

THE INDIAN QUESTION DISCUSSED IN CHICAGO.

At a recent banquet in Chicago, General Morgan, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the United States, made an able speech, from which the following extracts are taken. The Dr. Eastman referred to, is an educated Sioux, who spoke on the same occasion.

"In this connection I want to emphasize three things: First, to give the Indians a practical mastery of the English language. A great barrier which has separated them and us has been the barrier of language. The Indian dialects are numerous, and in them there have come down the stories and traditions of their ancestors. These stories are told about the camp fire and rehearsed over and over to their children and they have a tremendous force to keep them out of the tide of modern civilization.

Give these young Indians a knowledge of the English language, put them into the great current of thought which is expressed in the English language and it will break that up.

We have seen in Dr. Eastman to-night an Indian who by reason of the fact that he knows English and has been brought into relationship with English thought stands here to-night and in an effective way sets before you an illustration that his mind is at work on these same questions which interest you and me, touching everywhere upon the forces which are at work to shape the destiny of his people. Can you doubt that if the rising generation of Indian boys and girls were masters of the English language, reading English literature, communing with English people, discussing these problems of life with us—can you doubt that it would mark a great change in their thought, in their life, in their destiny?

Then I aim to give them a knowledge of the use of their hands and of the use of machinery and tools, so that they may be able to earn a living for themselves. We put into the mind of every boy and girl in these schools a desire for something better, something that they have not. One of the greatest fruits of education is to make a man unhappy. One of the best results of training is to set before a man an ideal toward which he strives. It is the fatted ox that lies and slumbers and is satisfied. The educated man is yearning and reaching out and aspiring to something better. If we can put into the minds of these young Indians the desire for work, that is progress, that is hope. [Applause.] If every Indian boy and girl on the reservation could cry out, 'Give us work,' I would say that there is no longer any need of a Department of Indian Affairs—it is done.

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Now, what I have been trying to impress upon the minds of the Indians is that when we have created in them a thirst for something better, we ask them not to become citizens of Dakota, not to become members of the Sioux Nation, not to shut themselves in