REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Hon. J. D. C. Atkins, has just completed his annual report. He begins by calling attention to the untalkable evidences of progress made by the tribes and says:

"The excellent temper, sobriety, self-control, and general tranquillity which, with two or three exceptions, have prevailed is of itself a most auspicious omen of progress." This progress is said to be made within not any corresponding increase in expenses. The estimates for carrying on the service have been reduced from $76,000 to $56,000 in the last financial year. Considerable space is devoted to a discussion of the condition and future of the five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory. The Commissioner thinks that these five civilized tribes should cooperate with the Government in settling existing difficulties in their rights and interests. "We present the rich Indians, who cultivate tribal lands, pay no rent to the power men of their tribe, although they are equal owners of the soil. The rich men have too large homesteads and control much of their tribe's land. Our Commissioner attacks vigorously the tribal system and says that it would be best for the Indians to divide their lands in severalty, allowing 100 acres to each head of a family and 40 acres to each minor child. The large surplus remaining should be sold to actual settlers at a just price, and the proceeds would enable the poorer Indians to improve their allotments. "When this is done, the five civilized tribes and perhaps other tribes of the Indian Territory will be ready to form a federal government and pass, as other Territories, under the protection of our Constitution and laws." The Commissioner dwells at length upon the surplus land in the Indian Territory. He expresses his conviction that the proposition to open Oklahoma to white settlers would be an experiment dangerous to be embarked upon. The whole matter is a question of a fair administration of justice in the Territory under the Constitution and laws of the United States. He hopes that these and other agencies under agency supervision will do much to keep them from a return to savage life.

The following is a full extract of what the Commissioner says in relation to schools:

In the extract from my first report, already quoted, I expressed very decidedly the idea that Indians should be taught the English language only. From that position I believe, so far as I am advised, there is no dissent either among the lawmakers or the executive agents who are select under the law to do the work. There is not an Indian pupil whose tuition is paid for by the United States Government who is permitted to study any other language than our own vernacular—the language of the greatest, most powerful, and enterprise nationalities beneath the sun. The English language as taught in America is good enough for all her people of all races.

It is yet undetermined what kinds of schools are best adapted to prepare the Indian for self-support and that independence which will enable him to meet and successfully encounter the civilized competition which he would encounter every day. This constitutes the strongest objection to this class of schools, and I fear that, in many instances, the objection is too well founded. But education and general civilization take deeper hold upon the Indian race, the day school on the reservation will show better results and must eventually become universal, as are our common schools in the States.

This office has used all diligence to introduce school books among the Indian pupils in accordance with the late act of Congress requiring the use in the public schools of such textbooks as teach the benefits of temperance and abstinence from all spirits and narcotics on the human system and thoroughly satisfied of the wisdom of the measure.

As an incentive to the best use of the educational advantages afforded those pupils of both sexes who attend the state schools, I am thoroughly satisfied that the privilege of citizenship, including the right of suffrage, would give them a much greater impulse to go on with their education in the high schools and at the normal and model schools of the territory. Such a law would greatly encourage Indian youths and maidens in their resistance to the temptations of their untutored friends, and all are performing a good part in the grand work of educating and civilizing the hitherto untutored Indians. The honor of this noble work belongs to the great American constituency and their representatives in both the legislative and executive branches of the Government; and I would call upon all officers and agents of the Government who come in close contact with our red brothers to impress them with the great benefits that are thus conferred upon them, for which their hearts should swell with grateful emotion.

That the Indians are not lacking in appreciation of the educational advantages is shown by the following statistics, which do not include the schools among the five civilized tribes nor the Indians of New York State, nor any day schools supported by religious societies without expense of the Government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>1884-1885</th>
<th>1885-1886</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boarding schools</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian agencies</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal and model</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total | 1,600 | 2,100 |

In conclusion, I am thoroughly satisfied that the reservation of the lands which have been ceded to the Government is the most permanent and equitable settlement which can be made with the Indians. It is shown by the statistics of the five civilized states, which do not include the schools among the five civilized tribes, that this has been largely increased this year, and that the percentage of increase is larger in boarding schools and day schools under agency supervision than in the other schools.
LAKE MOONBE.

That in thy bosom slumbers, won to rest:

A limpid jewel on the mountain's crest.

Amid their lofty pinnacles of blue.

On this far height in dreamlike solitude,

From mist of morning's breath and even-

A. L. PHINN

The mountains cradled thee,

In deep tranquility,

And miles of myriads of blue.

Secures, with Heaven-turned face,

And touch of Heaven-bent grace.

On this far height in dreamlike solitude,

From mist of morning's breath and even-

LAKE MOONBE.

The Mohonk Statement.

The Mohonk conference on Indian affairs, assembled, October 26th, by invitation of Albert K. Smiley, one of the Board of Indian Commissioners, at the Lake Mohonk House, Ulster county, N. Y., was, as on previous similar occasions, attended by a large number of men and women interested in the protection and improvement of the Indians.

The following statement was put forth by the Conference:

1. The discussions of the conference have led us to the conviction that the only principle which we believe furnish the key to the solution of the Indian problem.

The application of this principle by the immediate passage of the Dawes Law in Severalty bill, the Sioux reservations, and equalization of the tax laws, small Indians, would at once do most for the cause of the Indians than can be done in years with the present system.

