

MESQUAKIE BOOSTER

VOL. 4.

TOLEDO, IOWA, DECEMBER, 1916.

No. 3

BOOSTERS

Mrs. Joseph Tesson is quite sick.

On Monday, the 25th, Rev. and Mrs. R. G. Smith will serve Christmas dinner to the Mesquakies.

Chuck, trapping at Liscomb, Ia., caught thirty muskrats, five skunks and one mink—all prime fur. His rats brought thirty-five cents, somewhat less than last year.

Ahsamesa and John Allen, two of our older Indians, submitted to painful operations for the relief of inverted eye lids, resulting from trachoma, which operations were entirely successful, the patients experiencing great relief from the pain they constantly suffered from the rubbing of the eyelashes on the eye ball.

Mrs. John Papake, Glenn Papake and Jim Bear were also operated on for trachoma and Herman Jefferson was operated on for adenoids.

George Green has returned from a visit to friends in Nebraska.

Walter Kakaquemo has enrolled at Pipestone and Willie Poweshiek has re-enrolled at Haskell. Willie was offered a good job with the Ford people at Detroit but turned it down believing that further instruction at Haskell would do him more good.

The Booster regrets to announce that both George and Henry Wanatee are very low, suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. These boys are well known members of the Indian ball team and had a large acquaintance among the white fans in this vicinity.

William Devenport completed his new house and several days ago had a housewarming to which thirty Indian guests were invited. An elaborate dinner was served and very much enjoyed by the assembled company. Dr. Culp dropped in and took advantage of the occasion to examine the eyes of all present.

William Wanatee has also completed a new house and now has one of the nicest little homes on the reservation. The Mesquakies are certainly to be commended for the way they are providing their families with new homes.

Chuck has built a new hen house, expecting to take better care of his poultry in the future, combined with his bee raising, Chuck expects to derive quite a little income from these sources.

Peter D. Morgan, whose horse was killed on the Milwaukee right-of-way, has been awarded the full amount of his claim by the railroad authorities. Such quick action in the settlement of this claim is due to United States Attorney O'Connor who handled the matter for us.

Some of our white neighbors, assisted by a number of our Indians, voluntarily worked the road at the Fox Day school recently.

Ida Poweshiek and Sophie Tesson expect to leave for a visit to friends in Wisconsin.

Mrs. George Green and Valentine Davenport left on the 22nd for Winnebago, Neb., where she will spend the holidays with relatives and friends.

Frank Shawata recently returned from Kellog, Ia., where he went on a trapping expedition and reports that fur bearing animals were very scarce in that vicinity.

There are a few of our Indians who have not settled for seed corn purchased under the reimbursable plan. We are anxious to close this account and would request that those owing for seed corn settle for same at the earliest possible date.

The Booster wishes all of its patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are pleased to find a copy of No. 1, Vol. 1, of the Sisseton Indian Farmer among our exchanges. This paper is published by Superintendent Mossman, of Sisseton agency.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn E. Judy, formerly employed as teacher at the Fox Day school but now Agency Farmer at Leech Lake Agency, are visiting old acquaintances in this vicinity.

Indians are losing too many horses killed on the railroads and while it is true that a certain number of these are paid for by the railroad companies, it nevertheless means losses to owners because it is seldom that real value of the animal is obtained or that the money so obtained is spent for other horses. Horses killed at the crossings of course are total losses. If our Indians would only realize that they are always losers whenever their horses are killed on the road they would go to the trouble to see that horses are kept in properly fenced pastures and not turned on the highway as they are at present.

A PRECOCIOUS INDIAN

A Four Year Old Ranks With Indian Pupils Much Older

Thomas Jefferson is a Winnebago Indian who has made his home for several years on the Mesquakie reservation. His wife is a Sac and Fox woman and their children are declared to be the brightest on the reservation. Two of them, Jeffries and Clarence, are well along in their studies at the Indian school and another one, only four years old, started to school in October and is now abreast in his studies of Indian pupils seven years old. There is hope for the Indians when the four-year-olds show such a thirst for knowledge.—Tama Herald.

MESQUAKIE BOOSTER

Issued Once a Month During the School Year From the Sac and Fox Sanatorium, Toledo, Iowa

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Address all communications to the paper and they will receive prompt attention

ROBERT L. RUSSELL, Supt.

