

# Hoaxed California Indians Here To Press Land Claim

## Want Pay for 7,500,000 Acres Ceded to U. S. by "18 Treaties" of 1851—Poverty Has Depleted Tribe.

The perverse persistency with which murder will out and chickens come home to roost is being illustrated again in this instance by the California Indians. They are reaching around behind California's romantic chapter of gold-discovery and gold-rush history and bringing out the untold chapter, the dark, and it must be confessed, the shameful chapter. And they are bringing it out not with malice—premeditated and forethought vindictiveness, but rather in the form of "unfinished business." They are bringing it out because it is the foundation of their "case" by which they seek to establish their rights under unfulfilled treaties of which they ask settlement by the government—settlement after seventy years of waiting.

**Eight on Mission.**  
There are eight Indian delegates in Washington, come to look after the interests of the remaining 29,000 California Indians, and chosen, financed and sent here by their own people. Their mission, or as they are more likely to call it themselves, their business here is to persuade Congress to pass their court of claims bill, designed to enable them to bring their plea for settlement before the United States Court of Claims and have it adjudicated just like any unpaid bill.

Not beaded and feathered and buckskinned Indians are these, not pictorial and story-book Indians, but a modern, tailor-made variety to be remarked on Washington streets because of their Western swing, the Western spread and roll of their hats, and their copper-colored hair may be as bright as the smiling, easy-going Pale Faces, their rather grim, set and saturnine expression.

The business settlement they are making is of the eighteen treaties of 1851 by which they ceded all of California to the United States Government under the agreement that they were to have 7,500,000 acres reserved to them and receive the \$800,000 of gold, furs, cattle, implements, clothing and educational provision. They signed these treaties, the 400 chiefs and headmen of the 300 tribes and bands of California Indians putting their thumb-marks and crosses on the "dotted line." And they lived up to them; they kept their part of the agreement. But never, from that time to this have they received fulfillment of the treaties.

The story of the unfulfillment is the dark chapter, the shame and the tragedy behind the romantic story of "the days of old, the days of gold," that still give a thrill in song.

**White Man Broke Promises.**  
The eighteen treaties became the lost treaties to the California Indians. The solemnly signed papers of the white man were taken away—and the promises made in them, so clear in the Indian mind, never were kept, though the Indians waited as the years came and went, and their numbers dwindled and the white man's increased, until now seventy years of waiting are gone and most of the Indians with them, for from a population of 210,000 at the time of the making of the treaties, there has been a shrinkage to the 29,000 of today.

Their treaties mysteriously became the lost treaties; but the white man knew how and why. The white man coveted the California gold. He didn't want to miss any of it, and surely not by giving away to a lot of Indians 7,500,000 acres of California, any one of which might have gold in it. So the resourceful goldrushers, the clever, bold adventurers from all the land, sent one of their own to Washington to "protect" their interests. The Senate went into executive session, the treaties were not ratified, nor, of course, fulfilled. The Indians began their seventy years of wistful waiting and wondering when the white man would keep his promises. Even yet they wait and wonder; for, having kept his own promises, the Indian can not believe that the white man, grown so rich, so powerful, so numerous, actually will in the end repudiate those promises, blandly proclaim himself a liar and a cheat.

**Pushed From Fertile Lands.**  
They died numerous and miserably while they waited by "eviction, starvation and disease," it is officially admitted. They were pushed back and back and back, farther and farther from the fertile lands, wherever the white man wanted, until the rocks, the barren spots and the almost inaccessible mountain fastnesses were their refuge, and they did, indeed, fall so low in their struggle to survive that they had wild roots and grasshoppers and lizards and ante-worms. In their stolid resignation and determination to persist, their old people refused to eat even of what they had—gave their share to the children, because "We have lived our lives; we can not be of use any more; but the children have their lives to live, and that must be given their chance."

