

Wheelock - Dennison

DOI 2172
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File

RETIRED

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

Education
B S G


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JUN - 3 1919

Dear Mr. Browne:

Answering your letter of ~~May~~ 9 with reference to the report that Mr. Dennison ~~Wheelock~~ has been appointed to take charge of all government business at Neopit, Wisconsin, you are advised that Mr. Wheelock is not an employee in the Indian Service and is not under consideration for such an appointment.

Sincerely yours,


C. S. SELLS,
Commissioner

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Hon. Edward E. Browne,
House of Representatives.

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INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

EDWARD E. BROWNE
8TH DIST. WISCONSIN

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON

May 29, 1919.

Mr. Edgar B. Merritt,
Indian Affairs,
Department of Interior,

My dear Commissioner:

It has been reported to the Menominee Indians that Mr. Dennison Pheelock has been appointed by the Indian Department to take charge of all Government business on the Reservation at Neopit, Wis.

Please let me know whether he has been appointed to any position under your Department or holds any Government position that you know of on the Reservation.

Yours very truly,

Edward E. Browne



Handwritten notes in green and red ink, including the number 12.

Education
 Schools
 55731-1910
 R H H

JUL 19 1910

Request for
 employment.

✓
 Dennison Wheelock, Esq.,
 West De Pere, Brown County,
 Wisconsin.

FOR FILE

Sir:

The Office has received your letter dated July 7, 1910 requesting an appointment to the position of "Supervisor of Indian Land Sales" to act in the interests of the Indians throughout the United States and advise and assist them in settling their lands.

The Office has now a large corps of representatives in its Superintendents of Indian Schools and their assistants and these men are held responsible for the proper conduct of all sales on their respective reservations or by Indians under their jurisdiction.

There is at the present time no position such as the one you name and even if funds were available for the purpose, as is at least doubtful, the creation of a position of this kind would be impracticable and, moreover, it would be impossible for one man to cover all the territory within which the various Indian settlements and reservations are found.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) C. F. Hauke,

OFFICE OF
DENNISON WHEELOCK
WEST DEPERE, WIS.

July 7, 1910.



Hon. R. G. Valentine,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Valentine:-

For sometime I have been at the point of writing you a letter regarding a position which I should like to have under you, suggested by the recent reorganization which you have effected in the Indian office, and that is the position of "Supervisor of Indian Land Sales." I am not aware that you have any field representative to look after this branch of your work, which I consider at the present time is equally as important as the educational and other Indian interests which the Department is charged to care for.

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My experience in handling the sales of lands belonging to the Oneida Indians, many of them my own relations, has taught me how important it is that the Indians have a representative of their own in dealing with purchasers of their land. A representative or agent who can devote all his time to the business, and who can instruct the Indians what best to do under all the varied circumstances in which they find themselves.

You understand of course, that the handling of Real Estate by the Indian is absolutely a new thing for them, and even if the Indians are given Patents in Fee Simple and fully competent to manage their affairs, they

are still at a disadvantage by the mere fact that they have not had any experience in arranging their affairs on a large scale to accomplish desired results. Many returned students from the different schools desire to sell their allotments and buy property outside of the Reservation, where their training has prepared them to secure a good livelihood, but ^{are} deterred from doing so, because unfamiliar with land values and must be guided entirely by land speculators who prey on just such people.

One of the most important things that the Government should provide now, is proper assistance for Indians who desire to start in life away from the Reservation, with the means derived from the sale of their allotments. I have seen too many cases of ambitious young men start out with the determination to make a plunge into the town or city, but are wrecked at the very start for the want of advice, mere advice as to the proper method of accomplishing their purposes. With the most developed intelligence in the speculators' who surround every reservation, the Indian who is just emerging into business competition with them, stands a mighty poor chance of winning out. Here and there an Indian under exceptional circumstances, does well, but most of them do not.

I should like to have a chance ^{an} to help out in this particular field, because I feel a personal interest in it, and would like to enlarge my efforts so as to include all the Indians in the United States if possible.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours very respectfully,

Ammission Wheeler