

Journal #5959 from sdc 4.11.25

Chief Dan George

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Trump is gutting the nation's environmental programs. Here's what it will cost Americans

Māori rights: New Zealand lawmakers reject proposed law to redefine Treaty of Waitangi

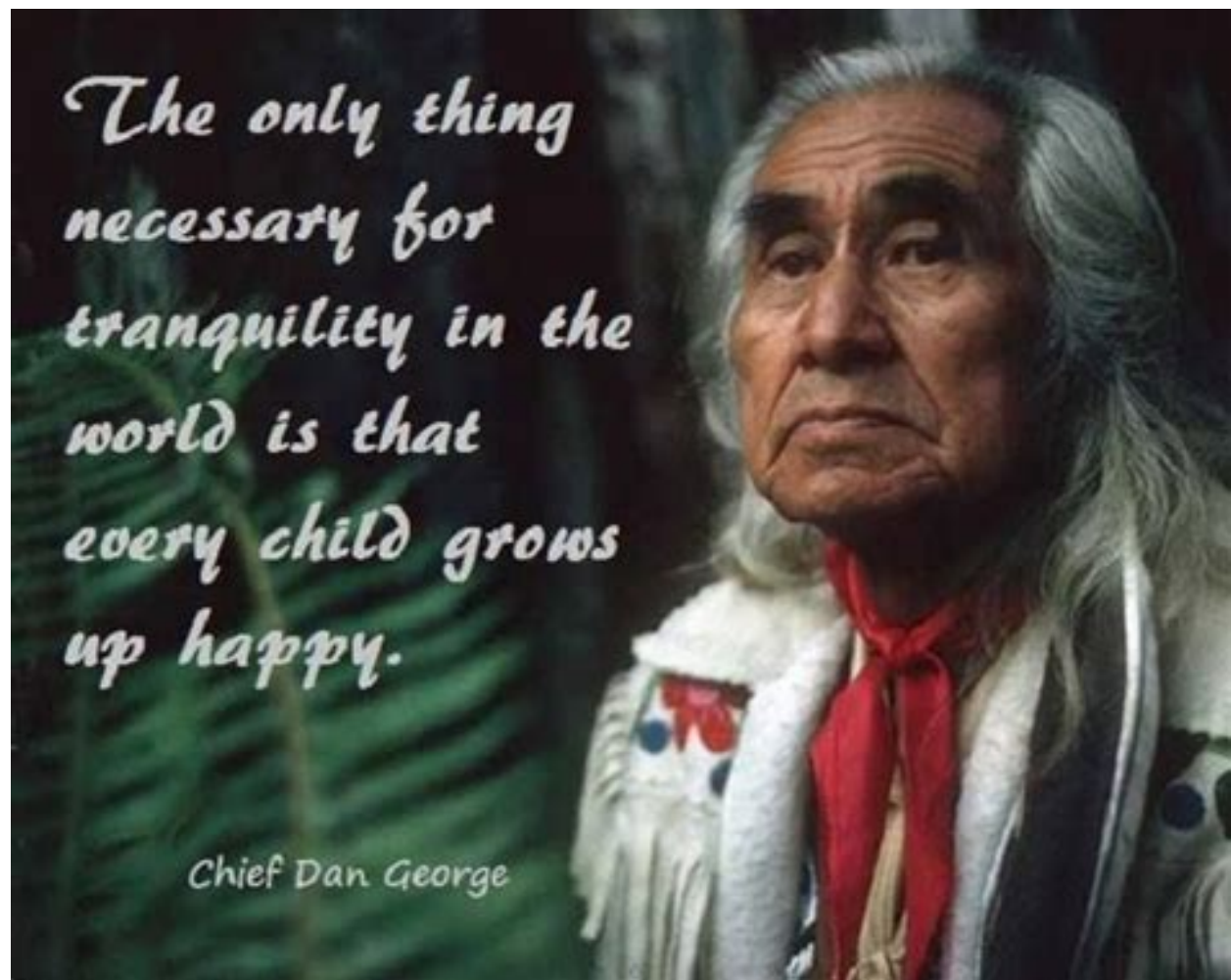
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Sustainable Travel Innovators: T+L's 2025 Global Vision Awards

Every year, *Travel + Leisure* presents its Global Vision Awards, where we acknowledge individuals, products, destinations, and organizations pioneering sustainable and eco-friendly travel. These visionaries are focused on the future of travel—and are dedicated to ensuring that we, as humans, can continue to explore the world without damaging it as we go along.

