

September 10, 1955

Page 2

Dr. W. S. Campbell

we received from Indian people. They have been exploited and commercialized sideshows at rodeos and other events so that we are most fortunate in having them come here and participate expecting no other compensation other than what they might win in contests or in the arts and crafts exhibit. We have tried to cultivate the leaders in various tribes and to do something constructive in the way of at least encouragement ~~with~~ <sup>to</sup> Indian people in the solution of some of the problems they are faced with. I believe, one of the things that can be accomplished is to build better racial pride with the Indian so that the inferiority complex resulting from discrimination and the domineering attitude of Whites will be overcome.

Many years ago, I was in very close association with the Sioux and Assiniboine on the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana. I spent a great deal of time with them and had many friends. It was rather a peculiar situation ~~and~~ because ~~that~~ many families of the different Sioux tribes remained <sup>after</sup> the surrender of Sitting Bull. There were quite a few Custer Battle survivors among them. Some of them remained ~~there~~ <sup>after</sup> being drifted down ~~into~~ <sup>from</sup> Montana and remained on the Fort Peck Reservation. I had learned to speak a little Sioux and some sign language. I regret now that I did not keep any records because I did not then realize the historic value of so doing. There were many ceremonies and dances which are now lost and in staging this affair I had hoped that some of these colorful and interesting things could be revived. However, the younger Indians do not know them and many are not interested. The old timers have passed on and many things which could have been entertaining and educational as well are gone. We have to do the best we can with what our "red" friends are now able to do although anyone familiar with the old Indian life realizes that some of the modern things are comparatively unauthentic.

We have received a lot of different constructive criticism of the show which is welcome. Afterall we have an audience to please and tastes are varied. I think, one criticism is that the presentation of awards involves too much time. The matter of the Elks was embarrassing to us. They requested five minutes on the program and they took twenty-five minutes. I noticed that a great part of the audience got up and left. We will avoid that sort of thing in the future. I, too, think that your suggestion that we should not have anything to obstruct the view of the audience during the Indian dances was very good. The foot work of some of these Indians seems to me to be worth while seeing. There were ~~some~~ very skilled dancers. There were many more Indians ~~there~~ <sup>to enter</sup> these dance contests than we had anticipated so that we had only one panel of judges and made the dance program too long. Next year we will try to split up the dance program and perhaps have three contests and three sets of judges which will shorten the dance contest and spread the affair out so that it can be better seen from all parts of the grandstand. We also have to do something to keep our Indian friends from blocking the view of the audience. We instructed the National Guard and the others who were regulating the crowds not to get too rough with Indian people and to use every means to avoid discourtesy with them and it was, therefore, a little hard to keep the stage and track clear. I think, the only answer is more traffic officers.