3. We believe that the duties of citizenship are of such a nature that they can only be learned by example and practice.

More rapid and sure progress in industry, education and morality will be secured by giving citizenship first, than by making citizenship depend upon the attainment of any standard of education and conduct; and we therefore suggest that the matter be put to the nation by being made a part of the new laws.

3. The uncivilized tribes enforce no law.

The tribal relations dwell family life and were subject to the same law which necessitated the removal of the Indian from his native home.

4. The opening of large parts of our great reservations to active settlement in the future, will, as a matter of course, be the means of removing most of the Indians and with their consent, of lands remaining after all Indians removed or absorbed without their consent, by the process of assimilation in several ways, we believe that the sooner the family ties and family homesites replace tribal relations and unsettled wandering upon the reservations the better. Give to every Indian family a home, where useful, with a protected title.

5. While these results will follow the process of settlement, we believe that the great work for education, general, industrial, tribal, and mental and moral improvement must be pursued by the government and the religious societies, with unflagging zeal, with large allotment of monies, and by force, at schools in the east, and in the day schools and the boardingschools devoted to this work with greater hope and confidence as we see such encouraging results as have been reported to us here.

6. We believe that the agency system in some form must be temporarily continued; and that the Indian service depends almost entirely upon the personal fitness and the experience of the individual agent. If, however, there be men of ability who come into immediate and personal relations with the Indians, we have no reason for apprehension. For other reasons elsewhere stated that the principle of Civil Service Reform should be applied to the Indians, if the faults be avoided.

7. We thankfully express our conviction that this year see a quickening of public conscience, that we have been too slow in the past, that the need of further solution will be over for a very long time. With a jubilant crowd of Germans, of Irishmen, of Irish, Swedes, or of any other people, landowners among any men of the same, these Indians are treated as an individual. He is among fifty millions of Americans. Law and order in the West, the preference those that he finds begins at once to teach him his duties as he learns his privileges, with a spirit which shall them all his life, so that his children are Americans, not only in birthplace in birthplace, but in the thought of Heaven.
nor disturbed and the inefficacy of the night watch, based on reports of rifles and pistols in their savage orgies. This movement, however, was small, and the young boys were just the material to furnish working parties. I had come to the conclusion, although fed and clothed by the Government, that I could more quickly, more surely, and with less expense, attain the permanent peace of these Territories required the use of the chief and all the Indians from those at Apache and other information convinced me that they could not hold out longer against the zealous and persistent efforts of the officers of the Government. The troops were, therefore, sent to the mountains, in the order named, and it was not long before the most unpromising looks of success. In the meantime, I had directed Colonel Wade to place Indians to any disposition the Government might decide to make of them.

While at Fort Apache, July 1, I learned from one of the principal guides that Natchez, Geronimo and four others, Indians from those at Apache and sentenced to Holston, were in the vicinity of Wrico, Arizona, and that if I did not still hold them, they would return to Arizona, in defiance of the compact between the two Governments. I did not suppose that the compact had ever been violated by either party; but 2,000 miles across the most rugged and sterile districts of the Rocky and Intermountain States, and the burning heat of midsummer, until worn down and disheartened they find no place of safety; and the usual reply is, "If you attempt to take us, we will throw down our arms and place ourselves at the mercy of the Federal Government, who has the right to receive and protect us as the only living victims." A few months before, and the direct result of the intrepid zeal and indefatigable efforts of Major W. A. Thompson, 4th Cav., was the appointment of acting adjutant general of the several forces, to be rendered most valuable assistance. His duties have been performed with singular success. I am thankful for their fullest cooperation. I would invite special attention to the report of Captain West, who has distinguished himself as a scout and an excellent cavalry officer.

I have directed Colonel Wade to return to Fort Leavenworth and inform those Indians that they are to be received on the reservation at Apache and that they would all lie removed to the mountains if they did not return to the reservation within a short time. I am thankful for their fullest cooperation. I have directed Colonel Wade to return to Fort Leavenworth and inform those Indians that they are to be received on the reservation at Apache and that they would all lie removed to the mountains if they did not return to the reservation within a short time. I am thankful for their fullest cooperation. I have directed Colonel Wade to return to Fort Leavenworth and inform those Indians that they are to be received on the reservation at Apache and that they would all lie removed to the mountains if they did not return to the reservation within a short time. I am thankful for their fullest cooperation.
in the solid rocks, where no man can see, but God. He has put these precious minerals out and given them to the world to use and yet keep on working at it. I wish all the Indians would see these things, which are to our good. I think that the best way would be to stop dancing.

Our base ball season is over and we don't have to go to next year's. I think we will do it again, and I would go to see something more in the way of stock raising. We have a good many horses now, and I think it is not very healthful to work on them. We have some more coffee boilers and buckets. I give them a true reason to what has been given them. People are convinced by a man whose words have weight. I think I would like to see a great many theories given by men of science about earthquakes which were very popular at the present time.

I was at Hagerstown fair last year. I saw a number of horses and one that was a little horse. I met an old man and he said to me, "I saw a great earthquake last week." I was surprised and asked him, "What was it?" He said, "It was the earthquake that occurred in the mountains some time ago. It knocked a few houses down and set the world on fire."

"The great earthquake," I said, "was a very pretty sight. I saw it with my own eyes." He said, "I believe you. I was there. I heard the news before it happened."

"I was very glad to hear it," I said. "I was very glad to hear the news before it happened."

"I shall receive it as He promises."