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BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—"Special Correspondence."—A favorite theme for orations is the pathetic passing of Lo, the poor Indian. It will no doubt be a disappointment to well-meaning speakers, who have made the sorrows of the noble red man the subject of their torrid eloquence, to learn that instead of declining further numerically, he is now actually increasing in numbers. That is what the statistics say. The strength of Indian racial traits is shown by the fact that the 300 persons now in Virginia who can prove their descent from Pocahontas and her English husband, John Rolfe, still have the Indian hair and high cheek bones.

It has never been definitely determined just what was the greatest number of Indians in America when they were unmolested and at the height of their power in this great country. Some authorities claim that the number could not have exceeded 1,000,000, others assert that it could not have been more than 800,000, and still others contend that there were never more than 500,000. At the present time there are about 784,000 members of the red race in the United States. There are Indians in 18 states and three territories, exclusive of the Indian Territory. Nearly all the tribes are west of the Mississippi, by fact most of them are beyond the Missouri. There are 156 reservations in all. In the northwestern part of New York there are about 3000 descendants of the great warrior tribes living on eight reservations.

Status of Red Man Today.

Today there are 150,000 Indians who wear citizen's dress, the whole or in part, and 70,000 who can read and speak English. There are 28,000 Indian families now living in comfortable modern dwellings. When the Government first began supplying the Indians with houses it was a difficult matter to keep the old warriors in them. They would take possession in the best of faith, but the fall of the winter would soon prove so insistent that they would stable their horses in Uncle Sam's nice little houses and go back to their tepees.

But when an Indian once gets installed in a house he doesn't want any changes made in it. No matter

how large his family may grow, or how much money generous Uncle Sam may give him, he insists upon remaining in his original one-story shanty.

The Cherokees, who tracked De Soto's footsteps for many weary days while he was marching through the Southern forests and swamps, and who later welcomed Oglethorpe to Georgia, are the most advanced in civilization and the most eager for education, spending \$200,000 a year on their schools and colleges. The Chickasaws have fine colleges with 400 students, maintained at a yearly cost of \$47,000. They also have 13 district schools costing \$16,000. The Choctaws have 150 schools, in some of which the higher branches are taught. The Seminoles, one of the smallest tribes, have two schools. The Creeks have 10 colleges and 65 common schools, with total attendance of 2500.

40,000 Red Church Members.

The Indians make quite a strong religious showing. They have 300 church buildings and a total membership of about 40,000. Two Indian chiefs, who became converted to the Methodist faith and who were later licensed to preach, were MaNuncle and Between-the-Legs. Father Negahquet is said to be the only living full-blood Indian, who is a Roman Catholic priest. This able man studied in Rome and while there preached a sermon in the tongue of his fathers, the warlike Pottawatomies. Upon his return to this country he said mass in the big Catholic church at Oklahoma, which was the first mass ever given by a full-blood Indian priest on American soil. He is now working among the people of his race in Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

Charles Curtis will enter the United States Senate March 4 as a Senator from Kansas, and will be the first representative of the American Indian in that body. Mr. Curtis is not of pure Indian blood, but his mother belonged to the Kaw tribe. He and his five children have received allotments of good rich Shawnee County land in recognition of what Uncle Sam thinks he owes to the race who he and this country as its own before the Susan Constant and Mayflower crossed the Atlantic. Mr. Curtis has already served 16 years in the House, and is a trained legislator. He has the hair and color of an Indian, but in politics he does not play an Indian game. He knows the value of making up with his