

American Indians Moving Closer To Double Goals Of Independence, Self-Support

By CLARKE BEACH

WASHINGTON. — The American Indian has taken another small but important step toward independence and self-sufficiency. The Interior department disclosed that it had discontinued government supervision over certain tribal affairs of two Indian tribes—the Saginaw Chippewa of Michigan and the Stockbridge-Munsee of Wisconsin. It was the first harvest from the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA), the Indian version of the New Deal, which was designed to make all Indians some day independent, economically and politically.

The IRA set up a plan under which Indians could work their way out of the status of government wards by proving themselves self supporting and capable of self-government. After a period of years they could gain their independence either through a vote of the tribe or by permission of the secretary of interior. The two tribes were the first to apply for freedom and the first to get it. Many others seem ready for it but can't seem to make up their minds about some matters—such as whether the new set-up should continue communal tribal ownership of lumber, grazing and other lands and

enterprises. Each of these two tribes contains about 500 Indians. Both are predominantly of mixed blood and are well assimilated in their communities, enjoying the same working and social conditions as other Americans there.

Their new status gives them all the rights and responsibilities of other Americans except that they cannot sell their land without the approval of the secretary of interior. This rule holds in the case of all Indians, but the secretary freely grants his permission if it appears the sale will not lead to the Indian's impoverishment.

Many other Indians are improving well off and seem ready for complete freedom, such as the Menominees of Wisconsin, the Klamaths of Oregon and Osages of Oklahoma.

But until the final step is taken all the approximately 400,000 American Indians aside from the two tribes are wards of the Federal government. The secretary of the interior must approve all business transactions such as leases and loans.

Cost Mounts Into Millions The bulk of the Indian population is heavily dependent on Uncle Sam for all kinds of welfare, educational and medical assistance. In the 12 months ending last June 30, they cost the government \$44,310,314.

The program of the Indian Service for some years has been designed to get the Indians on their feet and off the taxpayers' necks as rapidly as possible. But through painful and expensive experience that this cannot be done all at once, despite repeated clamor for just giving the Indian what is coming to him and letting him shift for himself. That has been tried repeatedly



Senator Warns Against Any Effort To Restore Military Control Of Atomic Energy

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—(AP)—Senator McMahon (D-Conn) has told the American Legion he will vigorously oppose any move to return atomic energy control to military men. McMahon is chairman of the joint Senate-House atomic committee. He sent a telegram to Perry Brown, national commander of the Legion, saying: "Any retreat from the principle of civilian control of atomic energy would inflict a powerful blow upon our national security."

"While I do not wish to anticipate the committee report on the investigation, the evidence shows that any retreat from the principle of civilian control of atomic energy would inflict a powerful blow upon our national security."

The Legion now is in national convention at Philadelphia. McMahon authored the 1946 atomic energy law. This removed the multi-billion dollar enterprise from the army's Manhattan district and placed it under the present five-member civilian commission. McMahon's message to Brown said: "I understand that a resolution regarding a change from civilian to military control of atomic energy may be placed before the American Legion convention. 'I would like to say that the recent investigation of the atomic energy commission by the joint committee on atomic energy demonstrates beyond shadow of doubt that the state of our atomic defenses and our protection of secrets has progressed from a very unsatisfactory condition when the civilian commission assumed responsibility to one in which every American may now take pride.

in the history of the republic, and each time the Indian has come back after a generation or so, penniless, disease-ridden and direly in need of public care. When he has been given full rights to his property he has usually dissipated it through his own improvidence and the machinations of white land grabbers. Now the idea is first to prepare the Indian for freedom: Teach him how to farm, raise cattle, fish, engage in lumbering and get jobs in his community. Educate him, teach him self-government, restore his pride in his race and culture, and gradually let him get used to taking care of himself—learning primarily as much as the white man does about the value of the dollar.

The Indian Service has estimated that about 53,000 Indians are now ready economically and educationally to make the new adjustment. Another 75,000, it says, may be ready in five to 10 years. It sees no chance, however, of turning loose the remainder, more than 250,000, for a great many years.

Wheat Growers Protection Bill OK'd By Truman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—(AP)—President Truman has signed a bill providing machinery to protect wheat growers in areas where there have been rapid expansions of wheat acreage in recent years.

The new law sets the acreage allotment of wheat for the 1950 crop for any farm shall not be less than the larger of—
1. 50 percent of (A) the acreage of the farm seeded for the production of wheat in 1949, and (B) any other acreage seeded for the production of wheat in 1948 which was fallowed and from which no crop was harvested in the calendar year 1949, or
2. 50 percent of (A) the acreage on the farm seeded for the production of wheat in 1947 which was fallowed and from which no crop was harvested in the calendar year 1948.

These figures would be the farmer's base and his cut below this would be equivalent to the reduction in the national acreage allotment below average plantings during the past 10 years, or seven percent.

Secretary of Agriculture Brannan has sent the 1950 wheat acre-

age goal at just under 68,000,000 acres. This compares with some 83,000,000 acres planted to the grain this year.
"The amendment is also aimed at aiding the farmer who leaves part of his normal wheat acreage idle to improve the land," Rep. Hope (R-Kas), author of the amendment, told a reporter.
"For example, a wheat farmer with 160 acres of land might plant 100 acres in wheat and leave 60 acres idle."
"Under the amendment, his minimum base could not be less than 80 acres. Under the national cut of 7.5 percent, this could then be lowered to 74 acres, but no lower."
Hope said that, without the new provision, farmers who have only recently gone into planting of wheat could have been cut in 1950 to about 25 percent of their 1949 acreage.
"It is designed not to discourage the man who practices summer fallowing, to keep as many farmers in the program as possible, and to prevent a lot of land from blowing," Hope said.

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OUT OUR WAY
By J. R. Williams

Hurricane Loss Will Hike Grapefruit Prices
LAKELAND, Fla., Aug. 31.—(AP)—A citrus industry expert predicted record grapefruit prices this season because of the heavy blow the hurricane dealt Florida's supply.
"I think we will see the highest priced grapefruit year that has ever been recorded," said Frank Seymour, secretary of the Federal Citrus Marketing Agreement committee.
Growers set a preliminary loss estimate at 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 boxes of grapefruit. The crop was expected to produce about 33,000,000 boxes before the hurricane.

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