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THE TOMAHAWK.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWAS.
"Truth before Favor."

Published in behalf of, and to secure the welfare of the Indians of the United States.

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GUS H. BEAULIEU, Founder.

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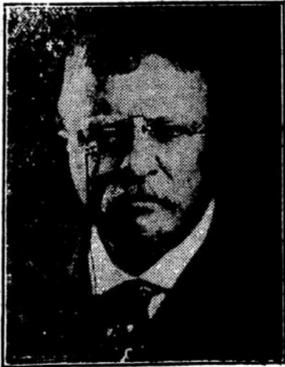
White Earth Agency, Minnesota.

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Entered at the Postoffice at White Earth, Minn., as mail matter of the second class.

Nearly one-fifth of the deaths caused by preventable diseases in Minnesota during the first six months, this year, resulted from tuberculosis, despite the epidemic of influenza which raged during the early months. And severe as was the epidemic, influenza caused but a trifle less than twice as many deaths as the "great white plague." Officials of the Minnesota Public Health Association emphasized this comparison in urging whole hearted support by the citizens of every county in the state of the annual Red Cross Christmas Seal Sale.

Funds raised through the sale of the 25,000,000 seals, to be offered the public as a health investment this fall, will be used during the year to fight tuberculosis and other preventable disease. Minnesota's allotment of the \$6,500,000 fund to be raised throughout the nation in the campaign headed by the National Tuberculosis Association, is \$250,000.



Governor Asks Aid for Roosevelt Memorial Fund.

Governor Burnquist has issued a statement urging Minnesota citizens to contribute to the Roosevelt National Memorial Fund, in the campaign to be made October 27, the anniversary of Roosevelt's birth. The Governor's statement follows:

"October 27th is the anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt. A campaign is now in progress to raise funds, especially on said day, for the providing of a suitable memorial to the great American. Nothing could be more appropriate, for the principles for which this valiant statesman and noble citizen fought, represents the spirit of America. A national memorial to perpetuate the memory of his life and character will be a great blessing in patriotism and ever an inspiration to coming generations. Minnesotans will be glad to contribute generously to honor such a loyal American and thus to remind posterity of that true Americanism which he so consistently exemplified."

Indian Reservation System Condemned as Degradating Race.

Propaganda Proposed to Arouse Public Interest in Redman's Welfare.

"The Indian has been criminally ruined by the reservation system," said Dr. Carlos Montezuma of Chicago, in his address before the Society of American Indians convention held in Minneapolis recently. "On reservations, Indians sleep, eat, gamble and loaf. Can any one gain knowledge by living such an existence? It is a wonder the Indian has any brain at all and no wonder that he is weak."

"Once our forefathers owned America. We, as their children's children, are without a country and we are outside the laws that govern other races in America. We are governed by regulations of the Indian bureau, which are not laws at all."

Attacking the Indian bureau as the cause of degradation among Indians, Dr. Montezuma made an impassioned plea for united action among Indians to arouse public sentiment for its abolition. Dr. Montezuma is an Apache Indian, and is now a practicing physician in Chicago.

"The American public is with us," he said, "but they do not know the truth. We who are here know it, and that is why we are gathered here to stand up for the rights of our people and not huddling about scattered campfires at the mercy of the Indian agents."

"It is the reservation system that has kept the Indian back. No prison cell reservation Indian ever has achieved fame or success. His money is spent for him and his property disposed of without his consent. It is only by struggles and failures that we can become strong."

"When Belgium was destroyed by invaders, America stood up and said such trampling on the rights of man should not be tolerated. But here is the same thing and worse, right here in America today, and it has been going on for many years."

"He who says there is some good in the Indian bureau, he lieth. The bureau has always said to our people, 'hush, sh, tell Washington we are making progress.' But the time has come when we must either stand for the Indians or the Indian bureau. It is not a childish play. It is as serious as when Patrick Henry said, 'Give me liberty or give me death.' We may be citizens, but our citizenship is not effective. We do not have equal protection in the laws of this country. We have been afraid to speak and to act. We have been taught to keep quiet and things will come out all right, but they never will in this way."

"If the Indians warwhooped for freedom, they would be heard around the globe. That is what we should do until we gain what we want."

The Indian bureau, Dr. Montezuma charged, "evades the main issue, dilly dallies, fumbles, and falsifies the truth." He urges that through organization and individual effort the Indians work to get co-operation of the press, the churches, clubs and the public generally. Only through action of congress can Indians get justice, he said, and congress will only act when public sentiment compels it. "Is it wrong," he appealed, "to

ask our freedom from bondage? To ask that we shall be producers and not consumers, that we may be citizens and not wards? Did not thousands of our Indian lads volunteer to lay down their lives for world freedom? Is not that sufficient to unlock freedom's gates to the Indian people?"

