

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2018

Épreuve ESP

**Explication d'un texte
extrait du programme**

ESP

222

Explication de texte

Ce sujet comprend 2 documents :

- Document 1 : Anonymous, "The Indian Bureau Transfer", *The Nation*, n° 705, New York, January 2, 1879, pp. 7 - 8.
- Document 2 : *Cheyenne Autumn* (John Ford, 1964, Warner).
[1:57:53 – 2:01:23]

Le document 2 est à consulter sur la tablette multimédia fournie.

Explication de faits de langue

Le candidat proposera une analyse linguistique des segments soulignés dans le texte du document 1.

Document 1

It must be remembered, by the way, that the notion of civilizing the Indian is not mere philanthropic sentimentalism, but that the attempt has been made in certain instances with success; as, for example, in the Indian Territory, where there are whole tribes, formerly nomadic and predatory, now converted to steady agricultural habits. Of course this cannot be done with the first generation. To be civilized the Indian must be "caught young." But the fact that the work of civilization has been proved practicable in certain instances should never be left out of sight, and the theory of certain amiable persons, that the real solution of the Indian problem is extermination, ought not for a moment to be entertained. No such process as extermination is going on, so far as is known by those most competent to express an opinion on the numbers of the Indian population. Indeed, it is generally believed here now that there are quite as many, if not more, Indians in the country than there were fifty years ago.

But granting that the Indian is not to be exterminated, and is to be both governed and civilized, the question recurs whether the Army or the Interior Department is the best agency for the purpose. As to this the abstract arguments have already been given; but they clearly must be tested by the light of experience, and it is here that the testimony now being taken becomes of value. Mr. Schurz has been before the Committee and given some evidence the force of which those who favor the transfer will find it difficult to overcome. In the first place, in reply to the argument that the Indians would be better taken care of by army officers than by civilians, he urges that this depends upon what sort of care is meant. If they are merely to be herded together and watched, and prevented from going on raids, the officers of the Army are just the men for the work; but if the object of the Government is civilization; if the duty of those who are placed over the Indians is to teach them to till the soil, to sow and to reap, to educate their children and gradually accustom them to the ways of individual as opposed to tribal life, the army officers are not well fitted for the work. They are not accustomed to educational work of this sort, have not the patience for it, and could not be expected to take any interest in it. To fortify this position, he was fortunate enough to be able to cite a report made not long ago by high authority, couched in the following language:

"This brings us to consider the much-mooted question whether the Bureau should belong to the civil or military department of the Government. To determine this properly we must first know what is to be the future treatment of the Indians. If we intend to have war with them, the Bureau should go to the Secretary of War. If we intend to have peace, it should be in the civil department."