

THE IROQUOIS INDIANS.

A FAMOUS AND WELL-KNOWN INDIAN NATION.

Its Name Was Synonymous With War, Blood, and Bravery—They are an Agricultural People—Faithful British Subjects—They Have an Annual Industrial Fair.

Within the last decade public interest in the North American Indians has undergone a revival, whether induced by the fact that the red man is making a final and powerful effort to obtain a hearing of his wrongs, and emphasizing this endeavor by frequent bloodshed in the far West, or whether by the renewed and assiduous application of ethnologists and archaeologists to Indian subjects, it is difficult to decide, writes E. Pauline Johnson in Harper's Weekly. The latter may well direct their attentions to the investigation and study of this probably most romantic and poetic people the world has ever known, for the day is well nigh dead for the purity of ceremonial rites, folk-lore and tradition amongst their many hundred nations, for civilization and inter marriage are adulterating those exclusive tribal ordinances that for many centuries have been the stronghold of a most conservative race.

With the exception of Finland, the country is unknown that possesses such wealth of folk-lore as America. There are mines of unchronicled legends and superstitions, each colored by tribal distinctions, that scholars will never unearth, and that will perish with the people whose blood grows annually thinner and paler as their prairies receive the "white man's footprint," as their rivers ripple to the dip of his oars, and who will themselves be but a tradition and a memory in the lapse of a century or so.

Probably the most famous and well-known Indian nation, both on the pages of history and in the press of to-day, is the Iroquois, that magnificent people whose name was synonymous with war, blood, and bravery throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and whose descendants still possess much of the fire and all of the exclusive birthrights of tradition so jealously treasured by their ancestors.

The six distinct tribes that compose the Iroquois nation, being the Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca, Oneida, and Tuscarora, have since the American War of Independence been permanently settled in southwestern Ontario. Fragmentary remnants of the different tribes and bands are scattered throughout New York State and portions of the various reserves in Canada, but the original and collective stock have for upwards of a hundred years made their homes on the shores of the Grand River, one of the loveliest and most legend-thronged streams in the province.

When, under the generalship of Captain Joseph Brant, these people allied their forces with the British, and left in the Mohawk Valley a precarious livelihood that had been riddled and checked by the numerous wars of the colonists, the imperial government allotted them a reserve grant which comprised the land lying within six miles on either side of the Grand River, from its source to its mouth.

At that period these were hunting and fishing grounds unequalled in the country; but a century of insidious inroads made by white settlers, of a civilization not always wisely conducted, has despoiled the Iroquois of his game, his natural glory and hardihood, and the greater portion of his real estate, inasmuch as the reserve has dwindled and shrunk into a comparative dot of land that embraces but 53,000 acres of the least value along the entire course of the river. In early times much of this land slipped out of the Indian's possession in an unrecorded manner but after a season, when incoming whites were settling the country, the demand for river lands in southern Upper Canada grew urgent, and the Iroquois were induced to surrender their reserve bit after bit, until now, in lieu of their erstwhile real estate, they have deposited with the Dominion government upwards of eight hundred thousand dollars, the interest on which they draw biannually individually, the amount varying in accordance with the expenditure they make on public works within their own reserve.

The history of the Iroquois is unquestionably the most interesting of the myriad native tribes in the Americas from the time of the formation of the great Iroquois Confederacy, more than four hundred years ago, down to the present day. Of this mighty alliance that terrorized the entire continent north of Mexico, and which was originally cemented together by "fifty great chiefs of the fifty noble families under the leadership of Hiawatha, who framed that confederacy." Mr. Horatio Hale writes: "During the American War of Independence, this confederacy, in the clash of stronger forces, was for a time broken up. The government for which they fought gave them lands along the Grand River, and here just a hundred years ago they re-established their league and rekindled its council fires. The laws and policy framed by Hiawatha and his associates more than four centuries ago are still in force among their descendants in this district. In this small domain the chiefs are still elected. The councils are still conducted and the civil policy is decided as nearly as possible by the rules of their ancient league. Not many persons are aware that there exists in the heart of Canada this relic of the oldest constitutional government of America—a free commonwealth older even than any in Europe except those of England and Switzerland, and perhaps two small semi-independent republics which lurk in the fastnesses of the Pyrenees and the Apennines." Possessing such historical interest, with their veins filled with patrician blood distilled through generations and impregnable constitutional alliance as a foundation, it is small wonder that the Iroquois excite

more scholarly interest and concern than other of America's red men.