DO NOT GIVE INDIAN TRAPPERS CREDIT

This year we are again being appealed to for assistance in securing the payment of debts contracted on out of town merchants by Indians away on trapping expeditions and as heretofore we have been compelled to advise creditors that we cannot assist them.

Each year a few Indians, when off on hunting trips, by putting up the tough luck story, secure whatever credit they can, making all kinds of promises to settle, then skip out without making good, leaving the merchant with the bag to hold.

This practice is a disgrace to the tribe, but in so far as we can see merchants trusting Indians have no redress, and we can only advise therefore that no Indian away from the reservation be allowed to deal on credit.

CHICKENS

With the price of scratch food hovering around three dollars a hundred, it is a waste of good hard earned money to attempt to feed poultry for eggs unless the best possible feeding conditions exist.

During this cold weather hens must be protected from draughts, must have warm water to drink, good heat producing food and a deep litter in which to scratch. Under these con-

ditions the egg yield can be brought close to fifty per cent and at forty cents per dozen the eggs obtained yield a handsome profit on the price of feed.

At the sanatorium with our colony of White Leghorn pullets the egg yield is running between forty and fifty per cent while the Rhode Island Reds at the Fox Day school yielded sixty per cent for the whole month of November.

Indian women can secure results approximating the above if they will make the proper effort.

AGENTS TO MESQUAKIES

Leander Clark, special agent, July 1, 1866 to July 10, 1869.

Lieut. Frank D. Garretty, July 11, 1869 to October 10, 1870.

Leander Clark, October 11, 1870, to September 18, 1872.

Rev. A. R. Howbert, September 19, 1872 to the spring of 1875.

Thomas S. Free, Spring of 1875 to 1878.

George L. Davenport, 1878-1885.

O. H. Mills, 1885-1886.

William H. Black, 1886-1888.

Enos Gheen, May 1888 to June 4, 1890.

W. R. Lesser, June 5, 1890, to September 30, 1894.

Horace M. Rebok, October 1, 1894 to January 27, 1899.

William G. Malin, January 28, 1899 to September 30, 1907.

Orville J. Green, October 1, 1907 to October 10, 1913.

B. L. Russell, October 11, 1913—.

CHOOSE

When the Creator had made all the good things, there was still some dirty work to do, so he made the beasts and reptiles and poisonous insects, and when He had finished He had some scraps that were too bad to put into the Rattlesnake, the Hyena, the Scorpion, and the Skunk, so He put all these together, covered it with suspicion, wrapped it with jealousy,

marked it with a yellow streak, and called it a KNOCKER.

This product was so fearful to contemplate, that He had to make something to counteract it, so He took a sunbeam and put it in the heart of a child, the brain of a man, wrapped these in civic pride, covered it with brotherly love, gave it a mask of velvet and a grasp of steel, and called it a BOOSTER; made him a lover of the fields and flowers and manly sports, a believer in equality and justice; and ever since these two were, mortal man has had the privilege of choosing his associates. (Push-e-to-ne-qua).

SANITORIUM

Miss Alice M. Ford, Maryville, Mo., has reported for duty as nurse at the sanatorium.

Dr. Russell was called to Cedar Rapids, Ia., last week to inspect rolled oats for the Service.

Wednesday and Thursday of this week have been happy days for the sanatorium children able to visit town. The boys on Wednesday and the girls on Thursday have had great pleasure in doing their Christmas shopping. On Christmas eve Santa Claus in his new jitney will visit the sanatorium and hand in person presents to all children who have been good. We have already seen some of the presents and as they are all very fine indeed we know that our patients are safe in anticipating a joyous Christmas.

Dr. L. L. Culp, specialist, accompanied by Miss Mabel Bright, trained nurse, have left for Haskell Institute, Kansas, after having spent two weeks operating on patients at the sanatorium and on the reservation. The doctor operated successfully on many of our Indians, among his patients being several of the older Mesquakies who had heretofore depended upon the Indian doctor when they required medical treatment. Several others declined operation, but now wish that they had taken advantage of Dr.

Culp's skill after having seen the results obtained on their friends. When he comes again we are quite sure that Dr. Culp will have all the work he can possibly handle.

On December 1, the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. of Leander Clark college held a special meeting at the sanatorium for the benefit of the patients. The meeting was a complete success, thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated and a great stimulus to the sanatorium branch.

