

As the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in his report to you, in answer to Senate resolution of 8th July last, expressed what, in his judgment, should be the policy of the government with respect to the management of Indian affairs, I deem it proper to embody that expression in this report. He suggests that the Indians, as now situated, can only be saved from extinction by consolidating them, as rapidly as it can be done, upon large reservations from which all whites, except government employes, shall be excluded; by educating them intellectually and morally, by training them in the arts of civilization so that they may become, at the earliest practicable moment, self-supporting, and then, at the proper time, clothe them with the rights of citizenship. Accordingly, he recommends that the government take such steps as may be deemed proper to set apart a territory, somewhere north of the northern line of Nebraska and west of the Missouri river, for the exclusive occupation and ultimate home of all the Indians north of the Platte and of Iowa, and east of the summit of the Rocky mountains, and that appropriations be made at once to prepare for such Indians as are now ready to enter upon pastoral and agricultural pursuits in said territory; that a large territory be set apart south of the southern line of Kansas and west of Arkansas, including the present "Indian territory," the country known as the Stake Plains of Texas, and so much of New Mexico as may be necessary for all of the Indians south of the Platte river and east of the Territory of Arizona; also the selection, on the Pacific coast and in Arizona, of reservations for all the Indians west of the Rocky mountains.

In addition to the recommendations made in the remarks upon the condition of affairs in the several superintendencies and agencies, as they appear in regular order in this report, and now submitted for favorable consideration and action, in the event they are not rendered inexpedient, in part or in whole, by a change of policy which may hereafter be determined upon, the following are also presented, several having been recommended in the last annual report: