

practically eliminated from political activity upon the part of those engaged in the Indian Service.

But even at that the commissioner is playing politics. His game of politics is to free the Indian from the incompetency which has disgusted him in the past. Not long ago a republican politician in the service wrote to one of his subordinates "You'd better fix up that report and itemize you account; I'm going out and there's no telling who will be here next month," and forthwith the first intelligent report in a very interesting case was revised and at least one Indian is \$100 or so better off. When the bureau is finally manned by persons who have more regard for the interests of the Indian and less for a political machine, the commissioner will have won in a most commendable political game and we wish him an early triumph.—Times-Democrat, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

## THE SHAKER DANCE

BY ALBERT B. REAGAN



**I**N this dance the Indians worship Jesus, calling Him Jesus-Man, confounding him with Kwatte, their god. This religious movement began in the early eighties. It is a compromise between the old Indian worship and christianity. The former having been forbidden by the government, the Shaker "church" was organized so that the Indians could still have their performances under the constitutional rights granted to all religious denominations. And in this they have entirely won, for Judge James Wickersham, of Tacoma, Wash., fought the Shaker church case through the courts and obtained for the aborigines the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

The movement began on the Big Shookum River, near Shelton, Wash., in 1892. An Indian, John Slocum, was very sick and was unconscious for several days. Regaining consciousness, coming back to "life" again, as the Indians say, he said he had been dead and in heaven, but that the keeper of that blissful place had told him that he was a bad Indian and that he would have to go to hell. But one more chance would be given him. If he would go back to earth, lead a good life and teach other Indians to do the same, he would in time be admitted into the happy hunting ground. He at once began to preach the Shaker doctrine, exhibiting the power conferred upon him by those above in a vigorous shaking and quivering of all the muscles of his whole body. And all his follows exhibit their power the same way to this day.