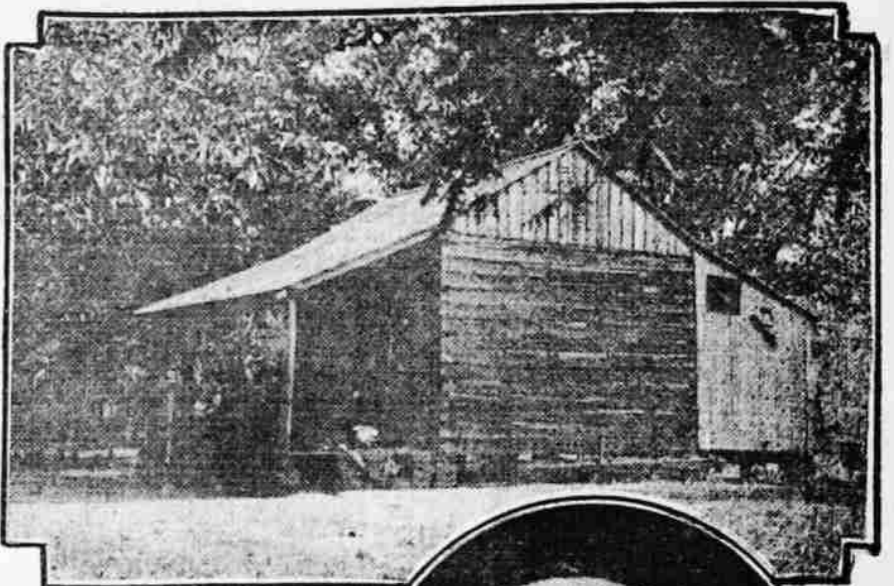


UNCLE SAM'S KINDNESS KILLING POOR LO



Government Instructors Teach Indians to Live in Houses Like White Man Where They Succumb to Ailments of Caucasian Race



BY WILLIAM RIES.
The few remaining Indian in the United States are withering into extinction through the agency of that most deadly scourge, the White Plague.

The one dominant and virile masters of the Western Hemisphere, who roamed at will recognizing only the boundaries of the seas, now are perishing of tuberculosis in their little cabins and farm houses within the confines of government reservations.

The tepee, that healthful abode of their own making, has given way to the permanent houses prescribed by the invaders. Tuberculosis and the residence of civilization have been to the Indian what powder and firearms were to the wild game of the forests, and the Indian is following in the footsteps of the buffalo.

The form of living so suddenly thrust upon a race who for thousands of years knew no infection or disease and whose roof was the skin of a deer or a thatch of reeds, has been disastrous to the red man. Infection introduced by the whites has been responsible for the constantly increasing death rate among the Indians.

This alarming condition is revealed by Cato Sells, United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in his annual report to the Secretary of the Interior. The report is contained in a 300 page volume which treats of the Indian, his progress, thrift, diligence, and his deplorable health conditions.

Tuberculosis for many years has been steadily tightening its hold on this unfortunate race and has gained such headway that at the present stage, heroic efforts and an enormous expenditure will be necessary to save the descendants of the aborigines to posterity.

While millions of dollars are expended annually by the government for the education of the Indian, little is done to safeguard his health or help him in his fight against tuberculosis and inevitable extinction. More than \$35,000,000 has been spent since 1876 for colleges and schools that he might be as well educated as his white brother. The slight attention given to the menacing health problem is scored by Warren K. Moorehead, formerly a member of the United States Board of Indian Commissioners, after an investigation at the instance of an Indian protective society.

"Education is of little value to Indians who are dying of consumption," he said. "The health question is much more vital than the educational problem, yet it is extremely difficult to secure adequate appropriations."

SMALL SUM FOR MEDICAL STAFF.

"It was with the greatest difficulty that members of the board persuaded the Senate Committee to put into the Indian Bill, an item of \$25,000 for the increase of the medical staff working among the Indians. This amount should have been \$1,000,000, but we were thankful to secure the sum granted."

