

**REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL LAKE MOHONK
CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN AND
OTHER DEPENDENT PEOPLES,
OCTOBER 18TH, 19TH AND 20TH, 1916**

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Report of the Thirty-Fourth Annual Lake Mohonk Conference on the Indian and Other
Dependent Peoples, October 18th, 19th and 20th, 1916 by Various

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PUBLISHED BY THE
LAKE MOHONK CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN
AND OTHER DEPENDENT PEOPLES
1916

PREFACE

The first Lake Mohonk Conference of Friends of the Indian*, was held in 1883, when Mr. Albert K. Smiley, a member of the United States Board of Indian Commissioners, invited a number of persons to a meeting at Mohonk Lake to confer regarding the interests of the Indians. This was the first of a series of October conferences which have since been held annually. On the death of Mr. Smiley, in 1912, his brother, Mr. Daniel Smiley, succeeded him as host of the conferences.

Previous to 1904*, discussion was confined largely to Indian matters; that year, however, the scope of the Conference was definitely enlarged to include the peoples of the Philippine Islands, Porto Rico and other insular dependencies of the United States. The Conference seeks to clarify public opinion on these great questions through free discussion by those having first-hand knowledge of existing conditions.

The thirty-fourth Conference was held in the parlor of the Lake Mohonk Mountain House, October 18, 19 and 20, 1916, on the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smiley who maintain a permanent office, in charge of the secretary, through which the annual conferences are arranged and a continuous correspondence conducted.

The management of the Conference, while providing opportunity for free discussion of matters not foreign to the purpose of the meeting, assumes no responsibility for individual opinions printed in this report.

One copy of this report is sent to each member of the Conference, and several thousand copies are mailed to individuals in public and private life, to libraries, and to other institutions. Distribution of current reports is free to the limit of the edition, and libraries and public institutions can obtain back numbers without charge except for transportation. Applications for reports, and other correspondence, should be addressed to the Secretary of the Conference.

* The name of the Conference was changed in 1904 to "Lake Mohonk Conference of Friends of the Indian and Other Dependent Peoples," which in 1914 became "Lake Mohonk Conference on the Indian and other Dependent Peoples."

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PLATFORM
OF THE
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL LAKE MOHONK CONFERENCE
ON THE INDIAN AND OTHER
DEPENDENT PEOPLES, 1916

(The platform is the official utterance of the Conference and embodies only those principles on which the members unanimously agreed.—ED.)

The Thirty-fourth Annual Lake Mohonk Conference on the Indian and Other Dependent Peoples recommends that the number of hospitals for the Indian service be increased and urges improvement of sanitary conditions where they are at present seriously deficient, and further recommends an increase of the annual appropriation by Congress for the educational facilities among the Navajos. The Conference wishes also to set its approval upon the progress made in industrial and vocational education and in health conditions.

We heartily commend the work of the various Christian missionary bodies, which are now more than ever before exhibiting a higher degree of co-operation in meeting the spiritual needs and longings of the Indian.

The Conference deplores the fact that the continued uncertainty as to the legal status of the Indians of the State of New York causes serious injury to their industrial, intellectual and moral advancement and prevents the enforcement of the laws of the State relating to vice and crime, the public health and education. It is a matter of congratulation that an able investigation into this legal status has been recently made by a Deputy Attorney General of the State. We recommend that the results of this investigation be submitted to the Department of Justice of the National Government for its consideration and also that Congress be requested to pass a broad enabling act, under which the State of New York may enact all needful legislation for the improvement of these Indians and the benefit of the State. The Conference makes this specific recommendation because of the exceptional historic and legal situation of these Indians.

The ultimate solution of the perplexing Indian problem will be reached only when the Indians by an academic, industrial and moral education have been prepared to receive all the privileges and assume all the duties of American Citizenship. Until that time such Indians as are not so prepared are the wards of the Nation. The Nation is in duty bound to protect their rights, pro-