**Then California Recalled.**  
After half a century of forgetfulness, neglect and abuse the people of California—a few here and there—and the government remembered, and by appropriation bought from Congress and aid from the Office of Indian Affairs some pressing emergencies of the California Indians and acute distress among them were met. Of the 29,000 Indians left in California there now are about 5,000 on reservations, about 11,000 living on severalty holdings called rancherias, maintaining themselves in more or less comfort—bits of land or working for wages when work is obtainable, or both. These rancherias are small towns and a few of them were bought by the Office of Indian Affairs for scattered groups of Indians, and in many cases the land is so worthless that it affords merely a place to stay, some of it not even being provided with water.

About 4,000 are homeless, drifting, destitute, living from hand to mouth, and finding the struggle all the harder because of albinism, afflictions, physical and mental disabilities, and the want of education and training that would make them able to compete with even the poorest of white drifters. They

are willing enough to work, although there are shiftless Indians as well as shiftless white men. Many of them have abiding places only on sufferance, being allowed to squat in a nook or corner here and there on white owned ranches, living in shacks that the rancher wouldn't think good enough for a chicken house or kennel, and given this privileged chiefly because they are handy to have around when there is work to do.

**Educational Facilities Poor.**  
Though the Office of Indian Affairs has responded to the appeals of the Indian Board of Co-operation and tried to provide schools and school privileges for the Indians, there still are about 2,000 of the 4,000 Indian children of school age without educational facilities. This Indian Board of Co-operation, which has been active for over ten years in trying and trying successfully to better the condition of the California Indians is an organization of white friends of the Indians, whose executive representative, Frederick G. Collett, is to be credited with the unearthing of the lost treaties and realizing their value to the Indians. Collett has spent his entire time for nearly twelve years in helping the California Indians, both by his activities here at Washington and in California, where he knows and is known by every group of Indians.

One of the most interesting and stimulating things for the Indians that he has done has been to awaken them to help themselves. That is how it came about that the eight Indian delegates are here, sent by their own people. The Indians, in their campaign for self-help, have organized Indian auxiliaries throughout California, with a membership at the latest accounting of 6,500 Indians, and a drive on by the Indians themselves for the organization of their people, not only to strive for belated justice in the matter of the treaties, but for mutual benefit in home affairs and the relief of distress among their own people.

**Mission Is Costly.**  
One must know the condition of the California Indians to understand what organization means to them, and what sending their delegates here means. They have sent them at a cost of \$750 each, for it is a long trek to and from Washington, and they want to make it decently and self-respectingly. While some of the Indians are fairly well-to-do, as Indians go in California, and prosperous even according to the white man's standard, most of them are poor, very poor, and with precarious livelihoods; so that those working for pay, and as well as the more comfortable have contributed to the undertaking. They take pride and satisfaction in doing this, as they take pride in coming before Congress, not asking for gifts, gratuities, doles, help, but for an honest settlement of their claims, for justice instead of charity.

The California Indian has been in an exceptional position in relation to the government, for in waiting for the fulfillment of the treaty promises he was left to live or die, and the very act that this so he was able to survive the sufferings and privations of long neglect, has developed a self-reliance that the reservation Indian has lost. He may have lived miserably, but he lived by his own efforts, and as a result he is better fitted today to be given what is his due and allowed to go his way than most Indians.

**Citizens, Though Evicted.**  
The California Indian is a citizen under the old Mexican treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, although he has been evicted from the lands he holds under the Spanish grants which that treaty was supposed to secure to him. For many years the rights of citizenship were denied him, and not until the Indian Board of Co-operation, through the efforts of Mr. Collett, established his right to vote, to school privileges, to care at county hospitals in illness, to public relief in indigence, helplessness and old age, did he receive any of the benefits accorded the whites. He was, instead, accountable for his misdeeds under the law, but denied its advantages. As, for instance, when three Indians were furnished whisky by bootleggers, having been trained in the white man's vices, got into a row, and one Indian had his chin shot away by another. The man who did the shooting was promptly arrested and put in jail, according to the law, and the other Indian was left uncared for to die in his cabin, and had almost bled to death before the county authorities could be persuaded that it was within their duty to give him medical care. The case of the Federal government were affairs of the local government, but the injured man was the affair of the Federal government. It was argued, until the citizenship of the Indian finally was admitted by the Federal courts, that the same Indian woman who had both arms broken was left uncared for eleven days, although her case was reported to the county authorities, before the county health officer gave her any attention.

