

PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 5, 1908

# NURSING the INDIAN BACK TO LIFE



The Indian Who Faced Complete Racial Extinction



The Indian Who is to Preserve His Race

## Why the Race That Faced Extinction is Now on the Increase

ONCE more the Indian is on the upgrade. There are now 40,000 more of him than there were twenty years ago. The ravages of firewater and disease, the devastating wars, the starvation of long, hard winters—these and kindred other causes that decimated the ranks of the red men have been terminated. In other words, the white man is repairing the damage he did. The centuries of aggression, of oppression, of land-grabbing, of greediness and ingratitude, have given way to a sane and broad-minded pol-

icy: that of making the Indian a part of the body politic. Education, the great uplifter, is proving once more its power. More than 30,000 Indian boys and girls are attending government schools maintained at an annual cost of \$3,300,000. Besides this, the adults in the great reservations have been taught how to support themselves, how to live in peace and comfort on some of the most productive lands that human beings could have the good fortune to occupy. The graft and oppression that once marked the conduct of Indian affairs are no more. The rich picking that made an Indian post-worth while has gone with the buffalo. That is the whole story. Nothing more is needed to explain why the red man is coming into his own again.

EVEN to students and sociologists there is a glamour about the Indian. Almost with the ardor of schoolboys do they speculate on who he is and where he came from. About him is that halo of mystery which attaches to the ancient, the antique, the unknowable. Even yet, in an age when so much is being

found out, they of the learned ilk are completely at sea as to the origin of the Indian. Some have it that he is an offshoot of those adventurous Chinese who went rowing around the sea long before the Vikings or the Spaniards came on earth. Others think that he is really an offshoot of one of the Hebrew tribes who were driven out of Israel. Indeed, there

is scarcely an ancient race which has wholly escaped responsibility as the progenitor of him. Yet, however all that may be, the white man found the red man roving all over the American continent—looking for a Messiah, as the white man had done over a thousand years before. Like many other things regarding the Indian, his numbers at that time can never be known. Some 250 years ago the aboriginal census takers estimated that in the territory bounded by the Great Lakes on the east and the Platte, Missouri and Mississippi rivers on the west and south there were 500,000 souls. This is 480,000 square miles of territory, which now supports more than 12,000,000 whites. Of the Indians, scarcely 50,000 are left.

### WHAT THE WHITE MAN DID

This is a fair sample of what the white man did for the Indian all over the continent. Our mixed ancestry had the fighting habit, and had it bad—particularly the French and English. They were not content with scrapping with each other. They dragged the redskins into it whenever they could, and the redskins, born to war, were nothing loth. When there were no wars the traders and land-grabbers got busy. The fiery braves took to spirits like ducks to water. They sold their furs, their lands, their very souls for it. Gradually the eastern settlers drove the red men toward the west. Then from the north and the south the whites closed in. Still westward went the red men, till, with the rush of the forty-niners to California and the acquisition of Texas and New Mexico, they were altogether hemmed in by civilization. Once great tribes, which were old when the Romans were young, which had their religions before the time of Christ, were reduced to shreds and tatters. Driven here and there, the flower of their chivalry cut off by war and whisky, they retained little more than a mem-

ory of their former greatness. At last, with the Sitting Bull uprising, there came an awakening to the civilized conquerors. These pitiful remnants of the once great red men had no place in the new order of things. The buffalo gone and other game growing almost daily scarcer, they were dependent upon supplies doled out by the government. Their tribal organizations weakened, their morals perverted, their bodies shattered by whisky, they were little better than paupers. Just two decades ago this was. Yet, in twenty years, there has come a complete change. The scattered bands which dot the West from the Canadian to the Mexican borders have been taught to take care of themselves. They can now till the soil, and they are becoming as healthy and prosperous as the other farmers. Their children are learning the ways of the white man, and are no inapt scholars. So it is that the red man is being nursed back to life. It is about time, for the few hundred thousand that are left of him are scattered among somewhere near sixty reservations. Only one settlement of any considerable numbers remains. That is the Navajo agency in Arizona, which has about 25,000 inhabitants. Other large agencies, with their inhabitants in round numbers, are: La Pointe, in Wisconsin, with 5000 Chippewas; Mackinac, in Michigan, with 8000 Chippewas, Ottawas and others; Pine Ridge, South Dakota, 7000 Sioux and Cheyennes; Rosebud, South Dakota, 5000 Sioux; White Earth, Minnesota, 8000 Chippewas; Pima, Arizona, 8000 Pimas; Pueblo and Jicarillo, New Mexico, Pueblos and Apaches, 11,000. All the other agencies comprise bands of from 500 to 3000, representing merely the remnants of once powerful tribes. Perhaps this breaking the Indian up into small bands has helped in a measure to combat a foe that, aided by whisky, has been making great inroads into his ranks—the white plague.

### HIS WORST ENEMY

For this, too, the redskin is indebted to the white man. In the last report of the Department of Commerce and Labor on mortality statistics, issued recently, it is declared that the mortality of the Indians from tuberculosis is "undoubtedly far higher than that of either the whites or the negroes, although it is believed by careful investigators that the disease was entirely absent before the advent of the white race in America." Because of this very fact and the consequent lack of the immunity conferred by previous struggles of the race with the disease, tuberculosis is peculiarly fatal in its effects upon the

Indian race. It is aided, moreover, by the changed conditions incident to civilized life and by ignorance and disregard of the possibilities of infection. In 1907, according to the summary made by the Office of Indian Affairs, there were 298,472 Indians in the United States, exclusive of Alaska. Of these the population of the five civilized tribes, including freedmen and intermarried whites, amounted to 101,228, and the remainder to 197,244. The proportion of the Indians found in the states where the voting population is registered in congressional districts was comparatively small, the aggregate Indian population of the registration states, as constituted in 1907, being 52,220, or 1.7 per 1000 of the total population as reported at the census of 1900. At present the only areas for which distinctive rates for Indians can be given are three Indian reservations in South Dakota. For these reservations the following table shows the mortality from tuberculosis of the lungs and other forms of tuberculosis for the years 1906 and 1907:

Area—Reservation	Number of deaths per 100,000 population	Tuberculosis	Other forms of tuberculosis	
Cheyenne River	1906	1907	1906	1907
Pine Ridge	538.5	474.6	211.7	—
Rosebud	515.3	444.4	263.3	274.5
	234	1,923.3	—	—

The exceedingly high death rates for these areas, except that for the Rosebud Reservation in 1906, clearly show the great prevalence and mortality of tuberculosis among the Indians. The rates are based, however, upon comparatively small populations, and the irregularity of the distribution of these pulmonary and other forms of the disease would suggest that the figures cannot be applied to all sections, but merely show how common is the disease among the redskins. The returns of death were obtained directly from the physicians at the Indian agencies. At the last International Congress on Tuberculosis, held at Washington, an exhibit was made of the mortality from tuberculosis among the Indians for the year ending June 30, 1908, by Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, assistant curator of the Smithsonian Institute, on the basis of special reports obtained from United States Indian agents and superintendents by Francis E. Loupp, commissioner of Indian affairs. Dr. Hrdlicka's figures showed an average mortality of 787.3 per 100,000 of the Indian population. How large this is may be judged from the fact that the average mortality for the whites in registration states from this disease was but 173.5 per 100,000, while the average for the negroes was 490.6, or but little more than half that of the Indian. (CONTINUED ON INSIDE PAGES)