The alarming extent of this infection can not be over estimated;

hardly a family or a home being exempt from one or more cases. To quote the Commissioner's startling report:

"I find the health conditions among the Indians are deplorable. Under the jurisdiction of this bureau there are approximately 25,000 Indians, suffering from tuberculosis. Available Indian hospital facilities for all these patients, adults and children, will not exceed 200 beds.

"During the last fiscal year, 1,905 Indians were reported as having died from tuberculosis. This is probably not more than 75 per cent of the total number of Indians who have died from this disease during the present fiscal year, which means that the death rate is increasing one third every year.

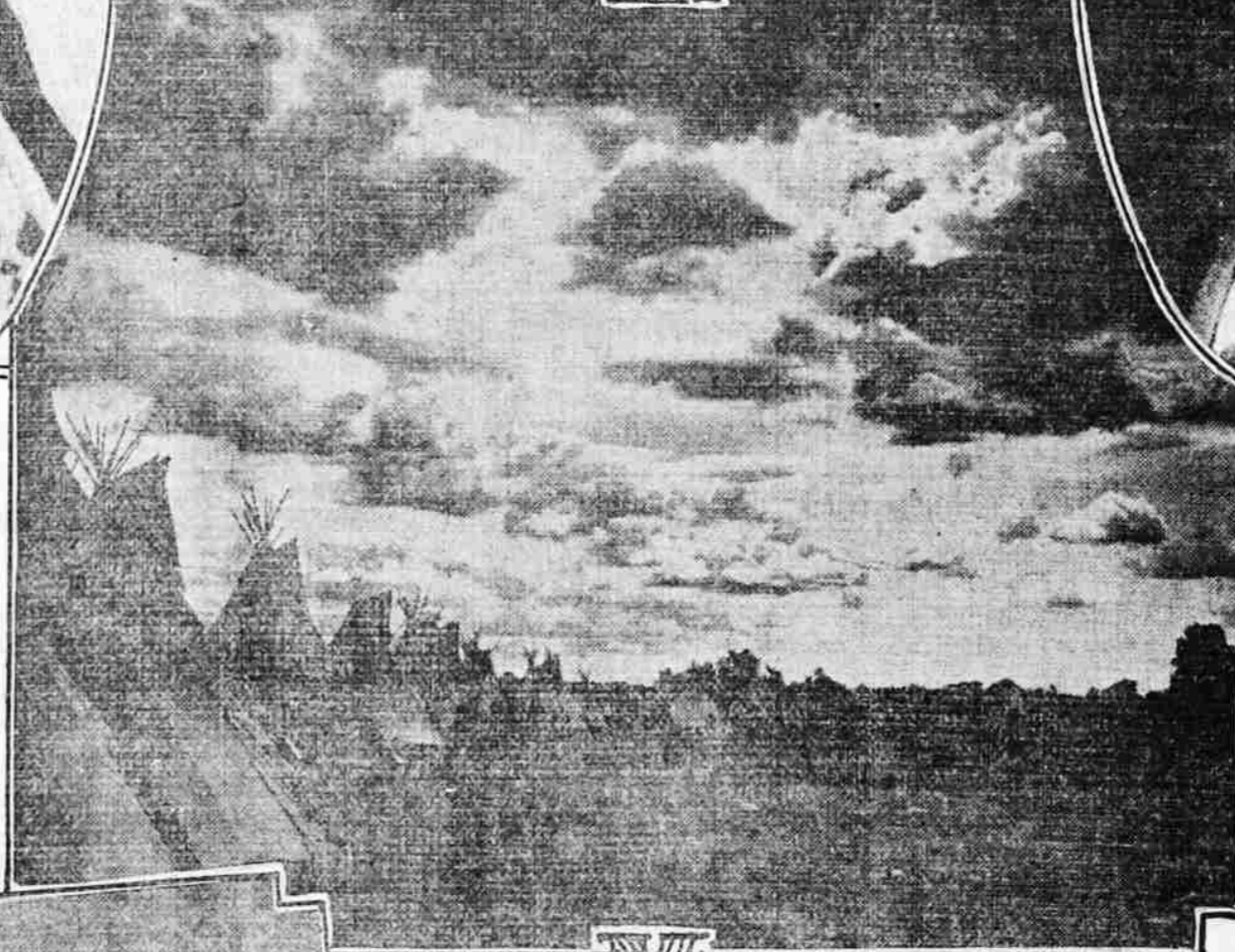
"The death rate among Indians is 32.24 per thousand, while the Census Bureau gives sixteen per thousand outside the reservations."

