

1890 of this movement, and we quote here his letter to the Secretary of the Interior recommending the measure. We regard this letter as a clear and forcible statement of the case.

Department of the Interior,
Office of Indian Affairs,
Washington, April 19, 1890

The Honorable Secretary of the Interior:

Sir:— For two years past my predecessors in office have asked that special provision be made for the training of Indian Women in civilized customs and pursuits in their homes.

Letter of Indian Commissioner Morgan. The attention of the office is again called to the matter by the Society of Friends who have long been interested in the subject and, for a tribe in which they are specially interested, have employed an agency matron at their own expense.

In my opinion the importance of this subject can hardly be over-rated. The government sends our farmers, blacksmiths, carpenters, etc., to teach the Indians house building, farming, milling, and other civilized pursuits, but gives them no instruction or help in making homes. The Indian bringing into his new house the habits and customs of the tepee makes of it a more uninviting and unhealthy place of abode than was the abandoned lodge.

In Indian boarding schools, training in domestic industries is of course given, but the pupils return from the schools to homes and influences which almost hopelessly discourage any effort to continue the usages and customs acquired at school.

If intelligent, earnest, practical women could be sent among the Indians to instruct the women in house keeping and home making, to teach them cooking, sewing, dairy and laundry work, neatness, thrift and simple sanitary rules, substantial progress in Indian civilization would thus be effected.

As allotment work progresses and tribal life disappears and individual holdings and homes increase in numbers and white neighbors settle among the Indians, the need that the Indians should know how to make homes for themselves becomes more apparent and urgent.

The expenditure for this purpose need not be large, as properly qualified women can doubtless be found who will serve as "agency matrons" for a salary of \$750 per annum.

I therefore respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to

1890 appropriate \$7,200 for the pay of ten "agency matrons" at \$720 each per annum, and for that purpose inclose copy of an item of appropriation to be inserted in the Indian Appropriation Bill.

Respectfully,

T. F. Morgan, Commissioner.

In order to demonstrate to the Committee on Indian Affairs of Congress, by actual experiment, the great value and at the same time the practicability of the work of Field Matron, we decided in Fourth Month last to invite five of the other Yearly Meetings to join us in the appointment, equipment and maintenance of a matron for a period of six months with the view of a continuance of the work thereafter, either by the Government, or by ourselves if found practicable.

Indian Committee Report. The response from New York, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois was favorable to the enterprise; Genesee Yearly Meeting declined to join in the work unless all the Yearly Meetings participated.

We concluded to proceed in the face of this discouraging outlook and accordingly appointed Marie G. St. Steer as Field Matron at Santee Agency for the six months ending 10th mo. 1st 1890, at a salary of \$75 per month, also furnishing her with an equipment consisting of a horse and carriage and whatever materials and supplies she might need in the prosecution of her work. We were most fortunate in our selection, for our Matron has proven to be an earnest, painstaking and conscientious worker. She has brought an intelligence and an ability to the discharge of the duties of the position that more than answers our expectations. She has prepared a narrative of her experience, views, needs, and results which is a valuable paper on the subject. It has been forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington who promises to include the substance of it in his Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior, and we also submit the paper as a part of our Report.

At the session just closed Congress, after constant solicitation on our part, finally appropriated \$720 for the salary of our Field Matron. This is regarded as an experiment, and may be followed by larger appropriations if it is deemed successful.

On 10th Month 1st our matron was appointed by the Commissioner as a Field Matron at a salary of \$55 per month, thus withholding a portion of the appropriation. We are now by this action of the Department relieved of a large part of the expense, as we have