

Weekly Chemsawa American

VOL. 13

JANUARY 27, 1911

NO. 29

Hurtful Pastime.

The white man's dance, the "respectable" dance, as some of the native people are wont to call it, has certainly aided in the rapid retrogression of a large number of natives in many Alaskan towns during the past two or three years. In Sitka, although many people became infatuated with this form of amusement, and some lives were as a result heading downward both physically and morally, a halt was called before the people reached the point where their minds were wholly given up to the dance and its progeny. A number of natives here never participated in this respectable (?) pastime and just lately many more, who have had a part in, having seen some of its evil results as well as tendencies in the lives of their people, have determined to put it out and spend their time in recreation less dangerous to their general welfare.

One of these people recently said to the writer: "Our dances are making trouble among our people. Some people get jealous because of dance. Some of our young folks get crazy in their heads. Pretty soon our dance be all the same as Juneau dance halls. I don't want any

more of it." This sentiment has been repeated by many others.

We honor the Sitka natives for the stand they have taken. It is a well known fact that the native village here is the cleanest and most progressive village in southeastern Alaska where the communal house still exists. It is also well known that its people in general are industrious and law abiding, beyond that of many other similar villages. So now, at a time when the white man's dance has almost stolen the minds of the natives in many of our towns, and when it is being introduced by natives in other villages into their old custom feasts and potlatches with more direful results than their own ancient form of dancing, it is surely fitting that Sitka natives should again take the lead, put that which they cannot control aside, and thus set an excellent example for all the native people of Alaska.—THLINGET.

Our basketball team won two games on last Saturday. In the afternoon the Mt. Angel team went down to defeat by a 29 to 27 score and in the evening Portland Academy was defeated by a 36 to 18 score.