What it is that has brought a strong and virile people to this condition is a problem that has puzzled scientists and medical experts since the disease became so prevalent among the red men?

Was it that their constitutions were unable to withstand the ravages of infection brought across the

Indian so susceptible to their destructive inroads.

Now that the ideals of the modern civilization are strictly complied with, and the Indian lives in a cabin or bunk-house, the dread scourge finds him an easy prey. It is well known that the frequency of tuberculosis cases in the open country is twice that of the congested sections of the city. This is due to the fact that the systems of city dwellers have been strengthened in the power to throw off disease germs through constant contact and exposure. By the same token is the Indian unable to combat successfully, a disease that is



TOP, left—Patagonian tribe of Indians in camp. At extreme right—Typical Indian home of the better class. Next row—Angel De Cora Deitz, instructor of native art, Carlisle Indian School; sunset after the council of war; Cato Sells, U. S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Bottom row—Delaware Indian baby asleep for the night; Kiowa mother and child; a Moki maiden in her best dress.



comparatively new to his constitution. Under these circumstances, it would be supposed that the white brother would do all in his power to alleviate the suffering caused by an infection of his introduction, but

mainly by education and maintenance. A pathetic appeal to the graduates leaving the Carlisle Indian School by a young Indian girl teacher, entreating them to take up the task of saving their race will serve to show how the condition is viewed by the Indians themselves.

"The intelligent and effective control of tuberculosis among our people is of the greatest importance to the graduates leaving our school, in that it has to do with our very existence as mortals. No matter what our intellectual attainments and efficiency may be, without healthy bodies we are a dead people. Listen! This is a call and it is imperative. We are dying. I entreat you, study medicine and sanitation and thereby save us, your people, from eternal ruin."

MINDS DO NOT GRASP SITUATION.

"Are your ears so deaf that these frantic death groans do not move you to resolve immediately that such conditions shall not exist in the future? Are your minds so blank that you do not realize and grasp the situation? The obligation is thrust upon you by those that are your own."

"If the Indian race is to be rid of this killing influence, this cancer that is forever preying upon our mortal lives, Indians must become doctors, doctors with racial sympathy for their stricken brothers. They must, by urgent necessity and bounden duty, be responsible for the intelligent control of this disease, this demon of death that has been devouring our people by the thousands.

"Now is the accepted time. Resolve to take up the study that will deliver your people. We are doomed. Our future shall be in the footsteps of the Buffalo, if we permit these fatal shameful conditions to exist. It is high time that we take effective steps to stamp out these horrible conditions that will obliterate us and efface us from the earth. Thirty-five deaths in a thousand spells eternal doom and obliteration for the Indian."

An examination of all the Indian children of school age revealed that 90 per cent were infected with tubercular germs. Although this does not mean active cases, it indicates the excessive incidence of the disease, much of which under the present conditions will become active.

What he terms an illusion as to the condition of the Indian, created by magazine articles, was scored by Commissioner Moorehead after he had completed his investigation among the Indians. In his report he said:

"Nothing is further from the truth than the statement that the Indian is better off today than in the days

of Lewis and Clark. Individuals are better off but the Indian nation is not. I observe with great regret articles published in apparently reliable magazines which state that the Indian problem is virtually settled. Thousands and thousands of persons who read such articles naturally conclude that the Indians are as capable and as distinguished as are certain individuals cited as examples.

"While the authors of these stories write them with the best intentions, yet to those of us who are in the thick of the fight, they may come as most unfortunate and inopportune. Far be it from me to discourage optimism. I am not by nature a pessimist, but if we are to save the American Indian, we must count on the entire citizen body of the United States. When the best class of people in this country are informed that the Indians as a whole are healthful and prosperous when just the reverse is true, much injury is done the cause for which so many men and women are unselfishly striving."

