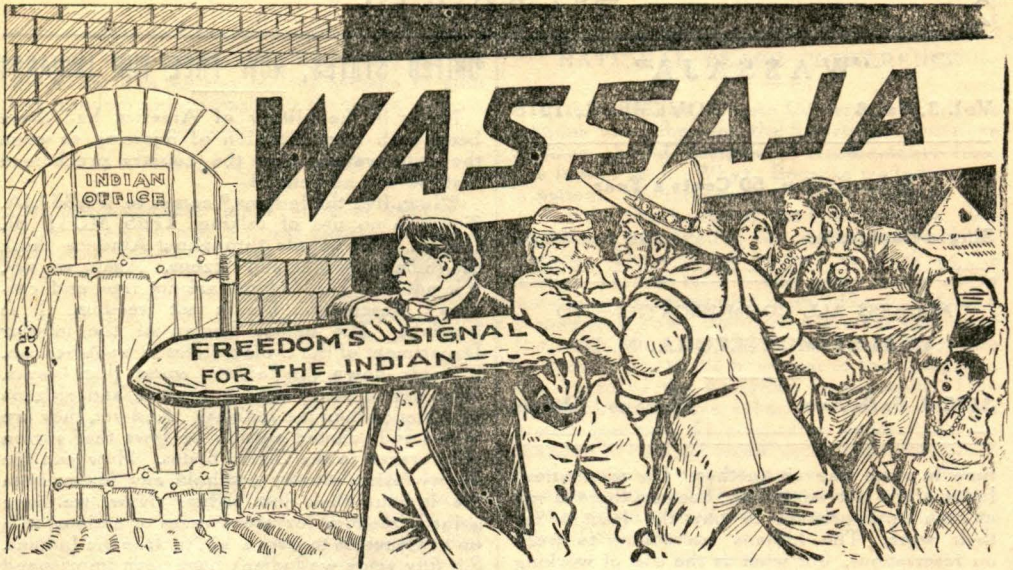




Edited by Wassaja (Dr. Montezuma's Indian name, meaning "Signaling") an Apache Indian.

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DEMORALIZATION OF THE RESERVATIONS

It is human to err and if you do not have a good environment the pendulum of human nature will swing towards the side of the last resistance. Appreciating this human weakness, the late army had every soldier doing something to "keep them busy" were the words that were carefully noted by those officers who had charge of the soldiers. Colonization is a bad policy to make angels. There must be a current coming in and going out, as in a good ventilated room, for life worth living for. An Indian reservation is a colonization, where there has not been a normal healthy current of environment to develop the man character of the Indian. No race under heaven was in a better condition to be molded into greatness than the Indians at the time when they were forced on reservations. He had the heart and mind of a child that knows no guile, but had the physique of a man to protect, support and aid his fellow creatures. No better and no more loyal friend could be found than the Indian before he was frightened and forced at the point of bayonets to go into reservation cells. Ah! The reservation, (the Indians' Siberia,) was not the will of the Indians; it was done by cruel brute force, equal to that received by the Belgians at the hands of the Germans. It was placing the one who had prior rights where he cannot act for himself, so that his rights could be taken from him without his knowledge. Bandit thieves is the price of America. Placing the Indians on a patch of their land for no cause or reason and forcing them to stay there while his domain was

populated from a few to over one hundred millions of people and has become the strongest nation on the globe. It does seem impossible for a progress to occur around the cell prison of the Indian and he is retrograding more and more to a depth where his forefathers never dreamed of.

Before the Indians were forced into bondage on reservations, they were FREE MEN. They did not know what a lie meant; they did not steal; they had no knowledge of intoxication; they did not know what it was to own anything; they did not grumble. To the Indian all of God's creatures were brothers. Revenge was not in his heart. He was generous and free from greed. He was not two-faced, but always carried an honest face.

If there was ever a man who believed in freedom, equal rights, democracy, humanity and justice it was the Indian, who was rounded up by the military of the United States and corralled as a beast on a reservation; no more to enjoy life and live as a human being, AND TODAY THEY ARE THERE YET. It is a mockery that faces the American people.