[//www.travelandleisure.com/global-vision-awards-2025-11688328](https://www.travelandleisure.com/global-vision-awards-2025-11688328)



Icy Strait Point

Paddling near Icy Strait Point, Alaska. Courtesy of Icy Strait Point

Thirty years ago, the Huna Tlingit community on Alaska's Inside Passage faced a crossroads: The future of extractive industries such as logging and fishing was in doubt, and the economic outlook, particularly for young job-seekers, was grim. Tourism, some community leaders proposed, offered a way forward. After years of groundwork, [Icy Strait Point](#) debuted in 2004 as the first privately owned cruise destination in Alaska. Managed by the Native-owned Huna Totem Corporation, the destination has become one of the most popular in the state, with both thoughtful programs *and* thrill rides. Along with elevating Native culture in the eyes of visitors, the development has revived interest in Indigenous language and traditional dance among the Tlingit community, says Russell Dick, president and CEO of Huna Totem. "We've built something that's allowed future generations to express their pride in who they are and where they come from," he notes. Up next? Partnering with other Indigenous groups in Alaska and the Caribbean. "If other people can build off us, we've done our job," Dick says. —*E.G.*

[Special: Icy Strait Point](#)
[Read More](#)



Teara Fraser

Teara Fraser, who launched Iskwew Air in 2019. Alana Paterson/Courtesy of Iskwew Air
A Métis woman from Canada's Northwest Territories, Teara Fraser never planned to become a pilot. But on an aerial tour of Botswana's Okavango Delta in 2001, she had a revelation: She

wanted to fly. “It was one of the most pivotal moments of my life,” Fraser recalls. “I returned to Canada and started flight training. A year later I had my pilot’s license.”

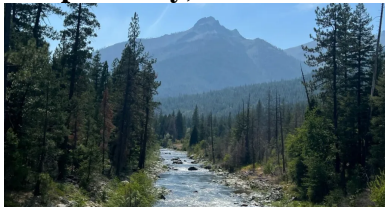
Fraser was working for an aerial-survey company when the 2010 Vancouver Olympics brought global attention to Canada’s First Nations peoples. She recognized that while visitors from around the world were eager to learn more about these communities, transportation to those places was limited—a significant barrier to growing tourism. “Culturally, we’re taught to do good with the knowledge and skills we’ve been blessed with,” Fraser says. So she embarked on a mission to connect travelers to the remote communities of northern and coastal British Columbia.

Her solution was Iskwew Air, Canada’s first Indigenous-owned and woman-owned airline. Launched in 2019, Iskwew operates daily service between Vancouver International Airport and Qualicum Beach, on the northeastern coast of Vancouver Island. The airline also runs private charters to other hard-to-reach destinations in British Columbia. The name (pronounced iss-kway-yo) means “woman” in Cree, a language spoken by some Métis people; Fraser chose it to symbolize matriarchal leadership, a touchstone of Métis culture.

Since the launch, Fraser has continued to champion a more diverse, inclusive, and sustainable aviation industry: Her nonprofit, Give Them Wings, encourages Indigenous youth to explore careers in aviation, while Iskwew Air offsets its emissions by purchasing credits from the Great Bear Forest Carbon Project. In 2023, she founded Elibird Aero, a “clean aerotech” company focused on innovations such as fully electric planes. Most recently, Fraser ventured into hospitality with the opening of Liberty Wilderness Lodge, a remote sanctuary in northern B.C. that she co-owns with her husband, Trevin.

“I always say that getting my wings gave me wings for everything else in my life,” Fraser says. “It gave me courage and inspiration, and taught me the value of hard work.” — [Gina DeCaprio Vercesi](#)

Hoopa Valley, Yurok Tribes sign agreement over use of Trinity water



Trinity River.

