

No Longer The "Poor" Indian.

Great changes have come to pass among all nations and people, the past few years, but none greater, perhaps, than that noted in the condition of the American Indian, particularly those tribes now living in luxury within the bounds of the Indian Territory. Time was when the pet subject of abuse against the Government was the latter's treatment of the aborigines. The redskins everywhere had the sympathy of the tender-hearted city folks of the East, who imagined Uncle Sam was systematically abusing his wards with the object of their gradual extinction, cooping them up in a comparatively small district, despoiling them of their old fertile lands and allowing them but a yearly stipend for sustenance. It was a truly dismal picture that used to be drawn of the much abused Indians.

Today all is changed. The noble red man, instead of being classed as an abject ward of the Government, kept in durance vile and generally imposed upon, is distinguished above all other peoples on earth in that as a nation he possesses the greatest wealth per capita of any. No state of Europe, Asia, Africa or Australian can show as much average wealth for the total population as can the Indian tribes of America. Venice and Genoa in their most prosperous years of maritime supremacy could not have done so, neither could Rome, Athens or other ancient governments of whose riches history tells us so much. For instance, the allotment of the Choctaw lands will give every man, woman and child in that nation a fortune equivalent to \$10,000 in addition to regular homesteads of quarter and half sections of fertile lands. Following the Choctaws come the Osages, who have over \$8,000,000 to their credit in the hands of the Government, or a per capita cash wealth of over \$4,700. Besides this they own 1,400,000 acres of land in the gross, or over 700 acres to every member of the tribe. Thus these wards of the Government even down to the children, have more riches than the average laborer could save in a dozen years.

But this is not all. The Indians have

not seen their richest days yet by a great deal. The future promises more to them than to any other class of people, and almost insures their permanently claiming the title of the wealthiest nation on the earth, if they maintain their racial distinction. The Government still makes provision for the maintenance of schools without expense to the tribes, and has large sums of money in trust for the redskins. This is annually drawing interest and increasing. More important than all, however, is the magnificent prospect before the Indians in their realty holdings in the Territory. The thousands and even millions of acres of land still controlled and owned by the aborigines are among the most fertile in the West, being alike adaptable to the growing of crops and the raising of all forms of live stock. There is no reason why in time these lands will not be as valuable for agricultural purposes as are the farms of Illinois today. The in addition to the agricultural possibilities of the Indian lands, there are other sources of future great wealth, such as extensive coal fields underlying the country, numerous gas wells, oil wells, and beds of precious metals and every day minerals of commerce.

The day for charitable sympathy towards the Indians has now passed. Instead of being mere Government wards, dependent upon the Nation for support, they are individually wealthy and are better fitted to help poor whites of the East than to need charity from any sources. The noble red man is now having his inning, and is a living illustration of the old French saying of "He who laughs last laughs best."—[Statesman.]

Murders in the Schools.

The mother of degeneracy is weariness which a night's sleep does not remove. The prevention of weariness is reasonable recreation according to age, strain imposed and physical condition. The school trustee, superintendent, principal or teacher who does not allow and know that he allows time for recreation to those from whom he has the power to demand service is a murderer in all but intent. He does not wish to kill, but he kills.—[Ex.]