

OREGON AND IDAHO.

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d'Alene missionary, and during the day he told me the meaning of the French geological names in this part of the country and said that he was probably the first person that had ever written the word 'Idaho.' If he had been an Englishman he would have written the word 'Edanya,' which was what the Indians called the country around Boise because of the scintillations of the rising and setting sun on the snow capped mountains to the north; but being a Belgian and speaking French, he wrote it 'Idanha.' The word was no doubt further corrupted by dropping the letter 'n' and mistaking the last 'a' for an 'o,' thus accidentally producing a very euphonious name for the great state bordering Oregon on the east."

INDIAN TOWNS.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., —July 10— Indian chiefs attending the big sun, or willow dances, at big Jake's crossing near Clinton, Okla., announced today that they had decided to build a number of towns in which only Indians would be permitted to live.

It is planned that these towns shall be governed solely by Indians, who shall have their own stores and shops, doctors, lawyers and other professional and business men.

It is believed that this will do much to break up the roving habit among the red men of Western Oklahoma, and give them better opportunities in an economic way. The Indians own much land upon which desirable town lots could be located.

J. W. Strongheart, grandson of Sitting Bull, in advocating various reforms among the Indians; said more religion and less politics was needed in the Indian missions and schools.

ABOUT BROWNIES.

We are all very well acquainted indeed with the Brownie family, and we have usually supposed them to be just a fancy invented to amuse us. But a little girl wrote to St. Nicholas not long ago that her Scotch grandmother used to tell her a story to prove that the Brownies are not wholly a fairy race, after all. That is, they did have a real starting point in history, if this legend is true.

She said that at the time of certain religious persecutions in Scotland some of the people had to flee away and live in caves and other hiding places. The farmers around were very kind to the refugees and did all they could to help them, by food and in other ways. The folk in hiding grew into the habit of walking all doubled over as if crouching down not to be seen, which made them seem smaller than other folk. They used to go out at night and perform helpful deeds for those farmers who had helped them and we know this is the mark of a Brownie. He is supposed to do surprisingly kind things in some surprising way. These men would go and cut the farmers' grain, for instance, or do some other farm task. In return the farmers left food where they could find it. The farmer who did the most for the refugees was named Brown, and so the people were after a time called Brownies. Of course all sorts of stories began to be told about them, and they gradually were thought of as the mythical little creatures that the story books talk about nowadays.