“Leadership of the Hoopa Valley and Yurok tribes on Wednesday signed an agreement to share 50,000 acre-feet of water from the Trinity Reservoir. It’s the latest move over water rights specified in 1950s-era federal policy but has yet to materialize on the ground, despite a supportive 2014 U.S. Department of the Interior legal opinion. “We have fought for many years to have our rights to this water honored and today marks the beginning of that long-overdue process. This is a significant step forward, but it’s only the beginning,” said Ryan Jackson, acting chairman of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, in a statement in a joint press release. A provision of federal legislation in 1955 required 50,000 acre-feet of water from a federal dam project to be allocated to Humboldt County and downstream users. This was specified during the process of

building a dam and reservoir on the river, which now sends the river's water to the San Joaquin Valley as part of the federal [Central Valley Project](#). The rights also involve a 1959 contract between the Bureau of Reclamation and Humboldt County. ... ” [Read more from the Eureka Times-Standard](#).

Study shows oxygen levels dropping in rivers, lakes and streams

“Inland waters like rivers, lakes, streams and reservoirs need oxygen to survive, just like we do, but oxygen levels have dropped dramatically since 1900, researchers warn. The reason? Human behavior. That’s according to researchers of the Netherlands’ Utrecht University in their study, published Friday in the journal Science Advances. “More farming, more wastewater, more dams, and a warmer climate — they all change how our freshwater ecosystems function,” said one of the paper’s lead authors, Junjie Wang, in a written statement. Co-author Jack Middelburg, added, “We found that the main causes lay in these direct human activities. First, it turns out that nutrient input through, for example, over-fertilization, is a major driver of this acceleration. Secondly, the longer travel time of freshwater to the sea through the construction of dams and reservoirs has proven to be just as important.” ... ” [Read more from the Courthouse News Service](#).

Trump is gutting the nation’s environmental programs. Here’s what it will cost Americans

“The Trump administration’s slash-and-burn approach to federal programs has delivered a considerable hit to the nation’s environment, but experts say its plans to repeal hard-won protections for clean air and water will also directly jeopardize Americans’ health — and their wallets. Two new reports from environmental watchdog groups outline how the administration’s recent regulatory rollbacks, cuts to climate programs and promotion of fossil fuel production will significantly increase the cost of living for millions of people and bring about hundreds of thousands of premature deaths. That’s in contradiction to the claims made by Trump and his allies — including Elon Musk and Environmental Protection Agency administrator Lee Zeldin — that they are gutting the nation’s climate programs in an effort to ease regulatory costs, lower taxes and “power the great American comeback.” ... ” [Read more from the LA Times](#).

Scrutiny of Māori rights: [New Zealand lawmakers reject proposed law to redefine the country’s founding Treaty of Waitangi](#)

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You may want to update/revisit:

- [Mountain West Digital Library](#)
- [Digital Public Library of America](#)
- [Utah Academic Library Consortium](#)

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Scholarships with May 1-10 Deadlines