The Six Nations, as they are now generally called, have always been to a great extent an agricultural people, notwithstanding the terrible battle and depredations they found time to engage in with both the early settlers and with rival tribes. Referring again to Mr. Hale, we learn that "their extensive plantations of maize, beans, and pumpkins excited the admiration of the first explorers." This early tendency has developed with years into a positive industry, and to-day the Grand River Indians are a peaceful, law-abiding, self-supporting people, quick to adopt educational as well as agricultural advancement, and skilled in many branches of trade and handicraft.

Primitive farming is almost unknown to them; the well-to-do have thrashing-machines, reapers, binders, fanning-mills, and most of the modern improvements connected therewith. The poorer have their little plots of soil, plant purple corn and potatoes, and eke out a livelihood by basket-weaving, mat-braiding, and making axe handles, lacrosse sticks, hickory whip handles, and the score of other things that Indian fingers are so deft at, and this happy condition has been attained solely by individual industry.

Very little education is necessary to make an Indian a shrewd and judicious business man; he adapts himself quickly to trading, bargaining, investing, and the principles of interest, consequently he permits few opportunities of doubling his little possessions to slip by unheeded. As farmers the Iroquois are unquestionably successful, as seen from the fact that the grain markets of Brantford, the nearest town, are largely supplied from this reserve. At the annual Industrial Fair held each October at Ohsweken, the central village of the reserve, the exhibits of wheat, oats, barley, vegetables, roots, fruits, and live-stock rival, and frequently outdo in quality, the displays in many county-towns of the province. In that portion of the building allotted to the household industries the exhibits of preserves, pickles, butter, wheat-four bread, needle-work, and embroidery testify to the housewifely ability of the Iroquois women, who have well nigh reached perfection in these branches of civilization. Competition at these fairs is invited and encouraged by the organization known as "The Six Nations Agricultural Society," the funds for current expenses and prizes being granted by the main conditions specified are that the exhibition is open to Indians only, but they may be of any nation or tribe in America.

Their domestic life cannot be generalized; some are well off, owning brick houses, large barns, machinery, and cattle. In one part of the reserve one may encounter Brussels carpets, pianos, sewing-machines, and lace window-drapery; in another a mud floor, a kettle hung on a post square glassless aperture to serve as a window, and the mainstay of existence but a few straws of purple corn, hanging from the rafters overhead and which they manufacture into very palatable bread by first boiling the kernels in lye to remove the skin, then washing through numerous waters and pounding into a paste by means of a huge rustic pestle and mortar, and finally boiling with beans or berries until thoroughly cooked. When well made it is a delicious and savory compound.

This latter condition is found most frequently amongst the Pagans, who are rarely well-to-do, as they labor under the disadvantage of not understanding English, and being seriously hampered thereby in the getting and making of bargains. The aggregate population of this reserve is three thousand five hundred, out of which five hundred still cling to the religion of their forefathers. These are largely Onondagas, but a portion of the Cayugas and Senecas also adhere to the primitive worship, and the ceremonies performed in connection therewith are the most beautiful solemn aboriginal rites to be witnessed in Canada.

These people are not wild; they live in the highest state of civilization that an extreme poverty can afford; they dress like the poorer of white settlers, and are as law-abiding and diligent as their scant knowledge of civil and social advancement permits. Their standard of morality is much higher than that of whites in a similar station of life, and infinitely superior to that of border quarters, whose evil influences, immoral characters, and degraded habits are the most serious stumbling-blocks that the Indian, throughout America, is obliged to overcome before he can be brought to recognize any good in the race that teaches him first of all terrible and hitherto unknown vices, and then throws on top of this foundation of rottenness and depravity the fibres with which he is expected to weave himself a tent of education and citizenship within a generation.

The religion of the Grand River Pagans has been quoted as the purest faith, the most faultless worship, known amongst aborigines. They are Unitarians without a dread of their God, without revolting practices or repugnant sacrifice; their God is not one whose wrath must be appeased or whose worship is exacting. He is the All-wise One, the "Great Spirit," in whom they have an absolute and childlike faith as beautiful as it is touching. Many times during the seasons do they congregate at their place of worship, the "Long House," and in a crude though orderly manner pay tribute to the God whom they believe to be in the happy hunting grounds beyond the western skies. For days and days they dance, chant, and feast with tireless fidelity. At corn-planting they dance to ask a blessing upon it; when it is ripe they dance a thanksgiving, and this latter is duplicated at strawberry, raspberry, and blueberry times. Then after the harvest a grand thanksgiving is held, and the Great Spirit is acknowledged as the giver of all good things—grain, fruit, fowl, fish; and then once annually, generally the first week in February or thereabouts (they set the time by some phase of the moon), the great sacrifice of the "White Dog" is burnt, when a member of a noble Onondaga family acts as an ephemeral priest, and offers a spotted dog, which has been previously strangled and decorated with wampum, paint, ribbons, etc., as a burnt thank-offering for the people. The ritual and ceremony are very beautiful—for days they dance and chant; then comes the sacrifice, burnt with incense, and associated with the most conservative formality. The prayers of the natives arise on the waving clouds of smoke as it beats its blue wings skyward laden with the exquisitely pure and believing faith of these simple forest children.

