



Geoffrey O'Hara, recently appointed by the Interior Department at Washington to record the travel songs and music of all American Indians, began his work in New York City last week by taking his first phonographic records of the songs of the Blackfoot Indians from Glacier National Park, Montana. Secretary of the Interior Lane took advantage of the presence of the Blackfoot Indians in New York, where they came to attend the Travel and Vacation show as guests of Louis W. Hill, chairman of the Board of Directors of Great Northern Railway. He sent Mr. O'Hara on to New York, from Washington, to begin his laborious task with these Indians. During the stay of the red men in New York, Mr. O'Hara had them sing into phonographs and the records will be sent on to Washington to be put in the government archives, therefore preserving for all time the music of the original Americans, who are rapidly passing to the Happy Hunting Ground.

The Indians could hardly grasp the idea at first of how they could sing into a tin horn and thereby record their music. After the first song had been sung, however, the reproduction was given them in a few minutes and the magic of the operation was bewildering to them. They thought it was the most wonderful of all the wonders they have seen, since their invasion of Greater New York. Mr. O'Hara had them sing daily to his phonograph, while the Indians were in New York and he is arranging to visit Glacier National Park early this summer and complete his records of the Blackfoot tribe there.

Through the Interior Department arrangements were made to take these records privately in an out of the way loft, second floor of 61 West 37th Street. Mr. O'Hara is a tenor singer and writer of songs of some note. Several of his musical friends prominent in the musical world in New York City and are very much interested with him, in the rhythm of the Glacier Park Indians' love songs. There is one song in particular which the Glacier Park Indians sing, in which these musical critics find considerable merit. This is a song descriptive of the Blackfoot Indians' love of his home environment. This is a song which they always have sung when they left the shadows of the Rocky Mountains and rode far over the prairies either on hunting expeditions or to fight the Sioux. Big Top, the Indians' interpreter, says, "His people always sing this song because when they go away from the mountains their hearts are lonely and it makes them think of 'Home, Sweet Home.' Mr. Louis W. Hill, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Great Northern Railway, who has done much for the Indians of the West in an educational way, both in agriculture and travel, is very much interested in Mr. O'Hara's work and has arranged to accompany him personally on his visit to the Glacier National Park reservation in Montana during the early summer. Mr. O'Hara will take his phonograph with him and make records right in the tepees of these Indians in their own environment.

The accompanying picture shows the Indians singing to the phonographs under the direction of Mr. O'Hara.

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