Washington State University Glenn Terrell Presidential Award	\$16,000	May 01, 2025
Wichita State University Bowling Scholarship	Varies	May 01, 2025
WIFLE Scholarship Program	\$2,500	May 01, 2025
William J. Schulz Memorial Essay Contest	\$3,500	May 01, 2025
William Orr Dingwall Foundation Dissertation Fellowship	\$40,000	May 01, 2025
William R. Blow Sr. Scholarship	\$2,500	May 01, 2025
Windham Regional Woodlands Association Scholarship	\$3,000	May 01, 2025
WiNUP Fellowships	\$2,000	May 01, 2025
WMU Kalamazoo Promise Scholarship	Full-Tuition	May 01, 2025
Women in STEM Empowerment Scholarship	\$1,000	May 01, 2025
ESADoggy Investing In Others Scholarship	\$1,000	May 02, 2025
Georgia HOPE Grant Program	Varies	May 02, 2025
Horch Roofing Trade School Scholarship	\$1,000	May 02, 2025
Nacca Scholarship	\$500	May 02, 2025
NSTA Local Impact Scholarship	\$2,000	May 02, 2025
NURSE Corps Scholarship Program	Varies	May 02, 2025
Ohio Counties Scholarship	\$2,000	May 02, 2025
Phillip Baumberger Pro-Life Scholarship	\$2,000	May 02, 2025
Race for Education Scholarships	\$5,000	May 02, 2025
The Washington Thoroughbred Foundation Scholarship	\$5,000	May 02, 2025
Don Schmidt Scholarship	\$1,000	May 03, 2025
FleetNow Construct Your Future Scholarship	\$1,000	May 03, 2025
IABCH Downs Matthews Memorial Scholarship	\$2,500	May 03, 2025
Jody Stowers Scholarship	\$1,000	May 03, 2025
John E. Kostic Memorial Foundation Juvenile Diabetes Scholarship	Varies	May 03, 2025
John McComb Scholarship	\$1,000	May 03, 2025
Josie Rewald Memorial Community College Scholarship	Varies	May 03, 2025
Randy D. Thrower Scholarship	Varies	May 03, 2025
Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association Scholarships	\$500	May 03, 2025
MISA Student Scholarship	\$3,500	May 04, 2025

IEEE Charles LeGeyt Fortescue Scholarship	\$24,000	May 05, 2025
LaSPACE LURA Program	\$4,500	May 05, 2025
National Cherry Queen Program	\$10,000	May 05, 2025
Nebraska Logistics Council Scholarship	\$1,500	May 05, 2025
PEGTV Courcelle Scholarship	\$1,000	May 05, 2025
Salix Gastrointestinal Health Scholars Awards	\$10,000	May 05, 2025
USC School of Cinematic Arts Endowed Scholarships	\$25,000	May 05, 2025
Eileen Kraus Scholarship	\$5,000	May 06, 2025
SEE Education Foundation Scholarship	\$7,500	May 06, 2025
UNACUHCP Alexis G. Philius Scholarship	\$2,000	May 06, 2025
Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant	\$50,000	May 07, 2025
Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation Scholarship	\$4,000	May 07, 2025
Russell Cole Memorial Lighting Design Competition	Varies	May 08, 2025
Foster Love Family Fellowship	\$60,000	May 09, 2025
ICTM Scholarships in Mathematics Education	\$1,500	May 09, 2025
John Venhuizen Scholarship	\$1,000	May 09, 2025
Kathy Pace Technology Scholarship	\$5,000	May 09, 2025
Texas Resident with Autism Scholarship	\$500	May 09, 2025
The Thiel Fellowship	\$100,000	May 09, 2025
Bethesda Auxiliary Scholarships	\$3,000	May 10, 2025
CU Succeed Scholarship	\$8,000	May 10, 2025
CVBIA Young Designers' Scholarship Competition	\$1,500	May 10, 2025
Darrel Hess Community College Geography Scholarship	\$1,500	May 10, 2025
DCAS Scholarship	\$10,000	May 10, 2025
Downer-Bennett Scholarship	\$4,000	May 10, 2025
Edmund F. Maxwell Scholarship	\$20,000	May 10, 2025
LC Music Scholarships	\$1,000	May 10, 2025
LGBTQ+ Youth Leadership Awards	\$5,000	May 10, 2025
Long Island Music Hall of Fame Student Scholarships	\$1,000	May 10, 2025
Robert D. Blue Scholarship	\$1,000	May 10, 2025
Sophie's Live Out Loud Award	\$5,000	May 10, 2025
United Contractors Scholarship Awards Program	\$5,000	May 10, 2025

vote.webbyawards.com

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Single-use plastic water bottles could soon be a thing of the past around Lake Tahoe



Fannete Island inside Lake Tahoe's Emerald Ba....7.29/2024 David Calvert

Lake Tahoe is famous for its clear water, spectacular shoreline and plentiful beaches. Popular spots for sunbathing, picnicking and other activities, the beaches have a problem — plastic bottles.