The convention voted down an attempt by Thomas Bishop of the Snohomish tribe, Washington, to lay aside the regular program and call on everyone present in turn. Many present, he said, would not speak unless called on, and would go home sighted. Dr. F. R. Gordon and others objected to this procedure. "We are here to devise some means to get rid of the Indian bureau and relieve those of our race sunk to degradation," said Dr. Gordon. Dr. Montezuma said the Indians, like Quakers, needed stirring up, and pleaded to be allowed to talk first. The motion was voted down and the regular program carried out. Dr. Charles Eastman, president, said there would be ample opportunity for general discussion later.

Efforts of the American Legion to obtain full citizenship for Indians who took part in the recent war, were announced by R. B. Hall, secretary of the Y. M. C. A. The announcement was greeted by enthusiastic cheers.

Dr. Montezuma, responding to the statement said, "What is sauce for the gander is sauce for the goose. We want the same rights for the mothers and fathers of these boys, for they need it too. We want everything the white man has. We don't just want the nice thing such as to vote, but we are willing to accept the bad things, to go to jail like he does."

"The Indians are all half breeds as far as their minds are concerned," said Dr. Charles Eastman, "and they want some definite laws as to their status as a citizen. The way the present laws are I do not know whether I am a citizen or not. I fail to understand the white man's psychology. He gives a foreigner from Europe who can't speak the language his first papers in two years and his final papers in five. He denies the right of citizenship to the Indian who is born right here in the United States and speaks the same tongue that he does."

Dr. J. W. Levy, of St. Paul, a Cherokee Indian, spoke of the unsanitary conditions found on the various reservations.

"If such conditions are allowed to continue, in a few years there will be no Indian problem. They will be blotted out by disease," said Dr. Levy.

"Equal footing of the Indian is the only way to accomplish it for with the present agency system the Indian receives little medical attention and has no opportunity to go elsewhere for it."

Two white women who have worked among Indians took part in the discussion. "If the white men had been as anxious about the health of the Indian as for his money and his lands, legislation for the Indians would not be necessary now," said Miss Hope E. Haupt of Washington, D. C., who has worked seven years among the Indian tribes. Mrs. Elsie E. Newton, a former agency employee, and an associate member of the society, dwelt on the obligations Indians will have to assume when they pass out from government control and assistance on their reservations.—Minneapolis Journal.

A Communication.

Editor THE TOMAHAWK:

Permit me to extend you congratulations upon your article appearing in your issue of the 9th inst, captioned "The Society of American Indians." From caption to finish are words of truth whether they be in praise of the society or in censure of the past and present treatment by the Indian Office of the Indians as a whole. The Office is at the present in amicable relations on the whole with the Chippewas of Minnesota, and it is the hope of these Chippewas I believe that such relations will continue, and that the Office will offer no obstacle to any measures which the legislative committee of the General Council, Minnesota Chippewas, may seek to advance at the coming regular session of Congress.

It is a matter undoubtedly of profound regret to the Chippewas of White Earth that that wise and excellent gentleman Mr. Dickens has resigned his position as Superintendent, for he was the link that bound the Office and the progressive people of White Earth in mutual good understanding, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Dickens' successor will pursue his policy of good will towards the people, and not be influenced or guided in any way by the policies or methods of such men as Ex Agents Howard and Hinton whose administrations as superintendents of the White Earth Agency were dismal failures.

To return to the Society of

American Indians, it conference it seems had praising words for the Chippewas of Minnesota, their General Council, President Morrison and THE TOMAHAWK. The praise is well placed, and as a Minnesota Chippewa I am grateful for the tribute paid to the tribe, to the able head of the Council and to its "fearless official organ THE TOMAHAWK." The General Council and its officials naturally are taken up primarily with tribal matters and can only serve in general slightly, but The Tomahawk under the policy of its founder, and as expressed in its mottoes, "Justice and Fair Dealing for Every Indian who Desires to become a Good Citizen", and "Published in Behalf of and to Secure the Welfare of the Indians of the United States", must consider itself the spokesman not only of the Chippewas of Minnesota, but also of other tribes and their members. The Society of American Indians looks to The Tomahawk to be true to the Indian cause as a whole, and it also looks to the maintenance by The Tomahawk of the escutcheons upon its shield, undiminished in splendor of thought and purpose.

And while it may be a slight digression, still it is only fair to remind Indians everywhere that "the laborer is worthy of his hire", and to aid the spokesman by liberal subscriptions, thus betokening appreciation and giving courage to the publishers.

The Society in its choice of new officials has done well, and the gentlemen elected will undoubtedly

(Continued on 8th page.)

The Society

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Organized at Ohio State University, APRIL, 1911.

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Application for membership should be made to the Secretary-Treasurer, Society of American Indians, 707 20th Street, Washington, D. C. Information regarding the Society will be cheerfully furnished upon inquiry to the Secretary-Treasurer, Washington, D. C.

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