

WHISKY GREATEST MENACE TO INDIAN, U. S. OFFICIAL SAYS

Warning Letter by Commissioner
Will Be Read in Schools for
Redmen on Tuesday.

RACE IS AN EASY PREY

Unscrupulous Persons Profit by
Liquor Weakness, Cato
Asserts.

Special to the Post-Dispatch.
MUSKOGEE, Ok., April 4.—A letter
written by Cato Sells, United States
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, on the
evils of the liquor traffic among Indians
will be read to every student body of
Indians in the United State on April 6.
This letter has been addressed to 6000
Government employes in the Indian
service.

"I believe," says Commissioner Sells
in his letter, "that the greatest menace
to the American Indian is whisky. It
does more to destroy his constitution
and invite the ravages of disease than
anything else. It does more to demoral-
ize him as a man and frequently as a
woman. It does more to make him an
easy prey to the unscrupulous than
everything else combined. Let us save
the American Indian from the curse of
whisky. There is nothing that could
induce me, since I have taken the oath
of office as Commissioner of Indian Af-
fairs, to touch a single drop of any
sort of intoxicating liquor, and this re-
gardless of my attitude on the prohibi-
tion question."

Open Saloon Scenes Decried.
The bulk of the Indian population of
the United States is in Oklahoma. Many
years ago, under a mistaken view of
the meaning of old Federal laws, sa-
loons were open for a short time in
Indian Territory, now the eastern part
of Oklahoma. The drinking conduct of
the Indian was incredible. Those who
patronized the bar at Muskogee aston-
ished even the barkeepers. They drank
their beer or whisky—usually whisky—
one glass after another, with scarcely
a moment's intermission, until they sank
to the floor in a stupor. Some found
it necessary to steady themselves
against the bar with one hand, while
with the other they lifted their glass.

After an annuity payment, the Osages
used to assemble two or three hundred
at a time at Ralston and Cleveland,
Oklahoma, on the south side of the
Arkansas river, across from the Osage
country, where under the laws of Ok-
lahoma Territory, open saloons were
permitted. It was a violation of Fed-
eral law to sell whisky to Indians,
but there were saloon keepers and
boot-leggers willing to take the risk.
The sole purpose of each Indian was
to get drunk, and as quickly as pos-
sible. His idea of a good time was to
drink until he could no longer walk and
lie asleep until he was sober.

One Man Remained Sober.
The Osages proceeded upon their
debauches in a methodical manner.
To one man of influence—and much
physical strength—was assigned the
task of remaining sober and keeping
order, as the Osages frequently were
inclined to fight among themselves
in the first stages of intoxication.
This man was armed with only a stout
club, which he used with telling ef-
fect when he found it necessary to
control an obstreperous brave. A
hundred drunken Indians caused less
fear among the white women of these
towns than would two rampant mem-
bers of their own race. The guard
with his hickory club was largely re-
sponsible, however, for this feeling of
security.

When everybody else had had his
fling, the guard was free to relax from
duties and indulge in what literally
was a "high lonesome." He got drunk
by himself just as he might go swim-
ming or as he might eat alone. He
often incurred the penalty of being too
conspicuous, with the result that he
was arrested and locked in jail. A
further stroke of bad luck was that
his companions usually left town with-
out trying to release him.

MAJOR WALROND, MUSKOGEE'S FIRST LAWYER IS DEAD

Was Admitted to Earliest Court
in Oklahoma Twenty-five
Years Ago

Judge Z. T. Walrond, the first law-
yer ever admitted to practice before
an Oklahoma court and a resident of
Muskogee for twenty-five years, died
at a local hospital last night following
an illness of several weeks.

April 1, 1889, the first court ever
established in what is now Oklahoma
was opened at Muskogee by the United
States government. Judge Walrond
then a resident of Kansas, had been
appointed district attorney and when
the court was opened, he was granted
the first license by Judge J. M.
Shackelford.

Judge Walrond, only recently, was
honored by election as head of the
Muskogee Bar association. He was
active in the practice of law until a
few weeks before his last illness. He
is survived by a wife and daughter,
Miss Lucille. He was a Knight Temp-
lar and an elder in the First Presby-
terian church. The funeral will be
under the auspices of the Masonic
lodge but arrangements have not yet
been completed. Judge Walrond was
67 years old.

Of the residents now living in Mus-
kogee who were here when Judge
Walrond came, there are C. W. Tur-
ner, W. S. Harsha, H. B. Spaulding,
W. A. Lubbes, Henry C. Cobb, Frank
Hubbard, J. A. Scott, Joshua Ross
and N. B. Maxey. He found Muskogee
a straggling little village and left it a
city. He contributed no small part to
the development here and remained to
be the last a true Muskogee booster.

BRING THIS BILL WITH YOU.
See Regulations on other side.

Received payment,

Postmaster.

Postmaster.

No. 16 Post Office, Muskogee
To RENT OF BOX No. 16 for Quarter
ending 12/31, 1914, \$ 35

7 233
5 142
7 290.
4 216.
4 426
4 432.
168.
16. 287.

Official letter of Aug 10 1915.

He 291.2 Sept-9 93 letter to
Jules to wife

To See Mr. J. M. Scott - 1913
Letter to Com. ad - 18. 11.

He 307.8.7.
He 357