Some work has been done on the various reservations that promises the amelioration in a measure of the frightful conditions that now prevail. Lectures have been prepared and delivered with stereoscopic slides and moving pictures, instructing the Indian how to improve his living conditions. An appeal has been sent out to him to take every precaution against the spread of any disease he may have. These lectures have been well attended and the interest displayed proves that the Indian is more than willing to do his part if co-operation is offered in the shape of adequate hospitals and medical attendants. Many plans have already been worked out for the government to follow.

Stammering Caused by Carelessness of Mother.

An interesting lecture was given at the Polyclinic Hospital by Dr. G. Hudson Makuen, on the reasons for defective speech and the mental progress of the child when it learns to speak.

"Most cases of stammering," he said, "are to a great extent the fault of the mother. She talks too fast and the child tries to imitate, but is unable to do so, because its muscles and brain will not work fast enough. Thus it starts to say a word and has to wait for the image to complete itself in the brain before it can finish it. While waiting it makes a repetition of the first sound."

"In all cases of defective speech we find that the real cause is that the brain receives no auditory images. Thus the person does not know what he says when he makes sounds with his mouth."

VERMIN COST UNITED STATES MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR

Many popular beliefs on medical subjects seem to be based on instinct without any facts to justify them, yet increasing knowledge in new fields frequently justifies opinions which have been held for centuries. Rats, mice, flies, mosquitoes and the various forms of body parasites have always been held in contempt and disgust, and always and everywhere have been regarded as vermin. Growing knowledge of the important role played by these lower forms of animal life in the transmission of disease is ample justification for this feeling.

The attention which has been called to parasites and scavengers of the human race has resulted in demonstrating another reason why mankind has always abhorred them. They are an exceedingly expensive luxury. The Journal of the American Medical Association comments on a recent article in the Farm and Fireside, which discusses the

amount of damage done in this country by rats, and estimates that there are in the United States at least 300,000,000 of these animals, alike destructive to property and dangerous to health. Rats are said to destroy a hundred million dollars' worth of grain every year in this country, or enough to feed one hen for every man, woman and child in the nation. The annual cost of rats to the nation is estimated at \$500,000,000.

In addition, the rat population of the country forms a fertile field for the dissemination of bubonic plague, which only needs a starting point in any of our seaports to spread throughout the country and cause the loss of thousands of lives.

In the same issue of the Farm and Fireside, but in a different department, appears an article on the cattle tick, in which it is estimated that the difference between the market value of an animal free from this parasite and one infected with

it is about \$3 a cow, and that the cattle tick is today costing the stockmen of the country a billion dollars each decade, or a hundred million dollars each year. The discovery and development of bacteriology showed that man had been carrying on for centuries an unconscious struggle with the lower forms of vegetable life. Recent additions to our knowledge of the habits and characteristics of vermin show that an equally relentless struggle has been going on between man and the lower forms of animal life.

Language of William the Conqueror Still Spoken in Channel Islands. The Channel Islands—where there is still in everyday use a patois almost identical with the Norman French spoken by William the Conqueror—are the home of other quaint antiquarian relics.

A local politician whose election as jurat had been annulled by the royal court of the island on the ground of his having been sentenced

to a term of imprisonment some years ago, knelt bare-headed at the entrance to the Courthouse and exclaimed: "Har! Har! Har! a l'alde, mon prince, on me fait tort." The effect of this appeal, technically called the "clameur de Haro," is to stay proceedings until the petitioner's case has been heard.

In modern times the cry has most frequently been raised to interrupt building operations on land to which the title is disputed—much to the annoyance of unsuspecting strangers who have settled in the islands without being aware of this curious tradition. Popular etymology explains "Haro" as an abbreviation of "Hui Rollo," thus making the cry a direct appeal to the first Duke of Normandy.

Mr. Lloyd George, after distributing prizes at a school, said he hoped the children would have a good record when he came again. Thereupon they rose, and with one accord said, "Same to you, sir."

on the contrary those connected with the Indian Service report that it is most difficult to obtain aid from the authorities. Apparently, the impression generally entertained, is that we are repaying the Indian for the loss of his vast do-