Single-use water bottles are one of the most common pieces of trash found around Lake Tahoe, regularly outnumbering aluminum cans, pull tabs and food wrappers cleaned up by volunteers.

On both the California and Nevada sides of the lake, volunteers at cleanup efforts organized by Keep Tahoe Blue have picked up more than 24,000 plastic bottles over the past decade. In 2023 and 2024, volunteers removed more than 2,000 plastic bottles just from the Nevada side.

A [bill](#) introduced by Sen. Melanie Scheible (D-Las Vegas) takes direct aim at the issue and would prohibit the sale of single-use plastic water bottles on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe

SB324 builds off similar California initiatives. The [City of South Lake Tahoe](#) prohibits the sale of single-use plastic water bottles containing less than 1 gallon of liquid and, starting April 22, the town of [Truckee](#) will have a similar ordinance take effect.

“This bill is coming from local people who live in Lake Tahoe, who visit Lake Tahoe, who love Lake Tahoe, who really want to maintain the beauty of the lake for generations to come,” Scheible said in an interview.

It's 'Tahoe culture' to bring a refillable bottle

If passed, local health departments would be responsible for enforcing the bill starting Jan. 1 — violators would receive a warning, followed by increasing fines of up to \$500 per violation per year.

But restricting access to bottled water would hinder peoples' options for a healthier beverage alternative, likely hurt small businesses and fail to achieve environmental goals, argued the International Bottled Water and American Beverage associations.

"This legislation is not in the public interest," the International Bottled Water Association stated in written testimony against the bill. "Restricting access to bottled water, in any packaging, would hinder individuals searching for a healthier beverage alternative."

This isn't Scheible's first attempt to address plastic concerns. In 2019, she introduced a [bill](#) that would have launched a pilot program adding a deposit to bottle purchases, similar to programs in California and Oregon.

That bill didn't pass, nor was it [the first time](#) lawmakers considered a deposit. In 2011, AB427 created a committee to study the deposits and refunds on recycled products, but two years later chose not to pursue a bottle bill.

Proponents of SB324 are hoping people will pack in their own water in reusable containers or use any of the free stations [around the Tahoe Basin](#) that let people fill their own bottles with the lake's (treated) water.

"It's a growing part of the culture at Tahoe to bring your bottle and fill it before you head out for the day," Noa Banayan, government affairs manager for Keep Tahoe Blue, said during the April 1 hearing on the bill.

Consumers will still have the option to purchase water in boxes or cans, or other beverages such as soda that are sold in plastic bottles. The difference is that people can visit a refill station and get access to world-class water, Banayan said, while there aren't taps that let people access free soda.

"We're targeting plastic water bottles because we have this incredible alternative with Tahoe tap water," Banayan said.



*Single-use plastic bottles removed from Tahoe's beaches and trails displayed at Lakeview Commons (SLT) on 7.29.23 (Kayla Bruni, League to Save Lake Tahoe) **Note: 2119 plastic bottles!! (Enlarge pic)***

Plastic by the numbers:

Want a little [plastic trivia](#)? Here's some hard-to-fathom numbers I stumbled across while researching plastic.

- Each minute, an estimated 1 million plastic bottles are sold worldwide.
- At least 15 million metric tons of plastic float into the ocean each year. It's estimated there is roughly 1 pound of plastic for every 3 pounds of fish in the ocean.
- Less than one-third of all plastic bottles are recycled.
- In 2020, [11 people were arrested](#) on suspicion of running a multistate recycling operation that transported empty plastic, aluminum and glass from Nevada and Arizona into California, costing California's recycling fund more than \$2 million.

Speaking of bills ...

I've been covering environmental issues popping up in Carson City for [Behind the Bar](#), our newsletter dedicated to all things Legislature, but this past week, there was just too much happening in the enviro world to squeeze into BTB. Here's one more thing that deserves attention:

Assm. Howard Watts (D-Las Vegas) is making a bid to expand solar access to low-income renters.

Since 1997, Nevada has allowed [net metering](#), a process that allows homes with solar panels to offset or even transfer excess power back to the grid at a retail rate, helping them lower their power bills. [AB458](#) would expand net metering to renters living in affordable housing units.