He does not know whether he is an American or what not. His life is permeated with fear. He lives by being ruled as cattle. The jail is always ready for him; with suspicion he roams the reservation cage. He lives on the past and groans under the present. He knows not what hope is; he only expects to breathe and die where he buried his father.

To keep one busy you must have something to do for them and pay them for their labor, and if you have not they will grow listless and kill

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time in some way or another. On reservations Indians are not kept busy, because there is not enough appropriation to pay the Indians for their work. The Indians are willing to work on reservations, but what is the use of working when you get no pay, and so the Indians have a good time instead of working.

Government employes may be interested in the Indians for a short time, but their interest dies out. What is the use of killing themselves when their pay is regular from Uncle Sam every three months? They, too, just kill time, unless an inspector is heard to be on the way to the reservation. Then they are busy for appearance sake.

It seems the Indians have come to love whiskey, so, many thousands of dollars are used to hire men to protect the Indians in this evil introduction of civilization. Among many tribes the peyote has crazed the Indians on reservations.

To kill time on every reservation gambling by cards and betting abound. Under the shade of a tree or in a tepee you will see gathered women and men staking their money and trinkets. If an Indian is an expert at anything on a reservation it is at cards. Gambling by the Indians is like a little Wall Street on a reservation.

The reservation system make strong men and women weak. Why? Because their environment is bad. Indian surroundings in order to get civilization is a wrong policy. A few teachers and the Indian Superintendent can never overcome the influences of the hundreds or thousands of Indians. It is out of the question. Such rot way of civilizing the Indians is demoralizing and ruinous to the Indian race. This policy does not benefit the Indians, but it does give bread and butter to those who look after them. If we have the interest of the Indians at heart we would do away with such ruinous policy by doing away with the Indian Bureau and let the Indians look after themselves in the masses of the country, where they rightly belong. To speak good of the Indian Bureau is to SPEAK AGAINST THE BEST GOOD OF THE INDIANS.

UNITED STATES, NOW FREE THE INDIANS!

Never in the history of America had there been such demonstration of rejoicing as when the wire waving over the country proclaimed that the war had ended.

"Now, free the Indians," comes to WASSAJA. There is no use of talking, THIS MUST BE DONE. The people throughout America think the Indians are free and citizens. Again, we say, it is not so. The Indians are not free and citizens. Reservation life is not freedom. It is bondage. The Indian Bureau of the Interior Department of the United States is un-American. It holds down the Indians worse than slaves. Who have a better right to be free and citizens of America than the Indians? And yet, they are wards and counted outside of laws that govern other races in the United States. How can the liberty-loving country withhold any longer from the Indians their just rights? Now, we have gained freedom for other races or nations, it is up to Congress to pass a bill to free the Indians. For fifty years we Indians have been imprisoned on reservations. No nation has been so patient for their rights as the Indian race.

Just imagine between six and seven thousand volunteers in the army and navy, fighting for freedom (which they do not enjoy themselves,) and they have made good by the report of the press. At a crisis, does not that show that they are equal to it? Let us hope their services may not be overlooked. They fought for freedom and equal rights. Would it be right to keep them in slavery on reservations and under the heel of the Indian Bureau? Good common sense would say, "Not on your life." What would you do with them? As they have nobly carried themselves as men, when the country needed them, so should they be encouraged to be free and give them their citizenship to go where they please, in order to make their living. Most of them were judged upon as incompetent. Now what has the slave-holding Indian Bureau have to say?

What keeps the Indians from becoming free and citizens? We are not wrong, when we say, IT IS THE INDIAN BUREAU. In order to free the Indians and have them citizens, the right way is to abolish the Indian Bureau, because it is another Kaiser in America, relative to the Indian race. We have done away with one, let the people of the United States do the same with the Indian Bureau. Some people will say it is too radical. These same people have been saying that for these many years, and have not done anything to make the Indian man free or done anything in any way to see that they are citizens. In order to do what is right for a man, you must give him his rights. That is what we are seeking for the Indian race. THE RIGHTS THAT BELONG TO THE INDIANS.

We believe and know the Indians are in position to be freed and that they are ready to

be given their citizenship. We assert that the only obstacle in the way for the Indians to gain their freedom and citizenship is the Indian Bureau.

