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The good effect of the extension by President Harrison of Civil Service rules in the Indian Department is very apparent. The further extension, at least in spirit and effect, so as to include Agents and Inspectors is greatly to be desired. The withdrawal of the pressure and dictation of party politics from all appointments in the Indian service would be a measure of untold benefit to the Indians.

Report
on
Indian
Affairs

We have retained our interest in the Ponca Agency in Nebraska, through the Field Matron, Louise H. Douglass, who is still faithfully and efficiently working with the women and children of that tribe. Occasional reports from her show an improvement in the condition of the homes and their surroundings, and she also writes encouragingly concerning the children. We have kept her supplied with dry goods, etc., for the Sewing School, medicines and flower seeds, and also furnish useful presents for the children at Christmas time. Through the enmity of the Agent at Santee, the name of this faithful worker was dropped from the pay roll last Spring, and her office discontinued, but at the request of this Committee she was promptly reinstated without loss of pay or time. We may now regard Field Matron work as well established branch of education, although from causes that are well understood, its greater development has been hindered. Five matrons have been employed by the Government during the past year, at various Reservations in the West. The same appropriation that has been granted for the past two years, five thousand dollars, has been recommended by the Secretary of the Interior, and it is thought will be approved by Congress. Doubtless this amount was estimated for, by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, but the Chairman of the Committee in the House of Representatives, informed the Department that he would oppose any increase.

In connection with this subject, it is interesting to note, that more than fifty years ago, the efforts of Friends were directed in this same channel. A letter written in 12 mo. 1841, by Philip E. Thomas, who was clerk of the Committee on Indian Affairs for sixty four years, to Deborah Stabler, upon matters concerning the Seneca Nation, of New York, contains the following. "There must be a Committee of

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Women Friends appointed to look after the women and school children, or but little good will be done. The females amongst the Senecas are as rude as they were one hundred years ago, whilst many of the men are greatly elevated in character, intelligence and habits. The reason is plain, nothing has been done for the women."

We have maintained a careful watch over the tendency of legislation by Congress upon Indian Affairs, and are ready at all times to go before the Congressional Committee, or Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and use our influence in behalf of the Indian. We have been called on a number of times during the past year, by Herbert Kelch, of Philadelphia, Secretary of the Indian Rights Association, to assist him in correcting certain abuses, and have rendered such help as was possible.

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We have had several interviews with L. M. Browning, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs under the new administration. He received us with much cordiality, and expressed the most friendly feeling, asking our co-operation in any measures which might be taken by the Department with a view of improving the condition of the Indians, if such measure should meet our approval. Perhaps the most important feature of our connection with work in this field is our readiness to co-operate with other bodies having the welfare of the Indian at heart, in endeavor to check any attempt to despoil them of their lands, or to infringe upon their rights in any way. By the union of all forces a great influence may be brought to bear in any desired direction.

Delegates from this Committee attended the Annual Session of Indian Commissioners at Washington, D. C., also the recent Convention of Friends of the Indian, which was held at Mohawk, New York.

We are using a portion of our income in promoting the higher education of an Indian girl, who is fitting herself for a teacher in a school at Northfield, Mass., and we have in contemplation during the coming year, the extension of this work, by assisting in the education of other Indian girls or boys in Friends schools, if practicable.