

# Weekly Chemawa American

VOL. 12

JULY 1, 1910.

NO. 51

## Recording Languages.

To prepare a grammar of the languages spoken by each tribe of Indians in the Pacific Northwest, and which will be deposited in the archives of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, Dr. Leo J. Frachtenburg arrived in Portland yesterday on his second-journey to the wigwams of the original Americans. Dr. Frachtenburg conducts his studies while living among the Indians, if he finds it impossible to induce them to come to him, and has become an expert in a number of the tongues used by the red men.

He spent last year among the Coos tribe of Indians, and made the discovery that those Indians have a large claim against both the state of Oregon and the Government of the United States, which would enrich the living members of the tribe beyond their grandest dreams of wealth—if it could be collected.

When seen at the Hotel Portland, Dr. Frachtenburg said:

"The Smithsonian Institution has deemed it wise to gather and preserve the languages of the American Indians, and has detailed a number of men to

that work. This is my second trip to Oregon, as I spent last year with the Coos Indians.

"We have been engaged in the work for a number of years and probably will complete the Pacific Northwest division in 1911. I not only learn the language of the tribe with which I am working, but prepare a grammar which is to be preserved along with a history of the tribe and the great events in which its members participated. These become available to the people through members of Congress, who can obtain them as other public documents are secured.

"This year I will begin with the Molalla tribe, which is practically extinct. I have information of only three living members. They are Molalla Kate Williams, who lives on the Siletz Reservation; Molalla Henry, at Oregon City, and Stevens Savage, residing somewhere on North River. I will endeavor to get one or more of these Indians, who speak good English, to translate for me and will prepare a report after carefully checking the information with other Indians of the same tribe. After finishing

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