THE INDIAN BUREAU

An institution that thinks more of itself than for the object for which it was instituted, that institution is no longer useful. When an organized body becomes useless, it turns into a poison. That is its way with the Indian Bureau. It has forgotten its object, now it is only a routine of making reports, receiving reports and filing reports. Outside of that, it has no more idea of the Indian's interest than a cat. In Washington they are ashamed to see and be seen with an Indian on the street. They send the Indian back to the reservation as soon as possible.

The Indian Bureau does not take the Indian by the hand and lead him out into the world. They would be the last ones to do such a thing. But they will set every obstacle in the way that leads to FREEDOM and CITIZENSHIP for the Indians. They will poison the minds of the public about the Indians and will insist they are a necessity, and without them the Indians would starve and die. They who differ with them are branded as frauds and self-exploiters. They will bring forth backers such as the Government of the United States, Civil Service, Indian Rights Association, Mohonk Conference, churches, and men and women of prominence, such as philanthropists, statesmen, authors, artists and others from every walk of life.

Pity does not help. The above mentioned backers of the Indian Bureau are backers because they pity the poor Indians. How human it is to shift one's personal responsibility onto an organization or a bureau. When an organization or bureau goes so far as to KEEP ONE FROM HIS RIGHTS, MAKES ONE WORTHLESS AND DEPENDENT, then it is about time to CALL A HALT.

The Indian Bureau has been in existence for half a century. Time enough has been given to it to bear fruit, and it has born fruit out of the Indians. Out of a splendid race the Indian Bureau has demoralized it in every way to a state that words can not express. The mind of the Indian is not free. He has been dependent on the Washington Father too much. He has been taught to depend upon the Indian Agent, and employes of the Indian Service. HE WAS A FREE MAN ONCE, but since the Indian Bureau's birth, he has been kept as a prisoner within the confines of the reservation system, which no ADOPTED AMERICAN WOULD TOLERATE. He moves and has his being in an atmosphere that is not an American. For fifty years he has been living in a world by himself. Such is the fate of the Indians at the hands of the Indian Bureau. Friends and America, can such autocracy be tolerated after battling and winning for FREEDOM, EQUAL RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE for the whole world?

NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

If there will be a Peace Conference of all the nations after the war, the Society of American Indians should delegate a representative from the Indian race. Why? Because we Indians are a nation. We Indians have never received justice from the hands of the United States. We have been relegated to the outside realm of humanity. There is no picture as black as the history of our race. You may speak about abuses and mistreatment received by the Belgians, Bohemians, Poles, Serbians and other nations of the old country, their griefs and wild kings are no comparison to the treatment of the Indians at the hands of the American Government. Five hundred years have rolled by and the Indians are not free yet. Five hundred years since the invasion of the pale faced race on the domain of the Indians and they do not enjoy the rights of human beings. This righteous war is a mockery to the Indian race, if we are not allowed at the Peace Conference.

CARLISLE U. S. INDIAN SCHOOL

We Indians must not misunderstand Carlisle School, because the present Indian administration is foreign to its principles. It appears that they misunderstand everything pertaining to Indian matters; but are very apt at personal advancement at the expense of the Indians.

Roosevelt writes a whole lot about Indians, but he does not know anything about Indians. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs weeps a whole lot about the Indians, but he has no knowledge of the Indians. These are the very men who (when in power) have done more to throw back the Indians in their moving forward to be men and women than any other two men in the world.

No other institution in the United States has done more for the Indians than the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. It stood as a light-house on a hill to enlighten the world and to place the Indian where he rightly belongs. It had a hard birth. It was the first Indian School and it was while the country was opposed to such an unpromising and hopeless undertaking the school budded. The life-giving power at its birth and for a quarter of a century, was General R. H. Pratt, now the most esteemed white man by the Indian race.

It was Roosevelt who relieved General R. H. Pratt as Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School, which he founded and where he hoped to die in the harness for the Indian children, the future destiny of the Indian race. Take away the spirit of a great institution that upholds the standard of the Indian race, you take away the life of that institution and tear down the standard of the Indian race. He who talks so much about "square deal" may speak to the Indians to doomsday; the Indians will tell him this one act of his was not a "square deal."

