

The Evening Herald

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EDDY MAW
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1920

WILL ORGANIZE INDIAN TROOPS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—A proposal to organize one or more full divisions of Indian troops as a part of the re-organized army, and to be known as the North American Indian division or divisions, is pending in Congress as part of the army re-organization legislation.

Many instances of exploits of personal heroism on the western front, such as won for the Red Men in France the nickname of "squirrel hunters," because of the deadly accuracy of their rifles in sniping contests with Germans, were furnished the committee as evidence of valuable man power which, it is contended, would be wasted if the Indians are denied a place in the army scheme.

Expertness at scouting and patrolling, particularly at night and in unknown territory; disregard for personal danger under fire, and unflinching loyalty, were among the soldierly qualities the Indian was described as possessing to an unusual degree. Specific cases are cited by Dr. Joseph Kossuth Dixon, secretary of the National American Indian Memorial association, of which Rodman Wanamaker of New York is founder and president. Dr. Dixon also read a letter from General Pershing giving his "heartly approval" to a plan to enlist Indian regiments.

A majority of the more than 17,000 Indians who saw military service during the war were members of the 90th division, the Texas and Oklahoma National Army division, the 36th division, National Guardsmen from the same two states, and the 165th infantry, or old 69th New York, which received heavy Indian replacements to fill the gaps produced in its ranks by fighting on the Marne. But the Redskins served in many other units and in practically all services.

Dr. Dixon declared that after visiting numerous camps and hospitals, all officers interviewed, from the commanding officer to the corporal or petty officer, who have had Indians under their command, with one accord render universal and enthusiastic commendation of the brilliance, the stability, the amenability

to discipline, the heroism and valor of the Indian as a fighting force in our American army and navy.

Major Tom Reilly, who commanded the 2nd battalion of the 165th infantry, was quoted as saying that the Indians were "the best and safest replacements he had at any time."

"They were expert in rifle fighting, game, strong, brave, resolute," Major Reilly said. "They were superior in scouting and patrol-work. They were unexcelled in every phase of every fight."

"I have no hesitancy in recommending any one of my Indians for a first sergeantcy, or even a captaincy. . . . I had replacements on eight different occasions, so thorough was the decimation of my ranks, and these Indians were unqualifiedly the very best replacements sent me. Many of them were killed or wounded, for they always sought the dangerous places. . . . I advocate the segregation of Indian troops, for I noted that when they were sent out as a distinct Indian force they did their best work."

An instance of how the Choctaw dialect of men under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William J. Morrissey, of the 142nd infantry, proved of value in dodging the German "listening-in" system was related by Dr. Dixon. In October, 1918, preceding the armistice, when the 142nd infantry was in front of St. Etienne, on the Champagne front, the Germans detected American troop movements by tapping wires. To avoid this, Colonel Morrissey organized a signal square of Choctaws to transmit the messages in their original dialect. "This barred-wire conversation," Dr. Dixon said, "was a barrage that nonplussed the Germans."

In working the "code," it was found that there were no words in the Choctaw tongue for many military technical expressions, and it was necessary to make up a table of substitutes, such as "one grain corn" for "first battalion" and "arrows" for "ammunition."

Dr. Dixon's plan proposes the establishment of permanent regimental or battalion headquarters on or near important reservations, a system of schools on or near reservations for the purpose of preparing Indian youths for a military career and duties of citizenship, and a higher school, to be known as the Indian West Point, for instructing Indians in the duties of non-commissioned officers. The plan would allow Indian non-commissioned officers to enter regular officers' schools.

Other sections of the measure would declare all Indians of one-eighth or more blood, who shall have reached the age of 21 years, or who shall have taken the prescribed oath of a regular soldier of the United States, to be full citizens of the United States. Subject to a reading and writing test, after 1929 all Indian graduates of the reservation would be declared full citizens on reaching 21 years of age.

