

something like this than trying to help people who have no ambition, people who are content to live from generation to generation from hand to mouth, people with no interests and no ambitions extending outside of the narrow confines of an Indian reservation. The basis of the movement are a declaration against everything that savors of Bolshevism: it is a straightforward, loyal and united effort of a people to gain their feet, people who are growing out of their present state and who are developing feelings that they have not felt since the older days. I personally feel in sympathy with the movement, and it is a matter of regret to me that I am unable to be present at the Great Indian Conference to begin in Manitoba this coming Tuesday.* Delegates from all over Canada, East and West, will meet here to discuss matters. The leading reserves in Saskatchewan at least will be represented. I have sent word of it and particulars about it to many reserves.

In the Conference will be Indians from down East who have arisen to important positions and who are capable of exerting suitable efforts towards attaining to their objective.

Supposing the Conference should fail in its objective, I still feel that the new spirit which prompted the Movement is not to be underrated. At last I see that which I have always longed for, to see the race dissatisfied with themselves and the conditions under which they live. It pained me to see the stoical indifference, the lethargy, the masklike countenance with which they viewed their condition. I longed to see the flicker of the old spirit, the spark of the old-time flint and the breakneck speed of the chase and the battle.

A sleeping nation is a hard nation to help. The awakening has come; the war has done its work.

Not in vain did our young men die in a strange land; not in vain are our Indian bones mingled with the soil of a foreign land for the first time since the world began; not in vain did the Indian fathers and mothers see their son march away to face what to them were ununderstandable dangers; the unseen tears of Indian mothers in many isolated Indian reserves have watered the seeds from which may spring those desires and efforts and aspirations which will enable us to reach sooner the stage when we will take our place side by side with the white people, doing our share of productive work and gladly shouldering the responsibilities of citizens in this our country.

*Since the foregoing was written the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Saskatchewan undertook to send the Rev. E. Ahenakew to the Conference.