**Children Also Suffer.**  
Through this same reluctance to accept responsibility toward the Indian the Indian children fell between the local and Federal governments. They were denied admission to the public schools because, it was argued, there should be Federal schools for them, and where they were not herded on reservations they were left without school by the government because they were supposed to be eligible to the public schools. Now, through test cases brought through the Indian Board of Co-operation they have the right to go to public schools, where there are enough Indian children to form a new school district, they sometimes are lucky enough to get a county allowance for maintenance and money from the Indian Bureau for a schoolhouse and land to set it on. The government also has moved around to the position where it pays tuition in district schools for Indian children, where there are as many or more Indian children than white, so that objection to their attending may be overcome and the burden of educating the Indians not fall too heavily on white taxpayers.

**Proud of Indian Blood.**  
The Indian delegates sent here by their own people are representatives of the self-educated,

# Southern Girl Guest in Capital



MISS MARGARET DEVEREUX LIPPIIT, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Lippitt, of Wilmington, N. C., who is the guest of Miss Edith Bacon. Miss Lippitt is the niece of Judge Henry D. Clayton and niece of the late Col. Bertram T. Clayton.

# RUSSIAN SAGES OF OLD DAYS NOW AMONG ABJECT TOILERS

MOSCOW, Feb. 4.—Where is the old professional and intellectual class of Russia now—the engineers, critics, scholars and specialists? The answer is quite simple. They are wherever there is a chance to find bread.

An authority on Sanskrit is keeping a rather poor restaurant, and an electrical engineer keeping a rather successful junk shop. A critic, whose brilliant pen used to be the despair or joy of new playwrights, is happily conducting movie picture performances for the soviet of Tiflis, and the editor of a long-vanished magazine is busily conducting guests on tours around the Kremlin.

The problem of this class is quite different from the problem of the artists, who have fared rather well under the revolution, or of the would-be intellectuals, of whom the old Russia was full. These idle, neurotic souls have been shocked into the first hard work of their lives by the revolution. The revolution has either killed them or made active, useful people of them.

**Professional Fitness Lost.**  
But those people who had always worked hard, who had had their specialty and fitted into a particular place in the old order, have been just as much out of place in the majority of cases as now living lives in which their professional fitness has been cruelly squandered.

With Russia crying for competent engineers, nevertheless a highly trained engineer is the male housekeeper for a government hotel. His advice on a technical matter used to be worth a great deal, but now he holds at the grocery near his hotel emerging with black hands from a tussle with a fireplace.

With Russia crying for physicians, however, a nose and throat specialist who has done his day's work at a co-operative store, his old gardener from the country estate, who is one of the best rose experts in the country, is making automobile parts.

A family of an uncle and two nieces has managed to adapt itself to the new order and make a living. The uncle, one of Russia's experts on international law, is earning fairly good rations as head of the accountancy department of a division of the government. The niece, who has the brains and training to make her a successful lawyer, is wearing out her patience as head of

self-sustaining California Indian. They are proud of their Indian blood, tenacious of their Indian traditions, and having tested the advantages themselves are trying to get their people to get an education in holding their own. Their leader is a young man, by trade a tailor, who got the rudiments of education in an Indian school and continued his education by his own efforts. Another of the group is a miner owning placer and quartz claims; one a fisherman, and president of his home union of the Fisherman of the Pacific, elected because of his character and ability by a membership of more than 200 white and Indians. The rest are ranchers, one a printer and another a contractor as well as rancher.

