HOOSIER TEACHER TELLS OF HELPING NATIVES IN NORTH

Schoolmaster of Esquimaux Gives Brief Story of Adventures in Wilds—Importation of Reindeer Helpful.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, Jan. 20.—A few days ago a short, stocky man with a quiet manner, a skin browned by much outdoor life, and the steady eye of one used to looking across great distances, came to Washington with such small fuss that it was more than a week before the reporters were aware of his presence at all. He is W. T. Lopp, head of the government's school system for Esquimaux, and a man who has spent most of his life since 1890 in Alaska, seldom "coming out," as he calls a trip down to the States.

Lopp was a Hoosier schoolmaster in Indiana, a boy just out of college, when the government sent him and another young man up to Cape Prince of Wales on Behring strait to start an Esquimaux school. He expected to remain but two years.

Went Into Wild Region.

When he went up he and his partner were the only white men living in all of northern Alaska. They went alone into a district where the natives were so dreaded that whalers would not put into port even for haven in a storm.

Since that time Lopp has seen the gold rushes go past him (he himself got the gold fever only once); he has traveled up and down and criscross Alaska on foot, mushing with dogs, or driving reindeer, from Pt. Barrow, northernmost pinnacle of the continent, down ot the Alaskan peninsula in the warm Japan stream, and eastward to the Canadian boundary.

Talks Little of Adventures.

Before white men came he has known what it is to be driving exhausted dogs in the bitter cold of interior Alaska, with the food dwindling; he has been in an Esquimaux hunting boat scuttled by the tusks of an infuriated walrus; he has fearlessly carried law into rough, lawless winter whaling stations in the Arctic ocean; he has faced death in a score of forms. But of all these he will say nothing. He prefers to talk about the government's Alaskan reindeer herd, of which he was the creator, and is the present administrative head.

"We got the idea of importing reindeer from Siberia that first year we were at Cape Prince of Wales," he said. "The country then had a bad reputation. But after we had learned a little more of the Esquimaux language we discovered that most of the trouble between Esquimaux and the whites resulted from ill treatment of the natives. We found them kindly, good natured people, with more native intelligence than Indians have, and eager to learn the white man's ways. Their chief faults were drunkenness and a tendency to steal whatever they could.

Trouble Only at First.

"We had some trouble with them at first, but we insisted on having our way. When they saw we were absolutely just and fair with them, their attitude changed. We taught them that stealing and drinking were wrong and they listened to us. Today it would be hard to find a more honest people than the Esquimaux living from Cape Prince of Wales northward, and drunkenness is almost unknown. Also they are the most advanced of the Esquimaux in carrying out our teachings of cleanliness and hygiene.

"That first winter we learned that the Esquimaux wanted to own reindeer, but that the revenue officers would not permit the importation. Some of the natives even owned reindeer in the Siberian herds across the straits. And it seemed a shame that they were forbidden to bring their property across from Asia, so near that the Siberian heights could be seen over the water on clear days.

Reindeer Are Shipped in.

"We appealed to Washington for permission to import reindeer. But other government agents had preceded us in this request. Before we had a reply from our letter that summer a revenue cutter put into port with a shipment of reindeer on board. We were overjoyed to know that the prohibition of the law had been removed and set about getting more.

"In 1892 came the first large importation. We brought in 1200 that year, and from these grew the present herd, scattered throughout Alaska and numbering over 35,000.

"The reindeer policy was gradually evolved. We impress upon the Lapps and Esquimaux that the reindeer are exclusively their property and care. For instance, they are not allowed to sell female reindeer to white men, so that the brood animals are to be perpetually in the custody and ownership of the natives.

Natives Own Animals.

"We usually establish a reindeer herd wherever we have a native school. The school superintendent has supervision over the herd, though the animals are owned by the natives. When a new herd is to be started, young, ambitious natives are selected as apprentice herders for a four year term. For his first year's services, in addition to his living the apprentice receives six reindeer; the second year eight, and the third year 10, and the fourth year 10. So that what you may term a journeyman herder owns 34 reindeer. They are then free to breed their animals and sell their calves or stock of any age or sex to the other natives.

"Reindeer are food, clothing and transportation to the natives. As food, reindeer is delicious, resembling both mutton and beef, but more palatable than either. Along in October, when the deer are fat from a summer's feeding on grasses and foliage, they are best for eating. The natives take reindeer tallow and mix red moss berries into it, making a dish that looks like ice cream and which is fine to eat.