Many Christian denominations are represented throughout the reserve—Methodist, Anglican, Baptist, Plymouth and the Salvation Army, all have churches and good congregations. The Anglican Church has the vantage-ground, perhaps, since she is the daughter of the New England Company, whose funds and facilities have been doing active service for the last two hundred and forty years amongst many tribes throughout British America. They have here erected two substantial and artistic churches and several mission-houses, and have without doubt been the groundwork of Christianity in this district.

Touching the educational facilities, there are eleven district schools, taught in many instances by Indians, who are sufficiently qualified to pass an examination under the supervision of the Board of Missionaries. During the year 1890 the total average attendance of pupils at these schools reached 173 daily.

To a great extent the early loyalty of Iroquois to the British Crown was due to Brant's influence, but to-day it is doubtful if England has in all her vast possessions any more faithful subjects than these Indians. When Prince Arthur visited Canada in 1869, although he was a mere lad, the Iroquois conferred upon him the highest and most ancient honor their race, and indeed the two Americas, can boast—that of chieftanship.

Supplementing this evidence of loyalty, these Indians have recruited a corps of militiamen and an exceedingly good military brass band. They hold annual drill, and in all probability, if the country required their services, they would be among the first to go into action. But a few years more and the ancient Iroquois will be a people of the past, and perhaps the most conclusive argument in favor of civilizing the redman is a glance at the Six Nations of the Grand River.

DECLINE IN IMMIGRATION.

There is Plenty of Congested Population to Draw From—We Want Men to People Our Farms.

The decline in immigration, to which the Minister of the Interior drew attention in the House on Thursday, is not due to failure at the source. In the old countries there is still plenty of congested population to draw from. But though there may be pressure to crowd people out, there is nothing to tempt them out. People immigrate not merely because they find it hard to make a living at home, but also because they are persuaded it will be easier to make one abroad. The lot of the European or British toiler may be no better than it was two years ago, but he now doubts more than he did then whether he can better it by going to America. During the last year, at least, immigration afforded no sure escape from hard times. Immigrants to the United States found industry stagnant, a vast proportion of the earning class out of work and in destitution. Homeless, in a strange country, and with the prospect of starvation before them if they remained in it, those who could

RETURNED TO EUROPE. Nor did the exodus consist of only returning newcomers. Many who had been in the States for years went back to their old homes. For a time the emigration from the United States exceeded the immigration to it. Those who were turned back by the more stringent enforcement of the immigration laws swelled the numbers of the returning exiles, whose accounts of the depression supplemented that in the despatches. That put a damper on emigration. For the average European all the news about bad times in the United States included the whole continent. Hence our immigration fell off nearly as much as that of the United States. Considering that we had not more than enough employment for our own industrial population, it would seem that the decline in immigration was not an unmixt evil. An increase of mechanics would certainly have made matters worse. We had already enough and to spare, for the wages that were going round. An increased immigration is desirable just now only if it adds to the consumers, not to the producers, of our manufactured products. We want men of industry, thrift and vigour, to people our vacant farm lands. To bring that class of men into the country, we can give them some guarantee of a fair return on their industry and frugality. We can offer them

CHEAP AND FERTILE LANDS, and excellent transportation facilities. We cannot make wheat dear, but neither can any other country that produces for export. Farming here can be made more profitable than in many another country, because it can be more diversified with good results. The more our farming population increases, the larger will be the demand for the products of our industry. Also, the greater the yield of our farms, and the movement of produce, the more can railway companies afford to reduce freight. We want farmers, but for some time we can get along with the supply of skilled labour we have in the country.

The Czar has gone to Borki, to attend the opening of the memorial church erected to commemorate his escape from death during the railway disaster of 1888, when a number of persons were killed and wounded on the Imperial train.

