

DETRIMENT TO INDIANS.

A Washington press dispatch to the Oregonian says that the poor Puyallup Indians, living on the outskirts of the City of Tacoma, seem unable, after years of association with their white neighbors, to look after their property, now that title vests in themselves. Up to March 3 of the present year, these Indians were under control of the Puyallup Commission, and could not sell or lease their lands, except by authority of that commission. Since that time, however, the Indians have enjoyed the same right to dispose of their land as is enjoyed by any citizen of the State of Washington. And the old story is apparently repeated.

In a report to the Indian Office, Puyallup Commissioner Snowden last June stated the removal of the restrictive clause upon the sale of the Puyallup lands under the laws above cited has been a detriment to the Indians, and will result disastrously to them. As was to be expected, the more worthless of the Indians were ready to sell their land for less than it is worth as soon as permitted to do so. Some of them did this promptly. One family, for instance, sold 40 acres for \$300 that was easily worth \$2000. Two others traded their half-interest in a 40-acre tract worth at least \$100 per acre for a saloon, ran the saloon one night, were arrested by the police at midnight, and next day what was left of their stock of liquors was seized by the Sheriff. There is no law to prevent an Indian or white man from throwing his property away if he desires to do so.

Several things have occurred which

embarrass the Indians in the sale and lease of their lands, preventing them from getting full value, and sometimes from making any sales or leases. Titles to their lands are clouded, and the groundwork for much litigation is being laid. Such things give designing people increased means of taking advantage of them.

The case of the Puyallup Indians illustrates the fact that it is bad policy to remove the restrictive clause from the sale of Indian lands and permit allottees and owners to sell them without any Government supervision. These Indians are disposing of their lands for an inadequate consideration, and are being defrauded and swindled. I am of the opinion that Indians in all cases should be aided and protected by the Government in making land sales.

MUST NOT USE LIQUOR.

One of the new reforms which will be inaugurated by the Northern Pacific on the beginning of the new year is the requirement that all employes of that road abstain entirely from the use of intoxicating liquors. This means that after January 1, 1904, not only is drinking to excess forbidden, but that the seductive social glass either on or off duty is denied the company's men. The violation of this rule will be followed by immediate discharge. The prohibition of the use of liquor is in effect on some of the big Eastern systems, and is said to be salutary.

First Boy—We had a minister for dinner yesterday.

Second Boy—We had turkey.—Ex.