December 8th Father Steffen held a special program for the members of the Holy Name Society, the whole sanatorium turned out and enjoyed the program very much. Special thanks are due to the boys from St. Mary's parochial school who assisted in the program.

Miss Jessie McKay, Latour Mo., is our new teacher at the sanatorium. Miss McKay, while new to the Service, is an experienced teacher who has already demonstrated that she will be successful here.

Mrs. Mattie Fairbanks, boys' matron, has resigned ; effective December 13. Mrs. Fairbanks has returned to her home at Detroit, Minn.

Mr. Lewis F. Brown, formerly clerk here, who has recently seen service with the Chicago Light Battery on the border and who has been reinstated clerk and assigned to Rosebud reservation, spent several days visiting old friends at the sanatorium before reporting to his new place of duty.

Ed. Stewart, of Toledo, Ia., is filling the position of night fireman during the winter.

Oliver-Byrne

The day before Thanksgiving engineer Oliver advised the Superintendent that he was compelled to have a couple of days off in order to visit his father and sister at Superior, Wis.

The application was approved but instead of landing at Superior he showed up at Wahpeton where he robbed that school of its beautiful and accomplished trained nurse, Miss Bessie Byrne, and changed her name

to Mrs. James Oliver, at Omaha, Nebraska, December 4, 1916.

After a short honeymoon the newly weds returned to the sanatorium where they received the warmest kind of a welcome from employees and patients.

The Booster extends this worthy couple congratulations and best wishes.

Miss Regina Russell, who is attending school at the State University at Iowa City, is visiting her parents at the sanatorium.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mesquakie Day School, December 22, 1916.

- Musical selection....Indian orchestra
- Song—"Merry Christmas"School
- Prayer Rev. Smith
- Solo—"The Fir Trees are Waving"Flodo Keahna
- Scripture Recitation (Matt. 2:1 thru 12)School
- Solo—"The Dear Little Baby"Alice Davenport
- Recitation—"Merry Christmas Everybody".....Grace Morgan
- Recitation—"When I Think of You"Kenneth Kapayou
- Song—"Glad Christmas Day" School
- Recitation—"A Child's Speech" Bobbie Waseskuk
- Recitation—"An Awful Wish"Columbus Keahna
- Song—"Hark How the Christmas Bells (Bells)School
- Recitation—"The Glorious Day" Thomas Scott
- Song—"Little Flakes of Snow" Seven girls
- Exercises—"Passing the Light" Five pupils
- Solo—"Luthur's Cradle Hymn" Grace Morgan
- Recitation Grace Scott
- Recitation—"Some Happy Little Bluebirds"Alice Davenport
- Song—"Christmas Joy Bells" School
- Recitation—"On Christmas Day"Roger Morgan

- Recitation—"Little Lights of Christmas"Mable Davenport
- Song—"Let the Merry Church Bells RingSchool
- Recitation—"Make a Present to Yourself"Flodo Keahna
- Duet—"No Room for my Savior" Rose White Breast
- Recitation—"Christmas Star"Primary Class
- Christmas Acrostic....Primary Class
- Song—"Holy Night, Peaceful Night"School
- Distribution of Presents and orchestra selection.

ALASKAN INDIAN ICE CREAM

The main food of the Alaskan Indian is meat and fish. In the winter many people do not cook the fish at all, simply leave them in the house for two or three days and then eat them raw. Women always serve the food and always see that others are satisfied before beginning their own meal. They have to be very careful not to spill anything, for that would bring bad luck to the one whom they are serving. When a person is invited to eat in the village it is considered bad manners to eat all that is before him. He must leave enough to take home to the members of the family who did not come. The host generally gives his guest a piece of dried fish to hold the food which he is to take home. The fish is broad and flat, about one-half an inch thick, and the bundle is carried away openly, without any attempt at hiding it. In the summer berries, fruit, and roots are added to the diet, and berries are frozen in the fall to last through the winter. Since white people came, flour and canned goods have changed the food very much. It is easy to have ice cream for dessert any time. There is no cream about it, but tallow and berries are mixed with snow, sometimes fish is added to it, and when it is frozen it makes a fine dish.—Southern Workman.