In some multifamily housing units, utility costs are combined and divided among the number of residents (known as master metering) and those residents, through previous legislation, have access to net metering. But in housing units with utility accounts held by individual tenants, there currently isn't an option for net metering.

AB458 — heard April 1 in the Assembly Growth and Infrastructure Committee — would remedy that, enabling property owners to install rooftop solar on affordable housing properties with five or more units (with exemptions for tribal housing), expanding net metering access to those low-income renters. One meter would measure the energy being generated; credits from that energy would be equitably distributed to tenants.

The bill would also pave the way for low-income renters to apply for part of the \$156 million in federal money the [Nevada Clean Energy Fund](#) received for its Solar for All program, which is partially intended to improve access to solar for those in multifamily affordable housing units.

The bill also includes changes to [NV Energy's expanded solar access program](#), increasing the amount of power that can be generated and limiting participation to low-income customers.

Nevada labor groups expressed concerns with the bill, stating it doesn't support union workers. Marie Steele, vice president of energy management systems at the utility, acknowledged that the bill is "well intentioned" but shared concerns "on behalf of a vulnerable population" about what she described as an "accelerated approach" that lacks "detail and regulatory process

The lesson of history is that no one learns – Steven Erikson

President Rutherford B. Hayes' Third State of the Union December 1, 1879

As previously stated, reading the full document is always instructive (to say nothing of entertaining or precedent for current affairs). Hayes deals with polygamy, civil service, the

transatlantic cable, the usual status of foreign affairs, departments of Army and Navy and reports that income was \$273, 827, 184.96; expenses were \$266,947, 883.53

‘The reports of the Secretary of the Interior and of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, setting forth the present state of our relations with the Indian tribes on our territory, the measures taken to advance their civilization and prosperity, and the progress already achieved by them, will be found of more than ordinary interest. The general conduct of our Indian population has been so satisfactory that the occurrence of two disturbances, which resulted in bloodshed and destruction of property, is all the more to be lamented.

The history of the outbreak on the White River Ute Reservation, in western Colorado, has become so familiar by elaborate reports in the public press that its remarkable incidents need not be stated here in detail. It is expected that the settlement of this difficulty will lead to such arrangements as will prevent further hostile contact between the Indians and the border settlements in western Colorado.

The other disturbance occurred at the Mescalero Agency, in New Mexico, where Victoria, at the head of a small band of marauders, after committing many atrocities, being vigorously chased by a military force, made his way across the Mexican border and is now on foreign soil.

While these occurrences, in which a comparatively small number of Indians were engaged, are most deplorable, a vast majority of our Indian population have fully justified the expectations of those who believe that by humane and peaceful influences the Indian can be led to abandon the habits of savage life and to develop a capacity for useful and civilized occupations. What they have already accomplished in the pursuit of agricultural and mechanical work, the remarkable success which has attended the experiment of employing as freighters a class of Indians hitherto counted among the wildest and most intractable, and the general and urgent desire expressed by them for the education of their children may be taken as sufficient proof that they will be found capable of accomplishing much more if they continue to be wisely and fairly guided. The "Indian policy" sketched in the report of the Secretary of the Interior, the object of which is to make liberal provision for the education of Indian youth, to settle the Indians upon farm lots in severalty, to give them title in fee to their farms, inalienable for a certain number of years, and when their wants are thus provided for to dispose by sale of the lands on their reservations not occupied and used by them, a fund to be formed out of the proceeds for the benefit of the Indians, which will gradually relieve the Government of the expenses now provided for by annual appropriations, must commend itself as just and beneficial to the Indians, and as also calculated to remove those obstructions which the existence of large reservations presents to the settlement and development of the country. I therefore earnestly recommend the enactment of a law enabling the Government to give Indians a title in fee, inalienable for twenty-five years, to the farm lands assigned to them by allotment. I also repeat the recommendation made in my first annual message, that a law be passed admitting Indians who can give satisfactory proof of having by their own labor supported their families for a number of years, and who are willing to detach themselves from their tribal relations, to the benefit of the homestead act, and to grant them patents containing the same provision of inalienability for a certain period.

