Department of the Interior,
Office of Indian Affairs,
Washington, January 24, 1890.

To U. S. Indian Agents:

The 8th of February, the day upon which the "Dawes bill" was signed by the President and became a law, is worthy of being observed in all Indian schools as the possible turning point in Indian history, the point at which the Indians may strike out from tribal and reservation life and enter American citizenship and nationality.

This "Franchise Day", as it might be called, can be utilized to give Indian youth in varied and graphic ways clear ideas of what the allotment law does for them, the opportunities which it offers, the privileges it confers, the safeguards it provides, and the duties and obligations which it imposes, and can be made an occasion to inspire them to the best manhood and womanhood of which they are capable.

The observance of this day by appropriate exercises was referred to in my Circular letter of December 10th last. In these exercises the pupils should have part, through songs, recitations, tableaux, &c., and in numerous other ways which enthusiasm and ingenuity ... will devise; and they may be made interesting and profitable, not only to the pupils but also to their parents and friends. The day should not be a mere holiday, but a happy, intelligent celebration, by the Indians, of an event of vast importance and benefit to them.

I shall be interested to see programs of the exercises at the various schools under your charge and will thank you to forward the same to me as soon as practicable after February 8 next, with
dept. of L. E. Butterfield
Washington Jan 24, 1890

J. J. Morgan

Calling attention to

Observeance of May 8th
as "Franklin Day"
any remarks descriptive of the exercises and the way in which they were received by the Indians.

Respectfully,

J. J. Morgan
Commissioner.