

COMMENT ON CIVILIZATION

Soon after the Cheyenne and Araphahoe Indians were induced to settle upon a reservation in Oklahoma Territory, a commission visited their agency and during the council asked the Indians to offer suggestions as to what the United States Government should do to advance them along the white man's road. Many suggestions were offered by the Indians. Finally one chief stood up and said:

"I hear that among the white men it is the custom in every town to have house full of women where a man can go and by paying money satisfy his desires. We uncivilized Indians have no such facilities. Here a man cannot be satisfied without meddling with some man's wife or daughter and getting into trouble. I think the government should build such a house for us here and fill it with women so that we could behave as white men do and avoid this inconvenience."

This suggestion was made with a straight face, and the commissioners could not be sure whether the chief was serious or only satirical.