"The reindeer finds his food along the ways. He can paw through the snow when tethered out and find moss to eat. He is strong, so the driver can ride. And the reindeer can travel 40 miles a day and keep it up for a week at a time."

Church Damaged by Fire.

(Special to The Journal.)

Junction City, Or., Jan. 20.—The residents of Junction were startled by the fire alarm when it was discovered that the Methodist Episcopal church had caught fire from an overheated furnace. Prompt action by the bucket brigade extinguished the blaze. Had the discovery of the fire been 15 minutes later the entire church would have been destroyed.

Liquid air, loaded in thick prosphor bronze cartridges, is being successfully used for blasting in some English coal mines.

Orchards Thrive in Deep Volcanic Ash

Hermiston, Or., Jan. 20.—The accompanying picture shows a 4-year-old peach orchard on the Umatilla government project at Hermiston, also the vegetation growing between the rows of trees in the sand. As this project is as yet very young there are very few bearing orchards at present. Mr. Dishon will have peaches and apples growing on his 10 acres this summer.

KING GEORGE'S TRIP TO INDIA DEEMED COURT'S WORST BLUNDER

By Ed L. Keen.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

London, Jan. 20.—The king's Durbar trip was a failure. Not only this, but in the opinion of thoughtful Englishmen it was the most colossal blunder in the recent history of the Indian administration.

During their six weeks' visit in India, the king and queen, new en route home, covered thousands of miles of territory and exhibited themselves to millions of their dusky subjects; but instead of "tightening the bonds of Empire and consolidating British rule in India," as the advance notice proclaimed, the trip stirred up more trouble than all the seditious activities of native agitators in the past five years.

The wanton extravagance of the Durbar ceremony at a time when money was so badly needed in India for the relief of human suffering, created an unfavorable impression from the start, and practically every stage of their majesties' theatrical progress through the empire was marked by "regrettable incidents," as the official explanations put it.

Bombay Feels Slighted.

Bombay, one of the most loyal cities of the country, was bitterly offended, when, after it had been combed by the secret police, it was announced that the king and queen would have their headquarters on board the Medina during their visit there, instead of residing on shore. The king-emperor, while making speeches praising the loyalty of his Indian subjects, did not trust them after all. Except for the time when he was engaged in the ceremonies on land, he was under the guard of his own warships, instead of relying upon the fidelity of his native troops.

A far better impression also would have been made if the king and queen, when they reached Delhi, had taken up their residence in the old royal palace, instead of surrounding themselves by 50,000 troops in a temporary camp. The official explanation was that the palace was too old and unsanitary for their occupation; but it might easily have been overhauled, and at much less cost than the construction of the camp.

Innumerable squabbles over precedence, inseparable from such a gathering of haughty princes of various races and religions, marked the whole proceedings at Delhi. But the most serious mistake was the snub or insult to the gaekwar of Baroda, the second most powerful chieftain in India. The gaekwar had rendered homage in a cavalier manner, we are told, but the apology wrung from him, to soothe the offended dignity of the king-emperor, was far more a public insult than the actual offense. The whole story will probably never be told, but although it is now stated semi-officially that the gaekwar's behavior had been very unsatisfactory for some time past, it is tolerably certain that his present disgrace is primarily due to his having been mixed up in an English divorce case. Two days before the Durbar ceremony an application was made in the London courts to cite the Mahratta chieftain as a co-respondent in the Statham divorce suit. The judge, doubtless acting under instructions from the India office, deferred judgment until after the Durbar, on the question of whether the gaekwar was an independent ruling prince and as such outside the jurisdiction of the English courts. Later he decided that the Indian potentate was property exempt.

British court etiquette places persons who have been involved in divorce cases outside the pale, and with such a rigid moralist as Queen Mary on the throne, it is possible that the gaekwar received an intimation that he make himself inconspicuous after the formal Durbar ceremony, even if he was not told to absent himself altogether.

Evil Example Feared.

The indifferent manner in which he rendered homage and the sneering expression with which he turned his back on the king-emperor after bowing could not be overlooked, for fear it might encourage other princes to imitate him, or think that the British king could be treated with disdain. The humble apology, and the very thin excuse of "nervousness," published by the viceroy "with the gaekwar's consent," and the crushing official intimation that his "attendance" was "dispensed with" for the rest of the ceremonies may have had a salutory effect on some of the princes, but it published to the whole world the story of the geakwar's offense and punishment.

