RED LAKE NEWS

"Keep Your Face Toward the Sunshine and the Shadows Will Fall Behind You"

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MINNESOTA INDIANS' EXHIBIT AT STATE FAIR.

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 10.—Chippewa Indian handiwork, useful and ornamental, comprising the largest collection ever assembled in the northwest, are displayed in two booths in the Agricultural building at the state fair under the direct patronage of the United States Indian department. It is an official exhibit as Walter F. Dickens, superintendent of the Red Lake reservation, is at the fair under direct orders of his official chief.

Largest Exhibit.

Here are found birchbark canoes without a bit of metal in them, rabbitskin blankets woven from strips of hide, all manner of buckskin articles from hides tanned in Indian camps, and beadwork in plenty. Mr. Dickens believes the bead work to be the largest display of its kind that has ever been brought together.

The Minnesota Indians, it is estimated, obtain $50,000 and $60,000 a year by sale of beadwork, and on that account the government encourages the red women to do the work and the white women to purchase their products. Most of the articles also are useful. The collection includes rush mats, cedar bark mats and bags, sweet grass baskets and bags.

Canoe Construction Puzzles.

The construction of a birchbark canoe, always a puzzle to a white man, is plainly revealed by having the finished boat and raw material displayed side by side. White cedar splints, light but tough, form the frame work, ribs and all; large sheets of birchbark, whooly impervious to water, composes the outer covering. Then with the tough ropy roots of the balsam to bind the frame and to attach the cover to the frame and pitch from the spruce for the seams the Chippewa fashions a light serviceable boat equally useful in a grassy lake, a forest stream or Lake Superior.

One booth is devoted to the Indian schools of which there are several, notably at Red Lake, Leech Lake and White Earth. The boys are taught farming, carpentry, tailoring, harnessmaking and blacksmithing in a way that makes them practical workmen. The girls are taught weaving, basketry, sewing and other domestic arts and all are taught penmanship and drawing.

95 Per Cent Industrious.

"Indians can be taught to work and become selfsupporting," declared Superintendent Dickens today. "This does not mean that a man of 30 who has spent his life in the woods and has learned to subsist by hunting and fishing, will become a modern progressive farmer, but if we can get the boys and girls young enough and keep them until they are skilled in various occupations, we find that 95 per cent of them can be counted upon to engage in these occupations and remain industrious citizens.

"We have at Red Lake a full-blooded Chippewa who draws $100 a month as a forester. Another full-blood, who never has been off the reservation, is in charge of the steam plant. Other Indians are sawyers in the agency sawmill and some are farmers.

"Then there are many who are farming for themselves and doing so intelligently. They are clearing their lands, plowing and handling the soil properly, purchasing stock and are wholly independent.

"The patience of the Indian women in their beadwork ought to be convincing as to their industry. A patchwork quilt, made by Elizabeth Wells, a full-blood, contains 4,389 pieces, all beautifully stitched. All that is needed is to give them a fair start and a fair chance." —Exchange.

Why, I didn't know there were any Indians in Minnesota! Is this work done by Minnesota Indians? There are no Indians in Minnesota, are there? Aren't they splendid penmen? Isn't that lace work lovely? Just see the lovely butter. Did the Indians really do this? etc., etc. Such were the remarks fairly rained at the Indian Exhibit, Minnesota State Fair, September 6th to 11th.

Approximately 300,000 people attended the Fair during the week. The Indian exhibit was housed in the Agricultural building, just across from one of the four large halls or wings of the building and opposite Uncle Sam's Parcel Post display. To say that our booth attracted a great deal of attention is expressing it in quite modest terms. Visitors fairly swarmed in and out, and many came back the second and third day to examine the work and ask ever and ever so many questions. Hundreds of people complimented the penmanship exercises of Joseph Green and Joseph Needham. The free hand drawing from the various schools came in for its share of praise.

The tall corn stalks from Leech Lake, the canoe from Red Lake, the splendid vegetables from Vermillion Lake School, the beautiful sewing from Cross Lake, the cakes, bread, butter, etc., from Pipestone School, the domestic art and science display from White Earth, and in fact all exhibits were highly praised. The birch bark canoe, with its display of raw materials, the reed and rush mats, sweet grass and birch bark baskets, and bead work excited many favorable remarks; and no booth was quite so popular as, "Minnesota Indians' Exhibit."

A number of Indian visitors registered at the booth, among them being Carrie Beaulieu of Red Lake, Gus H. Beaulieu of White Earth, C. R. Beaulieu, also of White Earth, Nathan J. Head of Red Lake, Rebecca Williams and Lye Williams, former Flandreau students, Lizzie Wells of Pipestone school, Rebecca Wells, who attended day school at Eggleston, Minn., Johnson Williams, aged 84 years, and his wife, Jane Williams, full bloods, John W. Carl of Mahnomen, a former Haskell student, and Hon. Theo. H. Beaulieu of White Earth.

The booth was also visited and graciously complimented by the Honorable W. J. Bryan, who kindly registered. Senator Moses E. Clapp also registered and was pleased with the Indian display.

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WARNING.

The introduction of intoxicating liquors into this reservation or its sale to non-citizen Indians is forbidden by law under a penalty of imprisonment for not less than sixty days.
See Act of January 30, 1897 (29 State L., 506.)

WHY WE CULTIVATE.

In order to raise good crops, we must plant good seed, and have rich soil, but without the proper cultivation the crop can not amount to very much.

To know what kind of cultivation is best suited for the different kinds of crops and soils, and when we should cultivate requires experience and a study of the soil and plants.

We cultivate to pulverize the soil, conserve the moisture, make plant food available and kill the weeds.

Good cultivation should begin with the proper kind of plowing and by this is meant a thorough pulverizing of the soil. It is impossible to make a good seed bed onpoorly plowed land, because the harrow cannot accomplish what the plow has left undone.

Proper cultivation regulates to a certain degree the water and food supply of the plants, from the surface down. Soils which have the same degree of firmness from the surface down are full of minute pores, which act as capillary tubes, these tubes or pores tend to bring the water in the soil to the surface when it is rapidly evaporated. Plowing and harrowing breaks up these tubes and thus save and store the moisture in the seed bed for the use of the plants.

Soil that is not sandy has a tendency to bake after the water which has stood on it soaks in the ground or evaporates. Thus if the soil is not cultivated the plants will turn yellow for want of air in the soil, the ground will crack and the plants soon die.

When there is a great deal of moisture as there is this year the roots will grow close to the surface of the soil, if we cultivate deep we will cut off the roots and expose them to the sun, roots grow for moisture and if there is not plenty near the surface they grow deep in the ground.

If ground is well cultivated and a dust mulch formed about four inches deep, moisture can be held all summer. In the dry farming belt where it does not rain from April to Sept. this is the only way crops can be raised.

Good cultivation hastens those physical and chemical changes which are necessary to render the plant food in the soil available for use by growing crops. Stirring and pulverizing the land changes the mineral elements like polassium, calcium and phorphous from insoluble to more soluble and available forms. The air admitted into the soil renders the inactive nitrogen available as nitrates. Decaying or organic matter is also necessary to promote fertility, but its effect is greatly increased by good cultivation. Each particle of soil is brought in contact with a particle of fertilizing material and is encircled thereby.

Plowing and harrowing are the best ways to keep weeds out of the soil. Poor plowing and lack of proper cultivation have caused

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