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OFFICE OF INDIAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

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A CONTRAST

Is there any hope that this great nation will even deal honestly and reasonably with the Indian question? We know of no more ignoble or humiliating contrast than that of last Wednesday. While the five heroic Indian policemen, who gave up their lives for the nation in the attempt to arrest Sitting Bull and restore order on the frontier, were being buried with military honors from Fort Yates, the bill appropriating money for the just claims of the Sisseton and Wahpeton Indians was laid over at Washington in order to give a member opposed to it full time to prepare for the expression of his ideas. No clearer case than that of these Indians ever came before the government. They have failed to receive the sums due and promised to them until they have been reduced to absolute destitution. If they had been hostiles they would have received ample rations and all coddling that they could desire. But it is their misfortune, which our system seems to hold a crime, to have been faithful to the government. They have never betrayed it. They have refused to join in any movement against it. They have stood loyally as the friends of the white man. And for that sin they are left to starve.

There is no question of fact in the matter. The chief of these has sent to the authorities the pathetic message, "My people are starving." It is true. They are starving, not because they are idle and dissolute, but because they have confided in the solemn promise of the nation to provide for them, and that promise is unfulfilled. The Sisseton agent has confirmed their statement in every particular, and asked, in the name of justice and humanity, for immediate relief; not a gratuity, but the mere payment of moneys overdue. The Indian commissioner at Washington affirms and ratifies every statement. The Department of the Interior urges an immediate