



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

United States Indian School

CHILOCCO, OKLAHOMA

May 17, 1917.

Gen. R. H. Pratt,
Pierce's Ranch,
Three Rivers, Calif.

Dear General Pratt:

I am sorry the Journal had not already reached you containing what you said about the plan of the Board of Indian Commissioners to raise fifteen regiments of Indian troops. A copy was sent you immediately upon receipt of your letter which I hope will reach you in due course.

Nothing ever comes up in our National affairs that somebody does not try to exploit the Indians in connection therewith. The war has given opportunity for a good many "friends of the Indians", some of them in intimate official relation with them, to get a lot of free advertising, as you have doubtless noticed by reading the newspapers. Representative Kahn is merely one of the publicity seekers. Some of their propositions are utterly farcical. I do not understand why people interested in the Indians after having stood by and seen them despoiled of property and character by a segregating system and the attending evils, could now desire to put them up on the front line for people to shoot at. I presume it looks to them like a little bit better morals than doing the shooting

themselves. We know by reading our Bibles the motive that David had in placing a certain man in the front ranks in order that he might be speedily made way with. The Indians' wives are not coveted in this instance but it looks as though the space they occupy is wanted.

Your system of ratios is correct and it is absolutely certain now that the Indians are going to furnish more than their proportionate number of soldiers even without the efforts of publicity seekers to raise exclusively Indian units. Their plans deserve to fail and doubtless they will.

We are very happy over your statement that you are coming to Oklahoma before a great while and will pay Chilocco a visit. It certainly will be a red letter day for us when you come.

I hope the fishing remains good but not so good that it will keep you in the mountains indefinitely.

Ida joins me in most cordial greetings to yourself and Mrs. Pratt.

Yours truly,

Edgar A. Allen