

THE INDIAN.

Single Copies, each:]
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Where are our Chiefs of old? Where our Heroes of mighty name?
The folds of their battles are silent—scarce their mossy tombs remain!—OSSTAN.

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TO OUR READERS.

With this issue we make our second appearance as a weekly journal, last week being the first. We have decided to give eight pages weekly instead of twelve pages fortnightly as heretofore and trust that our readers will appreciate the change and actual enlargement. It has been a very difficult matter to issue semi-monthly with regularity, as we would sometimes have to wait days and even weeks for contributions; we have now, however, arranged for a regular weekly issue in eight page form. We hope that our readers of whom we now have several thousand, will make all allowance for all past irregularity, none but newspaper publishers fully realize the many difficulties that we have to contend with during the first year of existence; this will perhaps be better understood when it is known that fully one-half of all the papers and magazines that are started collapse before they have been in existence six months, and the fact that THE INDIAN is about entering its second year should recommend it to those for whom it is published. As we have kept our heads above water thus far we feel entitled to the support and patronage of the public. We hope that as THE INDIAN will find its way to homes of our subscribers every week, henceforth, it will be too welcome a visitor to discontinue and our readers cannot better show their appreciation than by sending us a renewal for the ensuing year. Bear in mind that every dollar sent in to us is just that much toward making THE INDIAN a permanent institution—it being the only Indian paper in Canada it should receive abundantly of liberal support.

GEN. DARLING ON ANTHROPOPHAGY.

Gen. C. W. Darling has written an interesting treatise on "Anthropophagy; Historic and Prehistoric." It is privately printed in a neat pamphlet of 47 pages. The subject is an interesting one, for there have been more cannibals in the world than most people imagine. Gen. Darling has made thorough research, and has arranged the information gathered in a readable article. The pamphlet is well written and its author is worthy of congratulations.

It is expected the liquor permit system now in operation in the North-West Territories will be abolished.

The Manitoba Government are taking steps toward the relief of sufferers by the recent destructive prairie fires.

Bonds of the Province of Manitoba to the extent of \$400,000 for the Hudson's Bay railway will shortly be floated in Montreal.

INDIAN DELICACIES—NUT OIL &c.

BY GEO. S. CONOVER, (HY-WE-SAUS).

As an indication of the domestic economy of the Indians, of the "olden time," in utilizing various articles of food, not for sustenance only, but to gratify the palate as well, the following will be found of interest:

In the spring of 1780 the Gilbert family residing in Pennsylvania were captured by a roving band of Indians and taken to Niagara. As they were Quakers the Canadian Governor interceded for them and finally effected their release and their restoration to their home. The following brief extract is taken from the published narrative of their captivity.

"When the Indians had loitered at home a few days, they set about getting their winter store of hickory nuts; from some of them they extract an oil, which they eat with their bread or meat at their pleasure."

Father Fremin, a Jesuit missionary among the Senecas, narrates that in the autumn of 1699, "owing to the unusual abundant harvest of walnuts this year, the joy of the people is so great that one sees scarcely anything but games, dances, and feasts, which they carry to debauch, although they have no other seasoning than the oil."

The fact that Father Fremin gives the custom such a passing allusion, indicates that the use of the oil was well known.

Galinee who visited the Senecas with La Salle in 1669, says:—"Another of their favorite dishes is Indian meal cooked in the water and served in wooden bowles, with a small portion of *Tournesol*, nut or bear's oil.

In the Jesuit Relations for 1657, Le Mercier says that the Indians extract oil from the *Tournesol*, by means of ashes, the mill, fire and water. The *Tournesol* referred to, says the late Hon. O. H. Marshall, is probably the common sunflower which is indigenous to the warmer parts of North America.

In a representation made by La Salle in 1684 (N. Y. Col. Doc. IX, 217) in relation to Fort Frontenac (present Kingston), is the following:—"Around the lake (Ontario) are to be found wild apple trees, chestnuts and nuts from which the Indians extract very good oil; also divers sorts of grain, mulberry, plum and cherry trees."

In the year 1669-70, John Lederer made a journey from James river, Virginia, into the Province of Carolina. On the 16th of June 1670 after speaking about the Indians he was visiting, and their mode of living he says:—"They parch their nuts and acorns over the fire, to take away their rank oiliness, which afterwards pressed yield a milky liquor, and the acorns an amber

colored oil. In these mingled together, they dip their cakes at great entertainments, and so serve them up to their guests as extraordinary dainty."

In July, 1750, the Moravian missionaries, Bishop Cammerhoff and Rev. David Zeisberger were regaled at Onondaga by the Indians with "chestnut milk," and the next day "with Indian corn and nut oil, a new dish to us, but which we found very palatable."

The North American Sylva, translated from the French of F. Andrew Michaux, Paris, 1819, Vol. 1, Page 163, in relation to the butternut says: "The kernel is thick and oily, and soon becomes rancid, hence, doubtless are derived the names of butternut and oilnut. These nuts are rarely seen in the markets of New York and Philadelphia. The Indians who inhabited these regions pounded and boiled them, and separating the oily substance which swam upon the surface, mixed it with their food." And on page 185, Shell Bark Hickory. "The Indians who inhabited the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Michigan lay up a store of these nuts for the winter, a part of which they pound in wooden mortars, and boiling the paste in water, collect the oily matter which swims upon the surface, to season their aliments."

From these and other sources we learn that the butternut, black walnut and shag bark walnut or hickory nut were much prized by the Indians as an article of food especially the extracts made from them for seasoning.

The *Pioche* (Nev.) *Record* says the smallest Indian agency in the country is located in that county. There are no men, no women, no children and one agent.

"Ah, George," she murmured as they drove along the moonlight road, "am I very dear to you?" And George, as he did a little sum in mental arithmetic, in which a team and his \$6 salary largely figured, softly answers "Very dear."

There are upwards of 300 post-offices in Manitoba, 77 in Assiniboia, 9 in Saskatchewan, 21 in Alberta, and 10 in Keewatin. In 1882 the only offices outside of Manitoba were Qu'Appelle, Touchwood Hills, Stobart, Grandin, Prince Albert, Carleton, Battleford, Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan and St. Albert.

Colorado has 800 miles of first-class irrigating canals, 3,500 miles of secondary canals and 40,000 miles of smaller ditches, which have cost in the aggregates about \$11,000,000 and will irrigate 2,200,000 acres. The operation of this great water system has developed conflicting claims of various ditch companies in regard to the use of the water, which is very difficult to settle.