The general feeling of Californians and of the California delegation in Congress is in sympathy with the appeal of the California Indians, and it is a feeling that the passing of their country's bill by Congress and its adjudication by the United States Court of Claims not only would be justice to the Indians but would go a long way toward wiping out the stain of dishonor on the education bill by Congress and its adjudication by the United States Court of Claims. They do not seek a return of the lands they were promised, nor to disturb titles, although some of the greatest fortunes in California were won from their lands. What they ask is practical and modest, only that the government may give compensation based on the valuation of the lands at the time the treaties were made. It is stipulated in their court of claims bill that they shall not receive more than \$1.25 an acre—not an unreasonable sum considering the long wait and the sufferings of the Indians.

# This living room suite \$195



5-piece combination outfit as shown below

Get the full significance of this offering—living room completely furnished for \$195. Mighty small sum to pay, you will agree, for furniture of such enduring quality. This

80-inch velour covered davenport  
High-back wing chair  
Large fireside armchair  
Mahogany-finish davenport table  
Metal base electric table lamp of Mahogany-finish floor lamp  
All five pieces, \$195

Sanford's Tapestry Brussels 9x12 rugs, \$20 instead of \$39.75 because Sanford is to discontinue their manufacture 10 wire Brussels rugs, please, the tightest woven rug of their kind, and considered as good as any made in America. All over, Oriental and medallion patterns.

# BEDDING



in the half yearly sale discounted 10% to 40%

\$29.75 satin-finished brass beds, \$15.75  
Satin-finished, ribbon-trimmed brass bed in style as pictured above. Two-inch post with heavy fillers. Heavily lacquered and guaranteed not to tarnish. All perfect.

This Windsor period metal bed, \$17.50  
Formerly \$32.50—design pictured at left. Substantial steel beds with artistic panel and 20 fillers. Ivory enamel finish.

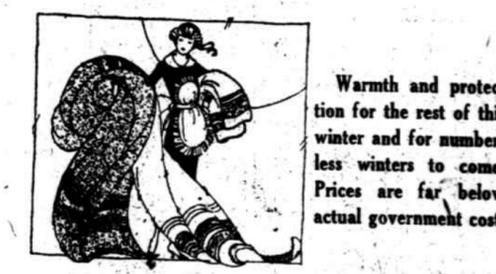


This \$18.75 Overstuffed Rocker, \$11.75

A rocker that is as comfortable as it looks. Large and roomy construction, with soft seat and back, upholstered in a brown-patented fabric simulating leather and with all the service of leather.

Wrought-iron reading or bridge lamp, with parchment (pictured with rocker). \$10.95.

# Sale: U. S. Army wool BLANKETS



Warmth and protection for the rest of this winter and for numberless winters to come. Prices are far below actual government cost.

\$2 Various lots left from previous sales. Tan and grays.  
\$3 O. D. and gray blankets, 75% or more wool; 3 1/2 pounds each.  
\$4 Four-pound O. D. blankets; 81% or more wool.

All the blankets are 66x84 inches. Included at \$2 are a number of blankets suitable for automobile robes and home blankets and to put over hood of car in cold weather.

(The Hecht Co.—Fourth Floor)

# Bed, spring, mattress \$19.75

All three offered in this sale at one combination price

Note especially what this outfit includes. Simmons two-inch continuous post bed, with ten 1-inch fillers; guaranteed "Hector" bed spring and combination mattress. Full bed size only; entire outfit, \$19.75.

\$6.95 Eagle bed spring. \$4.95—A well made and comfortable spring for all size beds.

Kapoc floss mattress, \$16.50—Soft and resilient; does not become knotty. Covered with art ticking and closely tufted. Heavy roll edge.

Booster rolls, \$1.95—Pink or blue rolls, for full size beds. Opened at back for pillows.

# Capitol Brand fifty-pound Layer felt mattress \$18.95

A special concession for the Half Yearly Furniture Sale. Considered among the finest layer felt mattresses made. Covered with our own special cretonnes in choice of several attractive patterns.

(The Hecht Co., fourth floor)

# 7th at F The Hecht Co. 7th at F