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PROMINENT OKLAHOMANS ARE JAILED

Muskogee, Okla., Nov. 25.—Robert K. Warren, County attorney of Choctaw County, recently elected a member of the lower house of the state legislature, was sentenced to sixty days in jail and fined \$100 in the U. S. District court here yesterday. Warren was recently convicted of introducing liquor into Oklahoma.

Wright Bomford, a prominent banker of Hugo, convicted on the same charge, was sentenced to thirty days in jail and fined \$100.—Fort Worth Star Telegram.

ALASKAN SUPERSTITIONS

In Alaska the people have all kinds of superstitious beliefs. They believe that everything has a spirit, and that these spirits must be respected or else bad luck will come to them. For instance, they must not throw away any old clothing, nor burn it, for that would be the same as destroying a part of themselves. They must make a bundle of old clothes and put it on the branches of a large spruce tree outside the village. All fishbones are carefully put away in a basket to be taken out to the middle of a river, stream, or lake, and there thrown overboard. This is done so that not a single bone will go to waste on land; for every bone, after it is put back into the water, will turn into a fish, and this is sure to keep up the supply.

When a child is born the father has to put away all tools that are made of iron or steel, and is not allowed to use them for twenty days. During that time he is not allowed to go outside to do any work, or any hunting. Should he do any of these things it would surely cause the death of the baby. When a child dies it is not buried, but is wrapped in a bundle and placed at the foot of a spruce sapling. If the tree dies within a year the spirit of the child dies also.

When a grown person dies the body is kept at least three days in the room

in which it has died. When the time for burial comes the body is buried on a hillside or a high bank facing the river. There is the village of departed spirits on the side facing the river, and on the other side the spirits of the dogs who have died, and who belong to the people whose spirits are there. The spirit of an old woman takes care of these dogs.—Southern Workman.

INDIAN HYGIENE

Whether there are so many Indians in the United States as there were when Columbus discovered America remains a moot question. But it is known definitely that in the last fifty years the Indian population has run down.

At last, however, the period of decadence seems to have come to an end. The report of Commissioner Sells shows that now, for the first time in this half century, the Indian birthrate exceeds the death rate. The red race has "turned the corner." Instead of being doomed to extinction, after the usual manner of so-called inferior races, it is apparently destined to perpetuity. The only way by which it can vanish is by gradual intermingling with the white race.

The reasons for the change are simple. The Indian has got out of the hands of the medicine man and into the hands of the white doctor. Better hygiene, better sanitation, preventive medicine and proper care when he's sick have turned the trick.

The chief factor in this physical regeneration of a race seems to be just plain cleanliness, especially as applies to children. Indians are naturally dirty. At least, early descriptions of them in their primitive mode of life as given by such unflattering historians as Parkman lay emphasis on that characteristic. Most savages are dirty. And civilization in general means progress from filth to cleanliness, from dirt to decency.

There is still a sort of tradition among white men that "dirt is health-

ful," but careful observation always disproves it, as does this chapter of Indian history. And there's a lesson in it that even white men need not scorn to profit by.—Erie (Pa.) Dispatch.

THE VALUE OF PROHIBITION PROVED

Some of the newspapers of northern Minnesota which were very bitter in their antagonism to the enforcement of the old Indian treaties which placed so much of the gopher state in the dry territory, have seen a great light. The Indians have learned to "cut out the booze" and are becoming respectable and valuable citizens, some of them have bank accounts in marked contrast to the former custom of spending their annuity in a grand carousal. The Grand Rapids, Minn., Herald-Review says: "Only a few years ago Indian payments were made the occasion of the wildest drunken orgies, and for days at a time no white woman would think of appearing on the public streets of towns near the reservation. After a few days of debauch the Indians would return to their homes penniless, facing great privation and hardships. The debased human barnacles who encourage such orgies and who profited by them are the only ones who regret the advent of the new order of things."—Fargo, N. D., Forum.

LATE HONORS TO POCAHONTAS

A \$10,000 bronze statue of Pocahontas has been finished and is to be unveiled next March, on Jamestown Island, Virginia. The occasion is the 300th anniversary of the romantic figure in early American history. Jamestown is the site of the first English colony. Pocahontas saved the settlers from starvation, and is credited, somewhat doubtfully, with having saved the life of Capt. John Smith. After her marriage to John Rolfe, Pocahontas went to England, where she was received with the honors given to a visitor of high rank. She died there, of smallpox.