

CARLISLE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.
DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL RECORD OF STUDENT.

[illegible]

Months in school before Carlisle,.....60

Grade entered at Carlisle, 51^h.

Grade at date of Discharge, 8th

Trade or Industry, *Carpenter*

Church, *Methodist*

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Editorial Notes

THE INDIAN A CITIZEN. Is the North American Indian ready for citizenship? The colored man has been given that great boon. Neither he nor the naturalized Italian, German or Irishman is set apart as a race and disqualified from exercising the right of the ballot. A native of Caledonia, a full-blooded Indian, Horton G. Elm, has taken the position few of his race have ever assumed, i. e., that the Indian if he is ever to make the advancement he should, ought to be made a citizen and his race assimilated, as other races are, into the future American that is the product of the mingling of all the races that people our fair land. Mr. Elm is a graduate of the Carlisle Indian School and is a man well read in the current doings of the day. He returned to Carlisle at commencement time this spring and while there urged his views upon his fellow Indians and set them thinking upon the question. He has written briefly his views on this question and we are glad to reproduce them below:

"In declaring what should be the attitude of a race towards a policy affecting their interests we must not be unmindful of the work done by individuals directly or indirectly. The Indian race should be in sympathy with every sane effort to better their condition, but when we consider this fact, that the history of the American Indian has been written by his foe, and when we have read this book, who can doubt that all there is of bad, as well as good, in human nature has played upon these people.

"The great mass of Americans have not attained a correct knowledge of the race and its possibilities. On the reservation the Indian is seen under the most unfavorable aspect and one has then only the slightest opportunity to judge what he could do or become under fair and equal conditions. This method of shutting up the race to one policy of elevation has reduced the Indian to a general level, intellectually and socially. Like other people, when no exterior force is applied, the Red Man will be found no more equal in talents, in abilities, and in power than they are in other matters. Under this system the Indian has been watched over, provided for, cared for at every stage and at all points, and then he is upbraided for the lack of ability that we helped to destroy. If there is any progress it is made in spite of this system and not because of it. We must learn to meet the sharper difficulties of civilized life. The Indian will advance just in proportion as he succeeds in getting away from the reservation and becomes a ver/ part of our population.

"To those who are closely connected with Indian affairs we naturally look for wise guidance. This opportunity came on April 2nd at the graduation exercises of the U. S. Indian School at Carlisle, Pa. Hon. Francis C. Leupp, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, was present. In his address it was expected that he would define his position on this particular question. In his opening remarks he admitted that he was subjected to a great deal of criticism for opposing non-reservation schools in his latest annual report. In the address there was no effort to effect a change in the opinion of the people as to his attitude toward the schools. The speech itself amounted to little. It was suggested that we should make ourselves contented; that the Indian should not change; that we should remain the same.

"The importance of race pride and the reverence for the old ways of life was emphasized by some of the students, who gave an exhibition of their native customs. In the presence of these facts, are we sincere in our purpose? Will this help or hinder the progress of the race? Can there be no change?

"We know that the nature of the civilized people of today is a very different thing from that of their prehistoric ancestors. Human nature changes constantly and if the Indian is in this same environment, he will improve by the same law of development. We must learn that it is the previous condition of the race that has intensified their problem. Surrounded by the same conditions we have the same needs. This is true of all people; it will be true, of them.

"Let us take it for granted that in the near future all the wisdom and good will of the best people everywhere will be united in the effort to enlighten, upbuild and adjust these neglected people. The true friend of the Indian will not seek to isolate him and perpetuate their old customs and incapacities, but would banish them entirely. Unless ignorance and tribal customs are destroyed they will rise up, perplex and trouble. Ignorance and vice are not racial attributes; knowledge and virtue are not racial endowment; they are the outcome of condition. In conclusion, we express the firm conviction of Justice D. J. Brewer who said: "It certainly is not criminal for anyone, the world over, to long to come within the sheltering protection of Old Glory and to become a citizen of this republic."

IN NEWARK, Wayne county they do one thing right. Last week, five tramps, arrested for vagrancy, were put at work cleaning the streets.

Horton G. Elm