tribe not only were in profound ignorance of the existence of the bill as presented, but that, they were, when informed, absolutely opposed to it. We have in our possession a long list of names of members of the tribe certifying to this position. They plead for protection under their treaty. From the nature of their past they feel unable to cope with business methods. The list was headed by a petition from which we quote: "We earnestly request that no allotment of our lands be made, we are confident that the allotment proposed to be made under the bill known as Hudd's bill, would speedily bring about our destruction, we therefore beg our Great Father, the president, and our friends in Congress, and all others who desire our welfare to do all they possibly can to defeat this bill."

As friends of Indians we are in favor of allotment as being the least of the evils with which they are threatened; as friends alike of these Indians and of those who would do them wrong, we are totally and unalterably opposed to this privilege of near sale. In this connection we heartily endorse the action of Representative La Follette who urges the non-issuance of patents until fifteen years after allotment, thereby precluding privilege of sale for the same time, although we believe the best interests of the Indians would be subserved if patents should be withheld twenty-five years. Reasoning inferentially, from known to unknown causes, from known effects to those likely to follow, we can see but one result to follow the passage of this bill through Congress with this privilege of early sale, namely: the obtaining of the land of the Oneidas by whites.

This people have their own church, built after most distressing failures; they have their homes and their school, and as Christians, as individuals, as friends of the helpless and the weak, as citizens of Wisconsin, as members of this great commonwealth, whose honor is again at stake, we ask our senators and representatives, we ask the people and press of Wisconsin to oppose this bill.

MRS. S. S. MERRILL,
President Wisconsin Indian Association.
MRS. WINFIELD SMITH,
First Vice-President.
MRS. W. H. METCALF,
Second Vice-President.
MRS. O. J. HILES,
Secretary.

NEW YORK INDIANS.

There are seven Indian reservations in the state of New York, and the number of Indian children, of school age, upon these, is, 1546; and there are thirty schools. The total enrolment in these, during the last year, was 1082; the average daily attendance, 420; average number of weeks of school taught, 36. The total expense was \$9155.47. Several new school buildings have been erected.

A GREAT WRONG TO REDRESS.

In an article in a late number of "Lend a Hand," Prof. C. C. Painter says, "I was called upon last winter by Gabriel Renville, chief of the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of the Sioux Indians, with his interpreter, S. J. Brown, a half-breed of the tribe, who asked my assistance in an effort they were making to secure relief for their people. Renville is a fine specimen of "the noble red man"; stately, dignified, reticent, intelligent, straightforward and manly in his bearing, impressing those with whom he meets as possessing great reserved force which could easily be called into action if his good sense and perfect mastery of himself consented. During the winter I had many interviews with him, and was impressed always and increasingly by the quiet dignity and greatness of the man. He told the story of his great wrongs with an unruffled, dispassionate calmness which almost appeared to be indifference, but there were now and then flashes of lightning in his eye which revealed reserves of strength and feeling which were under the control of a master mind and will."

The facts are these: by the second article of the treaty of Traverse-de-Sioux of July, 1858, these bands of Indians sold to the United States a certain tract of land, and by the provisions of an amendment to the United States became obligated to pay \$73,600 annually for fifty years. "In 1862, after ten installments had thus been paid to said Indians, who were living on

a valuable reservation they had retained in Northern Minnesota for themselves, certain other Indians, the Medawakanton and Wahpakoota bands, who were a separate subdivision of the Sioux Nation living on a reservation of their own, under distinct treaties which entitled them to certain annuities in which these other bands had no interest, organized an outbreak against and a massacre of the whites living near the reservation belonging to the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands. A few of the young men of these last named bands broke away from the control of their chiefs and helped the whites, while the bands, as such, were hostile. A very large number of the Sissetons and Wahpetons, led by their chiefs and head men, and aided by a few friendly Indians from the other bands, joined the army sent to put down the hostiles, and did invaluable service as scouts and soldiers against their own people. Chief Renville was himself most active and efficient, and interpreter Brown has never taken a natural step since he took a notable ride of forty hours without getting out of his saddle, carrying a message for Gen. Sibley, giving him information which enabled him to head off the hostiles. The services rendered by these men, at the peril of their lives, were recognized by the army as of the utmost value, and subjected them to contempt and hostile treatment of the other bands against whom they fought. There were also a number of these Indians in the Union armies at that time fighting to put down the rebellion in the South.

By act of Congress, Feb. 1863, in which the outraged feelings of the country, as also its indiscriminating wrath, found expression, all treaties with these four bands, friendly and hostile alike, were abrogated, their lands in Minnesota and their funds confiscated, and they were driven out homeless and penniless. In the winter of 1867, General Sibley having convinced the government that a great wrong had been done, a delegation was brought on to Washington for the purpose of making a new treaty.

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For the past two months, I have been engaged in a somewhat arduous struggle with a congested brain, the contest not yet being settled, though I am giving all my time to Indian work. We have had so much to keep us busy, that I have not yet been able even to discuss my coming California trip; but if I can have some health it shall yet come."

The letter enclosed extracts from a Milwaukee paper saying:

The Sentinel publishes this morning an appeal by the ladies of the Wisconsin Indian Association to our senators and representatives in congress, to oppose the passage of the bill now pending before that body giving the Oneida Indians in this state their land in severalty with the privilege of immediately selling it.

It looks very much as if the bill in question had been introduced at the instigation of interested parties who wish to acquire the Oneida lands. Many of the Indians are ignorant and improvident. Once in possession of the right to alienate their lands, they would readily be induced to part with them for money, which would be quickly squandered in gambling and drink, and then they become vagabonds and tramps.

The ladies of the Wisconsin Association approve of Congressman La Follette's course in

these Indians and of those who would do them wrong, we are totally and unalterably opposed to this privilege of near sale. In this connection we heartily endorse the action of Representative La Follette who urges the non-issuance of patents until fifteen years after allotment, thereby precluding privilege of sale for the same time, although we believe the best interests of the Indians would be subserved if patents should be withheld twenty-five years.

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The general equipment has been better than that of the ordinary country-school. The prevalent shiftlessness and immorality upon some of these reservations has been referred to in strong terms, and the State Legislature appointed a special committee to investigate the whole subject, and it is said that sworn proofs sustain all that has been alleged against the reservations.

A strong plea has been made, that the present Governmental policy, of allotting lands to Indians, may be applied to these reservations. Just how this can practically be done, in this case, with justice to the many interests involved, is a difficult question; but it is now in the hands of a special committee, who will, it is hoped, be able to do that which is just and wise, for the interests of both races concerned.

The Choctaw council at its last meeting passed a bill which directed that United States Indian Agent Owens be authorized to pay out to the claimants over \$800,000 due the Indians from the United States.

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The delegates were quartered in some old army barracks on the Potomac flats and kept there four months, during which time one of the chiefs was kidnapped, and not until some six weeks had passed, when the government offered a reward of \$100, was his dead body found, suspended, evidently after life was extinct, under the bluffs, on the Virginia side of the river. After a long and wearisome delay, and after such an experience as this, a treaty was signed by them, concluded February, 1867. The preamble to this treaty recites the good services of these Sisseton and Wahpeton bands, who, to the number of some 1500 persons, "not only preserved their obligations to the government of the United States during and since the outbreak of the Medawakanton and other bands of Sioux, in 1862, but freely perilled their lives during that outbreak to rescue the residents on the Sioux reservation, and to obtain possession of white women and children made captives by hostile bands," and also, the second "whereas" proceeds to say that "Congress, on confiscating the Sioux annuities and reservations, made no provisions for the support of these, the