Mrs. H. R. Ludwig of Montague, Sussex county, N. J. possesses a gift of magnetism which gives her wonderful control over animals, birds, reptiles, and insects. The most vicious horses, which are utterly unmanageable by anyone else, become perfectly tractable and obedient under her voice and touch. Dogs, cats, and other domestic animals, whether belonging to her or to others, seem to understand every word she speaks, and they do the most astonishing things at her order. Shy, suspicious, and unapproachable as the wild fox is, he will not only fly at the approach of Mrs. Ludwig but will come to her at a word of command. Wild birds follow her when she walks about her farm, and frequently will not be driven away by her. One particular robin is so infatuated with her that it hovers about the house continually, although Mrs. Ludwig has taken it far away several times and tried to frighten it into leaving her. Mrs. Ludwig insists that birds and beasts have a language, and that she understands it instinctively.

THE DOMINION HOUSE.

SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION AT OTTAWA.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:—

To incorporate the New York, New England and Canada Company.

To incorporate the Nova Scotia Steel Company.

For the relief of Joshua Nicholas Filman.

For the relief of William Samuel Piper.

For the relief of Joseph Thompson.

For the relief of Orlando George Richmond Johnson.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. Daly withdrew his bill to amend the North-West Territories Act and introduced a bill of similar import. The principal changes were that the new bill provides that the Legislative Assembly shall have power to incorporate tramway and street railway companies and that it shall fix the fees of sheriffs, which are now fixed by the Lieutenant Governor. It also empowers the courts to deal with the subject of alimony.

The bill was read a first time.

THE TILLEY REFORMATORY.

Sir John Thompson explained, on the second reading of the bill relating to the custody of juvenile offenders in New Brunswick, that owing to the benefaction of Lady Tilley and other ladies the penitentiary of New Brunswick had been converted into a reformatory for juvenile offenders. The Government proposed to lease the property for such purpose, and the bill was to give the requisite authority.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

MASTERS AND MATES.

Sir Charles H. Tupper explained, on the second reading of his bill respecting certificates to masters and mates, that one of its provisions is to relieve British subjects of the necessity of a three years' residence in Canada before being qualified to hold certificates.

The bill was read a third time.

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The following Government bills were read a third time and passed:—

To amend the Steamboat Inspection Act.

Respecting the granting of land to members of the militia for an active service in the North-West.

Respecting the seignory of Sault Ste. Louis.

THE CATTLE QUESTION.

Mr. Mulock, on motion being made that the House go into supply, called attention to the freight rates on live cattle. He contended that an injury to the trade was an inquiry to the whole country, and regretted that the Government was not prepared to take up the bill upon the subject he had placed upon the paper. Since he had brought the matter up in Parliament, it was said that the combination in rates had collapsed. He reminded the House that there was a dangerous possibility that it had merely suspended operations.

Sir Charles H. Tupper said that thorough enquiry into the facts would have to be made before the Government could take action with regard to freight rates on cattle. On account of the magnitude and importance of the interests involved, the question had to be approached with the greatest care. It was a most difficult question to deal with, and Parliament would not be in a position to deal with it until all the facts were ascertained.

Mr. Davin, speaking for the farmers of the North-West, said he hoped the Government would deal with the question as soon as possible, and in a manner which should do justice to the farmers.

NORTH-WEST EXPENDITURE.

In Supply, Mr. Davies drew attention to the item of two thousand dollars for travelling expenses of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories. Last year he said a thousand dollars had been voted for this purpose. An explanation should be made of the necessity for the increase.

Mr. Daly said that last year the vote of one thousand dollars had been found insufficient, and some nine hundred dollars had to be voted in addition to recoup the Lieutenant-Governor.

POLITICAL INSPECTORS.

Mr. Martin charged that the homestead inspectors had taken part in politics actively in the North-West.

Sir John Thompson said the charge should be more specific. If he could not give details, the remark was shameful, and if he could he should do so in justice to the public service.

Mr. Martin said he would take another opportunity of furnishing details.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

Sir John Thompson moved the second reading of the bill respecting the arrest, trial, and imprisonment of juvenile offenders.

Mr. Mulock took exception to the private trial of children. He did not think the administration of justice in corners was in the public interest.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

THE SENATE.

Sir John Thompson moved the second reading of the bill regarding the Senate. He explained that it provided that in the unavoidable absence of the Speaker of the Senate, the chair shall be taken by another member. There was constitutional objection to the measure, but he proposed that it should be reserved for her Majesty's own assent, and to come into force on proclamation. In the meantime her Majesty's Government would be asked to submit the bill to the law advisers of the Crown to obtain their opinion on it.

The bill was read a second time.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were passed through committee and given a third reading:—

Act to further amend the Culler's Act—Mr. Wood, of Brockville.

Act further to amend the revised statute respecting interest—Sir John Thompson.