The gaekwar's subjects number nearly 3,000,000, but there are many more millions of Mahrattas in the neighboring states, and the same race supplies a number of the most trusted regiments of the Indian army. How these people will take the humiliation of the principal Mahratta chieftain is impossible to foresee.

Then again, the hunting trip into Nepal was a blunder, for the other great princes, terribly jealous of their privileges, resent the favoritism shown to the maharaja of Nepal—of entertaining the king-emperor in his own palace and his own state—a privilege which was denied to all others. From the point of view of the people of Nepal, any personal satisfaction they may have derived from this token of esteem was nullified by the sudden death of their ruler, a week before the hunt commenced. The mahraja's death and the king's visit would not connect themselves in the mind of a European, but that the British authorities realized the effect on the native imagination is proved by the fact that the people were not allowed to hear of their ruler's death for nearly a week after the event. Then the news was accompanied by the official assurance that the mahraja's dying wish was that the king-emperor should go on with his hunting.

The theatrical announcement at the durbar of the change of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi and the administrative reorganization in Bengal also provoked much unfavorable comment. From an administrative point of view, the change has much to recommend it, although it will be a terribly expensive business—costing some $20,000,000—and in addition to pleasing the natives of the northwest and northern provinces, it provided King George with an opportunity of showing his kingly power by making a totally unexpected and important announcement, apparently without having consulted his ministers.

But the Bangalis, who number over 70,000,000, object to losing the capital, and the ever recurring problem of governing the great masses of Hindus and Mohammedans in Bengal has been further aggrivated by the administrative reforms. Lord Curzon caused sedition and bloodshed by his well meant but misguided separation of the Hindu and Mohammedan administrations, but the latest plan which apparently reunited the province, although really splitting it up a bit more, pleases neither side. It has raised trouble for the king and the Liberal administration in England, because for the first time the king has been made the mouthpiece of a party planning new and totally unexpected legislation, and the very fact that the announcement was made by the king himself prevents anything in the way of parliamentary criticism and amendment. In effect, the government in announcing such changes through the mouth of the sovereign has made laws without consulting parliament.

Above all, in attempting to emphasize the doctrine of "personal government," King George and his advisers overlooked his majesty's physical disadvantages. Physical strength and an imposing appearance must always appeal to the natives of India and kindred countries, but the sight of the undersized, and almost insignificant looking British monarch came as a shock to the fiery warriors who have been taught to regard the kaiser-i-hind as something in the nature of deity. From this point of view alone, King George would better have taken the advice of those who sought to dissuade him from the Indian trip.

Granary Plant Destroyed.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 20.—The Winnipeg Steel Granary & Culvert company are losers by $50,000 today as the result of a fire last night which was most spectacular. Although the plant is four miles out of town and the weather was over 20 below zero, a large crowd went out to watch the firefighters.

Journal Want Ads bring results.

Beaten by His Son.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

San Francisco, Jan. 20.—Robert Curry wanted Judge Sturtevant to set aside the alimony in his wife's divorce suit. When he left the court room he was met by his son and a left jab on the nose. "I'm with maw," said Curry junior.

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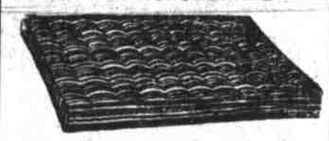

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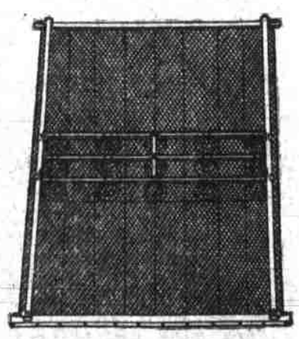

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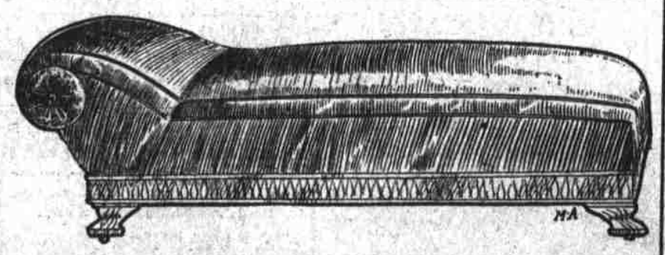

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