

Excerpt from the *Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of the Interior, 1886*, pp. 43-44, 57, 61.

To take the Indian boy or girl from their parental hut and teach them...reading, writing, and arithmetic, without any training in industrial pursuits, is simply to make educated vagabonds of them, unfitted by their education for any learned pursuits.... While the Indian's head needs training, his hand needs it the more.

In the State of California we have a compulsory educational law.... The parents of these Indian children are ignorant, and know nothing of the value of education, and there are no elevating influences in the home circle to arouse the ambition of the children. Parental authority is hardly known or exercised among the Indians in this agency. The family is a kind of democracy wherein every one does as he pleases. (pp. 43-44) – *United States Indian Agent, John S. Ward, Mission Agency, California*

In order to provide suitable buildings and lands for a first-class training school, the troops should be removed from this reservation and the post and military reservation turned over for school purposes. The Indians are very anxious to have the troops removed, and it is very desirable that their wishes in this respect should be complied with, as their presence [the troops] here is no longer necessary, and everything in connection with the [military] post is demoralizing and a source of trouble and great annoyance, as there are but few men in connection with the Army who are willing to admit that an Indian has any rights which a soldier is bound to respect.

If the Indians could see the real advantages and favors conferred upon their children after leaving school ... would they not naturally become interested and compel their attendance [at school]? The children would also become interested and endeavor to master their studies, knowing that upon their application and success the sooner their schooling days would end and life's battle commence, with the assistance of a bright-eyed helpmate, trained in all the duties of an accomplished housewife. (pp. 57, 61) – *John W. Cramsie, United States Indian Agent, Devil's Lake Agency, Dakota*