

3 MAY 8

COPY - 1956

I 20
2121

The Chemawa American

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

Vol. XXI

Wednesday, March 5, 1919

No. 21

THE SPIRIT OF INSPIRATION

"The spirit in men which makes a genius is the greatest gift; the men with such spirit can record powerful works, and those works—if composed according to classic rules—will immortally remain; therefore, love and respect the man of genius, for his spirit will console you; he is the human who lifts his art from the sphere of mortal to the sphere of the divine; he is Joy to all and becomes blessed in the shadowy beneath."

COMMEMORATING THE 39th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF CHEMAWA

On the evening of February 25th last a patriotic, or loyalty meeting was held in the school auditorium in order to celebrate the 39th anniversary of the founding of the great Chemawa Indian School. Mr. Gordon Hobucket, acting president of the Alumni Association, was responsible for the preliminary arrangements as well as for the beautiful decorations adorning the big room and stage. Our school band, as well as orchestra, was on hand and enlivened the occasion with martial music. The student body gave songs and yells and an enthusiastic meeting throughout was had.

Mr. Hobucket made the introductory remarks and introduced Mrs. Katie L. Brewer, who was one of the first students, and who has been at Chemawa throughout its existence. Mrs. Brewer gave a historic sketch of the school, as well as dwelling upon the success made in life by members of the first two graduating classes. Mr. R. G. Henderson gave a good talk as also did Mr. Woods, Mr. Devol, Anna Loftus, and others. The Seniors sang their service verse of the Chemawa song in honor of the Chemawa boys who are in the army and navy. 'Rahs were given for the class. Altogether the meeting was productive of instilling loyalty into the new students and enabling the others to give vent to their enthusiasm and love for old Chemawa.

HISTORY IN SCALES

Certain historical data relating to salmon has been ably put forth by the Scientific American from which we quote. All knowledge is of value and we trust that to our Alaskan readers, who depend largely upon

salmon fishing for a living, the following article will prove both of value and interest:

One of the most interesting points that has been established is the possibility of ascertaining the age of the fish by examining its scales. This was first propounded in 1904, and it has stood all the tests to which it has been subjected, by means of ringing and otherwise. Just as the age of a tree may be calculated from the number of concentric rings on a section of its trunk, so the age of a salmon may be determined by counting the lines on any of its scales—the shoulder ones for preference. In the case of the fish, however, the number of lines added each year is not one, but 16, and of course, they can only be traced by the aid of a microscope.

The lines, it is observed, are more widely spaced during the time that the salmon is regaling itself on its favorite foods. They run more closely together when it winters in salt water, and leads an abstemious life. The differentiation is important and greatly facilitates investigation.

Besides actual age, the number of spawning operations engaged in is also indelibly recorded on the scales. The spawning mark is a dark fracture, which is produced every time the fish enters fresh water. It is scarcely possible to confound it with any of the age lines, for the two sets differ essentially in appearance.

The practical value of scale reading, both with respect to age and spawning habits, can scarcely be exaggerated. By its aid, we have already discovered that the young salmon does not quit the fresh water in which it was hatched until it is two years old. It descends to the sea about the middle of spring.

In the course of the next season, it returns to its native river or lock, its object being to help in propagating the species. On performing this important duty, it again betakes itself, the next spring, to the sea. It may come back to breed next autumn, its return may be postponed for 18 months, or possibly it will spawn no more.

One of the most startling discoveries made by piscatologists in modern times, is that by far the greater number of salmon breed only once in their lives and that the number that do so oftener than twice, is not more than one in 9,000.