IT WAS A CALAMITY THAT THE INDIAN RACE MUST SUFFER.

To the one who has the Indians at heart; to he one who was a "pupil;" to the one who is an Indian; to the one who was connected with the Carlisle School and to the one who knows Christ's love for humanity—the Carlisle Indian Industrial School—the place was sacred. Teachers and pupils have come and gone. The ground is there, but it may have changed. The trees are larger and taller; there may be more buildings; its athletics may surpass the days of Metoxen, Bemis and Hudson. Day in and day out the same routine work has been going on. Yet, the place was sacred. It speaks of General Pratt and all the good he has done for the Indian people.

When the German army destroyed cathedrals wrought by masters, art paintings that can never be replaced and other ruthless destructions, America protested with righteous indignation at such outrage and it was a grand stand taken by the American people.

Let it be known that the United States Indian School at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was one of the grandest landmarks on the American continent. Carlisle Indian School was a living monument that spoke of the first great and noble act on the part of the white race to the Indians. It was an Indian institution known all over the globe. There was not an institution like it in the world. It was not a college, it only went as high as the 8th grade, but it had the respect of the higher educational institutions of the country. The second calamity came to the Indians when Carlisle Barracks was turned back to the War Department. Carlisle Indian School was the anchor of the Indian people. Take away that, what have they? Nothing! Take away the best thing a nation has, what will be the result? Backward step by step will be the result. All of the Indians throughout the country are in that position if no immediate steps are taken to do what is right for the Indians.

If the United States has taken away the best thing the Indians ever had, why not ABOLISH THE MOST SPURIOUS AND INJURIOUS STIGMA THAT HOLDS THE INDIANS DOWN AS SLAVES OF THE WORST KIND? If such unlooked for action was taken by the country to the detriment of the Indians, now it is up to the Government to abolish the Indian Bureau for the betterment of the Indians and to the country.

AN IMPORTANT REQUEST

This office would like to receive from Indians all over the United States their opinion on freedom and citizenship for themselves. This request is also desired from the people of all races, regardless of creed or color. The Government will not do anything until the Indians themselves make an effort on their part to say whether they

want to be free and get their citizenship, (and there is not a question of doubt in WASSAJA'S mind but that ALL INDIANS WANT TO BE ABSOLUTELY FREE.) How great it will be to hear from every reservation. This is the Indians' opportunity to express themselves. So let every Indian who gets WASSAJA read this request carefully, then pass it along to other Indians, or in fact, to any person in sympathy with the Indian cause, and ask them to write in a few words whether they want to be free or not. Replies from Indians and other races will be greatly appreciated

Address all replies to

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NEWS FROM THE WEST

As an island is defined as a tract of land entirely surrounded by water, so an Indian Reservation may be described as a tract of land entirely surrounded by thieves.

Two often the Indian Superintendent or Agent, becomes the agent and co-partner of those who would plunder the Indians rather than attend to his duties as administrator of the affairs of the Indians themselves.

The blundering, wabbling oftentimes treacherous, administration of Indian affairs, conducted from the seat of power three thousand miles away, is the most sickening, discouraging, disgusting failure in the history of the American Government.

While the superb, natural sense of honor of the Indian has led him to scrupulously observe every treaty and obligation ever entered into, the Government has left a trail of broken treaties; broken promises, repudiated pledges—hundreds of years' records that would disgrace any king of the Cannibal Islands.

Whatever of relief has been obtained for the Indians has usually been through an appeal from department red tape to the ears and heart of the people. We Indians can find very few white friends that are willing to break bread in the wick-i-up; who feels the throbbing of the Indian's heart, who understands him and who loves him for his virtue.

FOUR FLUSHING

What the Indian Bureau has made us from what we were and then tells the public: "That the Indian is not a man. That the Indian is not capable of taking care of himself. That the Indian is not competent to be a citizen. That the best thing is to keep the Indian as a ward. That the reservation system is the best thing for the Indian. That Cato Sells is the best man the Indians ever had: That the Indians are not capable of handling their own money. That the Indians would starve to death without the aid of the Indian Bureau."

LORD, DELIVER US FROM THE CURSE OF OUR RACE—THE INDIAN BUREAU.