

Nothing but sorrow would come of it". He was right. Standing Holy married a Sioux Indian and raised a large family, and only last year passed on to the Happy Hunting Grounds. I never saw her again, but will, at the first opportunity, seek out some of her children in the hope of being able to do something for them.

Sitting Bull liked to talk of hunting and the freedom enjoyed over the broad plains of the Dakotas and Montana. He liked horses, and thought his people would do well raising live stock and being allowed the independence of the live stock rancher of that day, a life that ^{was} hard work, but it had its periods of hunting, fishing, and visiting.

I told him of my ancestors, and their wrongs at the hands of the English, and of my father who came to this country as a young immigrant. But he shouldered a gun when the Civil War started in '61, left his wife and three young children to fight for the country that gave him freedom and an opportunity to go ahead in the world, such opportunities so rarely accorded the Indian. We refrained from discussing Indian wrongs, but I felt keenly on the subject, and hoped for the day when I could aid in doing some justice for this persecuted people, and giving them an even chance with the white man to make good.

I always felt the utmost confidence in Sitting Bull, and would have willingly gone to him had he gone on the war path and would have felt safe at approaching him at any time. Even the Apache Chief Geronimo, the most blood thirsty savage in our history, felt hurt when Lieutenant Gatewood of our army took a few precautions before going into Geronimo's camp when he was on the warpath. He asked Gatewood why he did not trust him, that they were friends, etc.

The Indian is of Mongol stock with ^{the} great mental capacity of that remarkable people, and if given a fair chance to make good will go far. It now looks as if he is to be given the chance.

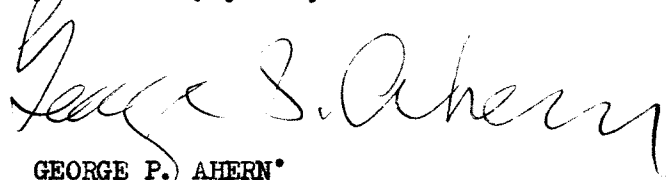
X His chance will come, I believe, by a system of scholarships for carefully selected boys and girls, vocational guidance, and a system that will prepare the youngsters for their life work several years in advance of employment. Under such a system the vacation holidays would be spent in the line of work to be permanently followed. Even after an apparently permanent assignment, the present system ~~has~~ to follow up a person for a year or so to make sure that they are rightly placed. By such a process the Indian should be fitted into a wide variety of employment. While most of the work will be in the outside world, a number of young men and women will find it necessary to remain near their families on the Reservation to care for the older people, or others needing their help.

There is no reason why every job from the Superintendent and Doctor ~~to~~ to the Teacher should not be filled with competent Indians. This is a goal I shall urge.

Pardon this long letter. My enthusiasm at finding what seems to be just the man for an important job in this régime is my excuse.

Hoping to hear from you from time to time,

Very sincerely yours,


GEORGE P. AHERN

P.S. The two Indian Commissioners took Klumchee into me to do after I dictated this letter & before signing it. I mentioned the idea of the school book & telling of famous chiefs and they thought it a splendid suggestion.