

## TEA TIME TALK

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across the high seas, but both are steadfastly hoping for the best. These past one hundred and twenty-four years of peace across the longest borderline in the world have formed a staunch link in the chain of English speaking nations. Though a banner of a country may read "Peace", it is not always so easy for everyone to fall in line behind the movement. The North American continent has many manifestations of fellowship between these two great countries. One of these is the splendid architectural achievement, the Peace Bridge. From primitive days when buffalo and Indians of many tribes roamed the forests and plains, there has been an intermingling of life above and below the present borderline. History of all North American Indians is very similar. Neither Canada nor the United States has a great deal to be proud of in regards to their treatment of the red-skins. The pioneers of the continent were routed from their homes and lands by a taken-for-granted superiority of the white man. Naturally they resented their loss and a disturbance in their method of survival. Who wouldn't.

When Florida territory belonged to Spain it became a haven of protection from slavery for the negro. It also served the same purpose for the Indian who separated from the Creeks of Georgia and sought safety under the Spanish flag. They intermarried and were mutually treated with equality by the Spaniards. This treatment enticed other red and black skinned folk to wander to the sunny state also. The situation soon became alarming when the slave owners asked the aid of the United States government. Demands were rejected and the land of protection was invaded by government soldiers with devastating results. Spain could countenance this no longer and she felt powerless to change matters, so in 1819 Florida was sold to the United States. Thus it may be truly stated that the cause of the Seminole Wars was the attempt to re-enforce slavery upon those who had sought freedom from it.

Under the new regime treaties were made, petitions sent and finally as a last straw in the opinion of the Indian, orders came commanding them to migrate westward. No such law demanded the removal of the negro. Families were to be torn asunder, if the regulations were carried out. Resentment burned strong in the breast of Indian and negro alike. Government orders were stringent. In colloquial language, they meant business. But so did the others. War was inevitable. One of the most prominent figures in the bitter skirmishes which followed was Osceola, whose wife was considered a dusky skinned slave by the government. His young wife was seized and carried off before his very eyes while in his company at the trading post. Osceola was on the warpath at once. Nothing could stop him now. He would avenge this act at any price. For weeks he planned and schemed with the cunning of the Indian. At last his time came for revenge and he did it without reserve. In one fell swoop he murdered an American General and an accompanying Lieutenant. The Indian never forgots. He is your friend or your enemy with no small degree of either. Revenge over many things had been brewing for part of a century and with Osceola's act not yet dry on the annals of history, the government pressed on in their determination to subdue the unruly.

On Dec. 28, 1835, the terrible Dade Massacre took place. It perhaps surpasses all history in gruesomeness. The assault came as a crash from the sky. Without warning or preparedness the soldiers were mowed down. Fighting desperately for their lives they put up what retreat they could. But the day was against them and soon their numbers were so depleted that death alone faced them. Two of the contingent numbering 110 escaped to tell the tale.

Nothing further was needed to convince the government that it was war to the hilt. Skirmish after skirmish followed at great expense and with a long list of casualties. Finally in 1837 when Osceola accepted truce at St. Augustine, he was seized

and placed in a dungeon. Later he was removed to Fort Moultrie where he died the following year of a broken heart and the result of unnatural surroundings. Confinement plays havoc with the man of the woods. But he had warned his warriors that if the fray continued very much longer their numbers would be wiped out of existence. Heeding his words they sought the safety of the Florida jungles where the white man dared not enter. So apparently ended the struggles which had written their history in red.

On Dec. 28, 1935, a century after the Dade Massacre, near Bushnell in the lovely State Park built in honor of those who fought and died on that ground, a memorial was held with all due ceremonies. As a mark of peace many Seminoles in gala costumes added to the sacredness of the service by their presence and participation in the affair.

I was never more impressed with the spirit of preparedness and the worthiness of peaceful ideals than while listening to those speakers, one of whom was a descendant of the bravest of those Seminole warriors. Judge J. C. B. Koonce, one of the best authorities on Indian matters, gave an intensely interesting outline of the history of the Florida red-skins and their part in American and State history.

