

APR 10 1917

3 MAY 8

COPY - 1956

The Chemawa American

Printed at Chemawa, Oregon, and Devoted to the Interests of Indian Education

Vol. XIX

Wednesday, March 14, 1917

No. 22

GET IN TUNE

To our students the sermonettes which appear in the Chemawa American each week may seem like a repetition of the old things of past numbers, but they are not. However, if they should be it must be considered that we cannot keep fresh and ready for use all the good advice which is continually being poured into our ears. Therefore it is necessary to repeat, though in a different form, the things which are important to the highest development.

Our students—only a certain class—may think, "Oh, must we swallow those preachy American things again?" Of course if you take it that way you will get very little help from them and for you much earnest thought and effort will have been wasted; but if, though it is disagreeable medicine, you take it with cheerful faith and await results you will soon forget the bitter taste and the invigorating effects will surely show in your whole life. Your work will become easier, your lessons will mean more to you, your moral and mental life will grow stronger, and the world be in harmony with you and all your undertakings. It may be that all the advice given does not apply to you, but you will see where it will benefit a friend; so do all you can toward sowing good seed.

This one point always keep in mind—the things that the Chemawa American says are never in the spirit of a "dig," nor of mean criticism. They are said in true friendship and sincere interest. Another point to keep in mind is this: Though the things may seem to you simple, they are too serious for fun making. If they do not apply to you, then pass them on to another who may use them. Your best welfare is in the hearts of more true friends than you possibly know, and you cannot afford to take their honest efforts lightly. Put yourself in tune with all the forces that are trying to lead you upward and onward, and one of the strongest forces is your own Chemawa American.

The new auditorium is about completed and ready for occupancy. It is a fine building in every particular and will seat a thousand people, being as comfortable as any city theater. It has a commodious stage and a cosy orchestra pit.

THE FUR SEAL OF THE PRIBILOFF ISLANDS

By Alex Melovidov, Eighth Grade Pupil, Chemawa

A Russian navigator named Pribiloff was following a herd of seals and searching for their breeding place, which, after a lengthy search, was made known to him by a long-continued, tremendous roaring; a roaring as if from a number of angry lions bellowing in unison. Thus, in 1876, Pribiloff discovered the islands, later named after him, and found the breeding place of the fur seal.

These islands are located two hundred and some odd miles north of the Aleutian Islands in the Bering Sea. This group of islands is three in number. The largest, St. Paul, has an area of fifty square miles; while the others, St. George and Otter, are about forty square miles in area.

Soon after the discovery, a number of Russians, engaged in sealing, decided to make their homes there; but the seals were so numerous that there was not room for both occupants, and, so the story runs, the Russians were obliged to dig tunnels and live under ground.

After the Russians had been on these islands for a number of years they finally decided to sell them to the United States Government. In order to protect the seals, the United States leased these islands to the Alaska and the North American Commerical Companies. The government allowed these companies to kill 100,000 seals yearly; but owing mainly to wasteful sealing by Japanese and Canadian poachers, prior to the international treaty, the number was greatly reduced. However, the government soon protected the seals, and now it is estimated that about 5,000,000 visit the islands annually.

Fur seals are generally grouped into three classes; bulls, cows and bachelors. The first arrivals are seen on ice and follow the Japanese current which takes them straight to the islands. The first seals to appear are the bulls, which arrive about the first of April, and take possession of certain parts of the rookeries, which is the name of the breeding place. The bulls weigh from 500 to 700 pounds and are over five years old. About the first of May the cows arrive, they weigh about 80 pounds. The bachelors weigh a hundred

(Continued on page 4)