Testifying before the house committee, Dr. Dixon charged that the commissioner of Indian affairs does not believe in Indian citizenship, and that he had prohibited the delivery to Indians in some sections of copies of testimony before the house military committee in 1917, when Dr. Dixon argued for the recruiting of ten or more regiments of Indian cavalry for use in the war. Under a ruling by the attorney general, the commissioner of Indian affairs was held to have the same power of regulation over the mail of Indians as the warden of a penitentiary in preventing the delivery of mail to convicts.

"I ask you to note," Dr. Dixon said, "that the Indian, in the majority of cases a ward of the government, was treated as a convict, but still was considered worthy of being drafted."

The secretary of war opposed the organization of the Indian regiments in 1917 on the ground that he did not favor segregation of troops according to race.

MARINE NAMES BABY MARINE CORA HAVERLY.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., Feb. 13.—Sergt. Oran B. Haverly, United States Marine corps, and Mrs. Haverly announce the birth of a daughter, who will be christened "Marine Cora Haverly."

In requesting a furlough and announcing the birth of the child to his commanding officer the marine used the Biblical quotation, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Sergeant Haverly explained that he wanted a boy, but as he could not hope ever to enlist his child in the corps, he had done the best he could to make a good marine of her. He got his furlough.

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AT THE THEATERS

Harry Carey fans, who are numbered here by the thousand, will have an opportunity to see this popular Universal star in his screen masterpiece, "Marked Men," announced for the Liberty Theatre tonight. The story was written by Peter B. Kyne, one of America's favorite novelists, under the name of "The Three God-fathers," for the Saturday Evening Post.

The scenes of "Marked Men" are laid in the great American West where Harry Carey, in his favorite role of Cheyenne Harry, is serving a term in the penitentiary, with two pals, who have been convicted as train robbers on circumstantial evidence. With the help of a fourth rat on the outside, the three make their escape.

Harry wanders to a rough mining settlement and falls in love with the Mojave Lily, a girl in a dance hall, who urges him to go straight. Out of loyalty to his pals, who risked their lives for him in the jail delivery, he guards their horses while they execute a bank robbery. With two of them he flees to the desert, where they find a newly born babe in a wrecked prairie schooner. The dying mother asks the three men to be the boy's guardians. Burdened with the infant, they continue across the blinding sands. The other, bandits succumb to thirst and exhaustion, but Harry reaches a mining settlement with the baby. Cheyenne finds redemption and wins the girl he loves.

Jack Ford directed the picture. Carey is supported by Winifred Westover, Farrell McDonald, Joe Harris, Ted Brook and Charles LeMoine.

"OH, BOY!"—MINUS A VILLAIN

The sly, slinking villain of the stage and screen tradition with his mischief-making misadventures and his penchant for harassing the helpless heroine, will be among the missing in "Oh, Boy!" Albert Capellani's "Filmmusical-Comedy," co-starring

June Caprice and Creighton Hale. Neither will the vicious vampire or any other specie of iniquitous individual have a chance to weave his or her web of evil in "Oh, Boy!" for the new "Filmmusical-Comedy" is essentially a picture of the gloom-dispelling variety in which shadows have no place. The dramatic or emotional conflict necessary to sustain the interest in a production of feature length in "Oh, Boy!" is derived from an amusing cycle of circumstances in which the

leading proponents of the story played by Miss Caprice and Creighton Hale are enmeshed by some whim of Fate. It might therefore be said that Fate, in this instance, assumes the role of villainess but her intrigues are not of the malevolent variety although they cause a series of complications that keep everyone concerned decidedly uneasy until the climax is reached, when everything is explained to everyone's satisfaction. This villainess motion picture mas-

terpiece is due for the first local exhibition at the Liberty Theatre on Sunday.

In the days of ancient Rome a person was required to enter a house with the right foot foremost, because the left was thought unlucky. A boy was kept at the door to see that no one entered the house left foot first.

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