Act from the Senate to amend the act respecting the incorporation of Boards of Trade—Sir John Thompson.

SUPREME COURT.

Sir John Thompson moved the House into committee on the resolution respecting the judges of the Supreme Court. He explained that the scheme for the improvement of the salaries of the judiciary did not include the judges of the Supreme Court. It was believed that their position would be improved by making provision that some of them may retire on full salary instead of two thirds, provided they had served fifteen years and had reached seventy years of age. This was the purport of the resolution.

Mr. Laurier regretted that he could not agree with the resolution. He saw no reason why the principle it contained should not apply to all judges if it was good for the Supreme Court. No adequate reason, however, had been given why the judges of the Supreme Court should be allowed to retire on full pay. He did not think the proposal would commend itself to the judgment of the people of Canada.

Mr. Macdonald (Huron) said the judges of the country for the past twenty-five years had been a ornament to the country, and justified the statement that the judiciary was equal to any in the world.

Mr. Gillies advocated the payment of larger salaries to the judges of the Supreme Court and also to the Ministers of the Government.

Mr. Mulock deprecated the resolution, because it was, in his opinion, a discriminating measure.

The resolution was adopted in committee and reported to the House.

Mr. Laurier moved that the report be received this day six months.

The House divided on the motion of Mr. Laurier, which was lost on a vote of 42 yeas and 51 nays.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTION.

The House went into committee, and reported progress on the bill respecting the inspection of Electric Light and the bill respecting the Utilization of the Waters of the North-West Territories for Irrigation and other purposes.

THIRD READING.

The bill respecting Units of Electrical Measure was read a third time.

The House went into Committee of Supply.

CUSTOMS.

Mr. Landerkin, on the item of \$299,850 for Customs in Ontario, said he understood that Mr. Evans, harbour master at Port Hope, had smuggled two bicycles in Canada last fall, and the matter had been brought to the attention of the department. He wished to know what the hon. Controller of Customs had to say about it.

Mr. Wallace said the matter had not been brought to his attention, but would be dealt with in the regular manner if such a case existed.

The item was adopted.

A CRUEL STEPMOTHER.

Accused of Killing Her Stepchild by Inches Since Her Baby Was Born.

A Paterson, N. J., despatch says:—Mrs. Elizabeth Vanderbeck, aged 22 years, was convicted in the police court on Friday of cruelty to her stepdaughter, Annie, aged 6 years, and was fined \$50. She was also committed to the county jail on a charge made by Patrolman William Lord of assault and battery on the child. The neighbors say that since the birth of her own baby eight months ago, she has been killing Annie by inches. Mrs. Catherine Bon Temps, who lives in the same house at 149 Beechstreet, testified that Mrs. Vanderbeck forced her stepchild until Annie was starved to eat from ash barrels and pick crumbs from the floor, dropped there by the baby. Mrs. Buren, a nurse, testified that Annie was black and blue from shoulders to feet, and that her stepmother struck her on the hand on one occasion because she could not cut some wood and broke one of her fingers and the wrist. Another neighbor testified that Mrs. Vanderbeck threw a porcelain cuspidor at the child and struck her in the eye, cutting it severely. She said Annie had three black eyes in a month and still carried the marks of the last blow. City physician Ratton examined the child and found her body covered with bruises. He said that one of her fingers had been fractured and the wrist misplaced and neither had properly healed. Mrs. Vanderbeck said that the injuries were caused by falls and that a little Italian boy struck Annie. The father is a signalman on the Erie Railway, and knew nothing about his wife's ill treatment of his child. Annie was given into the care of her mother's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Burnett of Ridgewood.

The Bank of France.

The bank of France is guarded by soldiers, who do sentry duty outside the bank a watch being likewise kept within its precincts. A former practice of protecting this bank was to get masons to wall up the doors of the vaults in the cellar with hydraulic mortar so soon as the money was deposited each day in these receptacles. The water was then turned on, and kept running until the cellar was flooded. A burglar would thus be obliged to work in a diving suit and break down a cement wall before he could even begin to plunder the vaults. When the bank officers arrived each morning the water was drawn off, the masonry torn down and the vaults opened.

The bank of Germany, like most other German public buildings, has a military guard to protect it. In a very strongly-fortified military fortress at Spandau is kept the great war treasure of the Imperial Government, part of the French indemnity amounting to several million pounds.

Edward Egan, a safe-blower of national reputation, was fatally shot at Chicago while resisting arrest. Egan ran for several blocks pursued by officers, reaching his room, and stationing himself behind a folding bed, fired until his revolver was emptied. His shots were wild, and he finally fell pierced by four bullets.