

INDIAN'S VOICE IS WORTH A FORTUNE

Nature in capricious yet lavish mood sometimes bestows her choicest gifts most unexpectedly. We are told that it is the unexpected that always happens, but—it startles, never the less. One would not look for the gift of song in an Indian, but Charles Cutter, a full blooded Alaskan Indian, possesses a voice of such rare power and sweetness his white brothers may well envy him his wonderful gift of song.

Charles Cutter's Indian name is "Dochh-hoh-harchh" (no I will not attempt its pronunciation). I've already acquired six gray hairs remembering the spelling alone, and means Raven, his grand father is the Eagle, and he comes of a mighty tribe of warriors who have been chiefs and head men of their people for generations.

Mr. Cutter was born 27 years ago in Shaken, a little village in southeastern Alaska, and belongs to the Thlinket tribes. Until he was seven he was as other boys of his race, and it was taken for granted that he, in the fullness of time, would also become a great man in his tribe, and preside over council fires, become a mighty hunter, make the pipe of peace with the pale faces who came into the country, and in other ways deport himself as a great chief should.

But Dochh-hoh-harchh, the Raven, had other plans for himself. Hidden deep in the innermost recess of his soul was the longing for music, not the weird barbaric tribal chants of the Thlinkets, but something different. He had listened to and taken part in the gospel hymns of the mission school which he attended since his seventh year, and it was this music that appealed to him. With the very first money he ever earned, \$3, he invested in a cornet. That there was no one at the mission capable of teaching him to play the instrument did not for a moment daunt the spirit of this son of royalty.

For two years he practiced, and at the end of that time was able to play the mission hymns, and was incidentally the happiest boy in Alaska, but this achievement only whetted his appetite for more. Somehow there had penetrated to the wilds of that little snow bound settlement the news of the Chemawa Indian school, Straightway the Raven made up his mind that he wanted to go there, but how to get there was the vexatious problem. Alaska Indians were barred unless they paid their own way. But to the Raven where there is a will there is also a way, and having made up his mind to go to Chemawa he set about encompassing the means to attend the end. He did this by working in the Alaska fish canneries until he had secured the requisite amount.

The day he entered the school he was almost as happy as he was when he mastered the intricacies of the cornet. That day marked the turning point in his career. He became a member of the Chemawa Indian school band and also the singing society. It was just about this time that Mrs. N. J. Campbell of Chemawa heard him sing and recognizing the latent possibilities of his voice taught him solo work.

His initial box was made in the summer of '02-3, at Chemawa, where he sang for the first time in public. It is customary to think of an Indian being stolid and unafraid at all times and in all places, but Mr. Cutter describes most graphically his bad case of stage fright in which his knees quaked and his heart pounded to suffocation.

Mr. William Boyer of Portland heard him on this occasion and with prophetic mind he looked into the future and saw success written large above the head of the poor, unknown, obscure Indian boy from Alaska. The upshot of the matter was that he forever dropped his Indian patronymic and became the protégé of Mr. Boyer.

Mr. Cutter as yet has made but few public appearances. During the Lewis and Clark fair he sang with the Carnival of Venice company and again at the unveiling of the statue of Sacajawea. Since then his work has been confined principally to choir singing.

It is the personality of the man that first attracts one. I don't know whether he has ever been told that he is handsome, but it is undoubtedly a fact. He shows his royal blood in his features and his actions are graceful in the extreme. At present he is entirely unspoiled, yet I can well imagine in the fullness of time when he has seen more of the world that he will be most attractive to women, and I believe, too, that should he ever forget his art in the interest of the little god of love that he would make an ideal lover.

But it is not of these things that Charles Cutter, erstwhile Dochh-hoh-harchh, the Raven, is concerned. Music is to him the breath of life. It represents everything—fills every long of his soul. His taste in music is far from Catholic. He has no use for the popular music of the day, but prefers the standard operas, his three favorites being "Faust," "La Bohème" and "Carmen." Of the modern love songs he confesses to a predilection for Brahms and Pissutti's.

Mr. Cutter speaks English with just enough accent to make his speech interesting and attractive, and sings with equal facility in English or German. He told me that unless a child of the Thlinket tribe is taught English by the time he is 6 or 7 it is impossible for him to learn the tongue afterwards, as that particular Indian dialect is so full of gutturals and consonants.

At present Mr. Cutter is preparing for the greatest undertaking he has yet made, a concert tour of six months under the direction of the Lyceum Bureau of Chicago. He will start out next fall, going as far west as Chicago, and as far east as New York.

Mr. Cutter has claimed Portland as

his home for a number of years and Portland will yet have cause to be proud to claim as her own this Indian song bird, the only one of his kind in the entire northwest.

COMPANY TO DEVELOP WILLAMETTE OIL LAND

To develop oil deposits in Linn county is the purpose of a company formed yesterday afternoon at Lebanon, says an item from Albany. The company includes a number of the leading business men of Lebanon and about 40 farmers residing between Lebanon and Crabtree.

This promises the most extensive movement ever undertaken to prospect for petroleum in this county, and the indications of big oil deposits in the country between Lebanon and Lacombe will be thoroughly tested.

The new company will be incorporated under the name of the Lebanon Oil & Milling company. At yesterday's meeting the following committee was named to form the corporation: Attorney Samuel M. Garland, John Griggs, C. H. Vehr, John Middestadt and Henry Pyle.

That there is oil in Linn county there is no doubt, but the problem to solve is whether it exists in paying quantities. For years, indications of oil have been found in many places just south of Lacombe, and southward from that point within three miles from Lebanon. Many attempts have been made by individuals in past years to bore for oil near Lacombe, and petroleum has always been found but no "gushers" have ever been struck.

The new company promises the first systematic investigation of the county's oil resources. The company will lease lands which give indications of containing oil, and will prospect in a scientific manner. Experts will be secured to do this part of the work.

The farmers who have been instrumental in organizing the company have several tracts already located, where oil is believed to exist in paying quantities.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists, 75c.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

All Ready at Saratoga.

Saratoga, N. Y., Sept. 12.—All is in readiness at Saratoga for the gathering of the republican clans in state convention here on Monday. Many politicians have already arrived to look after their fences and the topic of conversation in the hotel lobbies has shifted from racing and society affairs to an unremitting discussion of the political outlook. Friends of Governor Hughes declare that no other name will be presented for the gubernatorial nomination, but this opinion is not shared by the enemies of the present chief executive, who are beginning to arrive in force.

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Maine Campaign Closes.

Portland, Me., Sept. 12.—After the most vigorous campaign that Maine has known in recent years, the contest for state offices closes tonight and the issue will be decided by the voters on Monday. Conservative leaders on both sides admit that owing to the injection of the prohibition issue the conditions are such as to leave the result in doubt. Both the democratic and republican gubernatorial candidates are claiming certain victory, but neither expects an overwhelming plurality.

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