The experiment of sending a number of Indian children of both sexes to the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, in Virginia, to receive an elementary English education and practical

instruction in farming and other useful industries, has led to results so promising that it was thought expedient to turn over the cavalry barracks at Carlisle, in Pennsylvania, to the Interior Department for the establishment of an Indian school on a larger scale. This school has now 158 pupils, selected from various tribes, and is in full operation. Arrangements are also made for the education of a number of Indian boys and girls belonging to tribes on the Pacific Slope in a similar manner, at Forest Grove, in Oregon. These institutions will commend themselves to the liberality of Congress and to the philanthropic munificence of the American people.

Last spring information was received of the organization of an extensive movement in the Western States, the object of which was the occupation by unauthorized persons of certain lands in the Indian Territory ceded by the Cherokees to the Government for the purpose of settlement by other Indian tribes.

On the 26th of April I issued a proclamation warning all persons against participation in such an attempt, and by the cooperation of a military force the invasion was promptly checked. It is my purpose to protect the rights of the Indian inhabitants of that Territory to the full extent of the executive power; but it would be unwise to ignore the fact that a territory so large and so fertile, with a population so sparse and with so great a wealth of unused resources, will be found more exposed to the repetition of such attempts as happened this year when the surrounding States are more densely settled and the westward movement of our population looks still more eagerly for fresh lands to occupy. Under such circumstances the difficulty of maintaining the Indian Territory in its present state will greatly increase, and the Indian tribes inhabiting it would do well to prepare for such a contingency. I therefore fully approve of the advice given to them by the Secretary of the Interior on a recent occasion, to divide among themselves in severalty as large a quantity of their lands as they can cultivate; to acquire individual title in fee instead of their present tribal ownership in common, and to consider in what manner the balance of their lands may be disposed of by the Government for their benefit. By adopting such a policy they would more certainly secure for themselves the value of their possessions, and at the same time promote their progress in civilization and prosperity, than by endeavoring to perpetuate the present state of things in the Territory.

The question whether a change in the control of the Indian service should be made was in the Forty-fifth Congress referred to a joint committee of both Houses for inquiry and report. In my last annual message I expressed the hope that the decision of that question, then in prospect, would "arrest further agitation of this subject, such agitation being apt to produce a disturbing effect upon the service as well as on the Indians themselves." Since then, the committee having reported, the question has been decided in the negative by a vote in the House of Representatives.

For the reasons here stated, and in view of the fact that further uncertainty on this point will be calculated to obstruct other much-needed legislation, to weaken the discipline of the service, and to unsettle salutary measures now in progress for the government and improvement of the Indians, I respectfully recommend that the decision arrived at by Congress at its last session be permitted to stand."

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“It is gratifying to learn from the Bureau of Education the extent to which educational privileges throughout the United States have been advanced during the year. No more fundamental responsibility rests upon Congress than that of devising appropriate measures of financial aid to education, supplemental to local action in the States and Territories and in the District of Columbia. The wise forethought of the founders of our Government has not only furnished the basis for the support of the common-school systems of the newer States, but laid the foundations for the maintenance of their universities and colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts. Measures in accordance with this traditional policy, for the further benefit of all these interests and the extension of the same advantages to every portion of the country, it is hoped will receive your favorable consideration.

To preserve and perpetuate the national literature should be among the foremost cares of the National Legislature. The library gathered at the Capitol still remains unprovided with any suitable accommodations for its rapidly increasing stores. The magnitude and importance of the collection, increased as it is by the deposits made under the law of copyright, by domestic and foreign exchanges, and by the scientific library of the Smithsonian Institution, call for building accommodations which shall be at once adequate and fireproof. The location of such a public building, which should provide for the pressing necessities of the present and for the vast increase of the nation's books in the future, is a matter which addresses itself to the discretion of Congress. It is earnestly recommended as a measure which should unite all suffrages and which should no longer be delayed.”

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/5027/5027-h/5027-h.htm#dec1879>