Governor David Sholtz, who has handled the sunny State's affairs so adroitly, gave a powerful address. In his genial, impartial manner, he credited the Seminoles justifiably with sincere belief in their own cause for rebellion. Paying tribute to his fellow-Americans, he included the Indian amongst them. Speaking of war and its hatefulness, the Governor in touching words stated that he prayerfully hoped for lasting peace for his country. But he breathed the reminder of the handwriting on the wall in biblical days and kindled a gentle warning in case of unpreparedness and the lack of far-sightedness in national matters. May I say here that Governor Sholtz has played a paramount part in the colossal task of bringing his State out of the slough of depression. Not that Florida has suffered more than other states but having had the after-effects of a boom just prior to the beginning of the depression, it was an additional task which faced the state officials. Florida to-day holds her own the world over. No state in the Union has attained greater success in state economies than this "land of flowers".

In speaking with Governor Sholtz after the ceremony, he spoke very graciously of the existing relations between the United States and Canada. Remembering the old Anglo Saxon strain covering the whole continent, he spoke of us all as cousins with common ideals.

There were many outstanding personages taking part in and attending the Centennial, one of whom, to me was especially interesting. Mrs. Minnie Moore-Willson, perhaps the best informed author of Florida Indians. She had extensive study and many, many opportunities to know them as few of us do. Her deep sympathy and understanding of their lives and problems is related most interestingly in her book entitled "The Seminoles of Florida". Some have thought she sentimentalized over them but after talking with her and seeing her keen joy in moving amongst them, I think she is genuinely interested in their welfare. She knows that they wish only to be given such freedom as would allow them to live with a degree at least of their old freedom of pioneer days. To expect a red-skin to measure up to the standards and customs of the white man is a mistake to say the least. They just can't do it. But to give them protection, and supervision mixed with enough of their native customs to make them happy, is caring for them in a proper and human manner. Otherwise the days of the American pioneer are numbered.

Mrs. Willson speaking of her impressions of the Dade Massacre Centennial states "My whole plea is for a brand of justice for the Seminoles such as we tacitly assume is the right of every white man. We cannot restore their lands but we can give them a chance in such places as still remain to them to be free, self-confident people. We can allow them to perpetuate their peculiarities and perhaps fulfill their racial destiny, without the blighting influence

of the white man's patronage."

Two years ago while attending the Four Nations celebration at Fort Niagara, I heard an Indian chief pay tribute to the white man by stating that undoubtedly the red-man progressed to a far greater degree through subjection than if he had gone on through the centuries in pioneer ways. He asked only that they be treated as humans and they would not fail to do their part. With this attitude in mind may we think kindly and knowingly of those who extended hospitality to the first foreign settlers of this fair land.

## BERKELEY

Mr. and Mrs. R. Butler visited with relatives in Owen Sound on Sunday.

The box social and dance held in the Orange hall on Friday evening was largely attended. The boxes all sold for good prices.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Stafford and Leda visited in Owen Sound on Sunday with friends.

Mr. Robt. Hannah attended the funeral of the late Mr. Thomas Robinson at Dundalk last week.

The service in the Anglican Church Sunday afternoon was of a

memorial character in honor of our late Sovereign, King George V. The Dead March in Saul was played by the organist at the commencement of the service.

The Women's Association of the United Church met on Jan. 9th at the home of Mrs. E. Stafford. The President had charge of the meeting which opened with hymn No. 9. The Scripture lesson, 1 Cor., was read by Elsie Caswell and followed by prayer by Mr. Wellerman. The roll call was answered by 12 members and one visitor. Collection 75 cts. The roll call word for February will be "Guide". The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted as well as the annual election of officers meeting. The Treasurer's report was read and proved satisfactory. The amount of \$40.50 was paid on the Minister's salary making a total of \$75.00 paid by the W.A. on the 1935 salary. Mr. Wellerman took charge of the election of officers which resulted as follows: President, Mrs. Wellerman; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Albert Stafford; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. W. Kirk; Secretary, Mrs. A. E. McConnell; Assistant, Elsie Caswell; Treasurer, Mrs. George Caswell; Press Corr., Audrey Richards; Sick Visiting Committee, Mrs. McCauley, Mrs. Art.

Stafford, Mrs. Nelson Kirk, Mrs. T. Wiggins and Vera Watts; Organist, Mrs. C. Rowe; Assistant, Mrs. W. Richards; Auditors, Mrs. K. Wright and Mrs. E. Stafford. Readings were given by Mrs. Caswell and Mrs. Wright. A contest put on by Mrs. Albert Stafford was won by Mr. Wellerman. The meeting was closed with the Mizpah benediction after which the hostess served a dainty lunch. The next meeting is to be at the home of Mrs. Albert Stafford in the evening.

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