

RED LAKE NEWS

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THE RED MAN IS NOT A TANNED MONGOLIAN.

By Arthur C. Parker, Archeologist and Ethnologist, University State of New York.

The Red Man of America is not a Mongolian according to the Indian Commissioner, Hon. Cato Sells. Judge Sells is correct and several of the school books historians are wrong, foolishly wrong.

There were native Americans, American Indians, in America thousands of years before there were such races as the Chinese or Tartars, Manchus or Turanians.

When the first Americans entered this continent in remote geologic times there were no distant races. All the individual of primitive humanity were of the same human stock,—plain primitive human beings.

As branches split off from the parent stock and become isolated in the various geographical areas, races of humanity commenced to form. Food, climate, habits and geography all conspired to mould the various races.

That the American Indian is not a Mongolian is common knowledge to every anthropologist. Any similarity that the Indian has to the Chinaman, for example, is merely a superficial similarity. Every argument presented by ill-informed theorists falls when the truth is brought against it. The idea of such similarity originated in an odd way with Cuvier who divided the human family into three grand divisions. Happy thought was this to Cuvier who separated the black race from others because it was vegetative,—it filled its stomach and just lived; the yellow race was bony and sinewy, and was active, while the white race was brainy, and sensitive. The Indians and Malays being left outside were shoveled over into the sinewy and bony race and dubbed Mongolians.

Now it seems idle for the writer, who professionally is an anthropologist, to repeat the well known arguments against the alleged Mongolian affinities of the American race. However, to catalogue them we shall first say that there is no evidence in the language. "Oh yes, there is," says someone. "So-and-so says there is." But, we still answer that no student of languages known to the world of science has found one single thread of evidence showing similarity. The linguistic systems of the American tribes are far different in grammar and word compounding from the Mongolian. So great authority on Ural-Altaic languages, Dr. Heinrich Winkler, positively denies any similarity. American Indian mythology and material culture are not Mongoloid in any respect.

Some insistent theorists may point out the color of the skin, the eye and the color of the hair in confirmation of his views, but the Indian's skin, whatever its varied

hues may be, whether flesh, copper or cinnamon is not Mongolian yellow. The black hair of the Red Man is not Mongolian because it differs in shape, as a cross-section shows under the microscope. Viewed in reflected light Indian hair shows an underlying tint of red-brown; the Mongolian, a blue black. In a few instances an arrested development of the eyelid causes the "slanted eye," seized upon as evidence of Mongolian affinity. Any surgeon will find this to be spicantus and can remove the disfigurement by a simple operation. This deformity of the muscles of the eyebrows is not frequent in the white race.

An analysis of the formation of the skull and of the facial index shows no evidence that the American Indian is Mongolian.

There have been theories that the Indians were the lost Welch colonists, that they were shipwrecked Japanese and even the Ten Lost Tribes. Science has proven beyond question the foolishness of these theories, and any text book used in school or college that repeats these errors is now relegated to the heap of out of date books.

Great Universities, such as Pennsylvania, Berkley, Yale, Harvard, Chicago and Columbia, have special courses in American anthropology. They maintain immense museums of archeology and ethnology and have upon their teaching staff scores of men who have made a life study of these questions concerning the American race. No ethnologist known to the writer believes that the Indian is a sort of acclimated Chinaman or a descendent of the Mongols of Asia, but he may believe, and likely does, that the Indian descended from the same parent stock that produced the Mongol, and for that matter the Caucassian and Negro.

Those who persist in asserting the Mongolian affinity of the Indian should study modern books upon the subject or confer with men who are specialists in the science of human development.

No, the Indian is not one of the Ten Lost Tribes, his skull, his language and his character is not that of the Caucassian Semetic peoples. The American Indian is not a Mongolian of any branch of the Yellow race. The American Indian is the aboriginal American and in his various divisions constitutes what is known to scientists as the American Race, the most widely distributed race in the world. As such it inhabited two continents, which is to say the entire new world of the western hemisphere.

RED LAKE SCHOOL ITEMS.

We are all sorry to see Mrs. E. E. Stevens leave. But hope she will be as successful at Cross Lake as she has been here.

The office force were the chief participants in the fire drill held at the school last week.

The girls in the sewing room have begun making the new spring uniforms.

Mr. Budrow has been transferred to Cross Lake as disciplinarian.

Mr. J. Hanson is acting as School farmer temporarily.

Mrs. F. Bealien left for Cass Lake on business.

The essays on "Alcohol" have been sent in. Some very good papers were written by the children in the 5th and 6th grades.

ASHLEY IS RECAPTURED.

New York City, Feb. 28.—A telegram from Miami, Fla., says that United States Special Officer Thomas E. Brents has again captured John A. Ashley, a notorious mur-

derer, near that place. A few years ago Ashley murdered a Seminole Indian in order to rob him of his supply of furs. The state officials were unable to capture the outlaw and Commissioner of Indian Affairs Cato Sells was appealed to.

Sells detailed special officers on the job. Brents trailed the outlaw through the Everglades for several weeks and finally captured him and turned him over to the local authorities. Before his trial Ashley made his escape and reached the swamps.

Officer Brents, assisted by two Indian scouts and Special Commissioner Spencer, again took up the case and again captured the fugitive. Brents is regarded as one of the best liquor suppression officers in the service.

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