

EXAGGERATION OF INDIAN ATTACKS IN WEST IS TOLD

Prof. Hulbert, Director of Commission on Western History, Reaches Conclusion After Much Research.

Colorado Springs, Colo.—Historical fiction of the Wild West appears to have exaggerated the number of sanguinary attacks by Indians upon immigrant trains along the old Oregon trail. Nature, and not the aborigines, furnished most of the dangers encountered by the pioneers.

These conclusions have been reached by Prof. Archer H. Hulbert, director of the commission on western history, who has just completed the task of mapping six of the most famous old trails from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast.

In a space of forty miles along the Carson river on the trail broken by the forty-niners, 4,000 dead cattle and 3,000 abandoned wagons were left to record the history of the hardships they suffered in the trek for gold. Miners built houses of these wagon wrecks in the days of the Comstock lode discovery in Nevada a decade later.

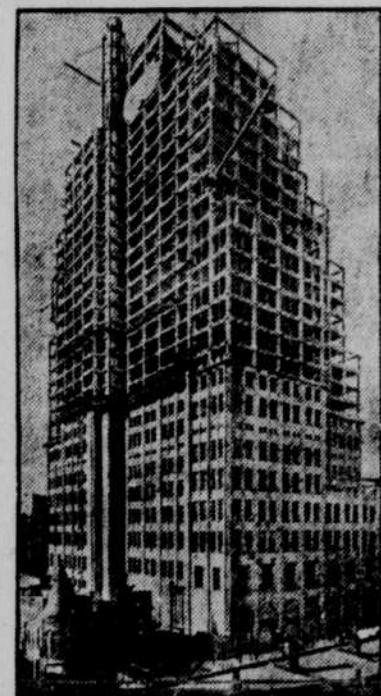
Great rivers were not difficult to cross when "rafts" or rafts were secured, but the thousands of little "cut-bank" creeks not more than ten feet wide were the daily terror of the teamsters and delayed the caravans more than did the few rivers of width.

Trappers and gold hunters suffered from Indian attacks more than did the great immigrant trains in the era of mass migration to Oregon. Between 1842 and 1850 the number of trains that were seriously molested by the red men were few, the investigators found.

Information used in the survey and map making was obtained from state and county surveyors' offices, from the original surveys in the general land office at Washington and by studying the diaries of 150 old-time travelers and pioneers.

In addition to the Oregon trail the map reproduces the routes of the Mormon trail fork from Omaha to Fort Laramie; the Nebraska City-Fort Kearney branch; the California trail from Yale post office, Idaho, to the coast; the Salt Lake branch of the California trail; the Forty-niners' trail on Raft river in northwestern Utah; the Salt Lake-Placerville route, and the Overland Stage branch of the main trail from Julesburg, Colo., to Salt Lake City.

Telephone Co. Builds Sky Scrapper in St. Louis



This \$5,000,000 building of the Southwest Bell Telephone company, 31 stories high, is now the tallest building in St. Louis, Mo. It stands on the block bounded by Tenth, Eleventh, Chestnut and Pine streets.

New Universe Pictured by Savant and Measured

Chicago.—Another universe, similar to our own, but inconceivably distant in space, has been photographed and measured by Dr. Edwin Hubble, he relates in the *Astro-Physical Journal* of the University of Chicago.

It is 66,909,872 billion miles from the earth to the galaxy of stars which compose the other universe.

From observations made at Mount Wilson observatory, in California, the scientist has reduced to measurement the universe which was first seen in 1884. Expressing its distance from the earth as 700,000 light years, he estimates the galaxy measures 4,000 light years across. Photographs taken with light which left the universe thousands of years ago show it to be a system of stars similar in appearance to the familiar milky way.

Likes Mustard

New York.—The new shah of Persia is fond of mustard, but so far as having been a bon vivant is concerned, is not the stuff he has been painted, says Arthur Upham Pope, commissioner from Persia to the Philadelphia position.

Claims Record

Campbell, Mo.—This town claims the record for church attendance. Ninety-five per cent of the population of 1,804 persons went last Sunday.

HAS CLEAREST SKIES IN WORLD

Quetta May Be Chosen for Smithsonian-Geographic Observatory.

Washington.—Quetta, in Baluchistan, near which it is probable that a new solar observatory will be established by the National Geographic society and the Smithsonian institution, is familiar—as a name—to readers of Kipling and workers of cross-word puzzles, but probably means little to most Americans. The city and its region, recently visited by Dr. C. G. Abbot, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian institution, are the subjects of a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"Quetta exists primarily for military purposes," says the bulletin, "but the Pax Britannica that has been substituted for the lawlessness and banditry of former days has made an important civil community and trading center of it as well. Baluchistan is India's fortress to the east, and Quetta is its donjon keep. The British have been in control of the place since 1877, and since 1882 have held it under perpetual lease from its old ruler, the picturesquely named Wall of Kalat.

"When the British went in Quetta was only a little group of mud huts surrounded by unhealthy plains that were virtually swamps. Drainage and sanitation have made the place over. Now Quetta has a population of about 30,000; and the once swampy lowlands furnish a setting for villas and farmhouses surrounded by orchards and planted groves.

Mud Gives Way to Iron.

"The outstanding feature of Quetta, still, however, is the cantonment where six or eight regiments of British and Indian troops are quartered. This extensive post is to the north on relatively high ground while the civil town is to the south on a lower level. Mud, in the form of sun-dried brick, is still a most important building material in the town, though not to the extent that it was two decades ago. Then mud-brick domes formed many of the roofs, and were considered safe because of Quetta's scant rainfall (about 10 inches annually). But there came an unusually wet spring, and most of Quetta's buildings melted away. Since then many iron roofs—less picturesque, but better insurance against weather vagaries—have surmounted the mud walls of the town.

"The permeation of Quetta by British, or perhaps more broadly, by Western, influence, is a phenomenon that cannot be escaped by anyone who has known the town over a series of years. The standard of living rises before his eyes. Tea, a little while ago a marked luxury, is becoming a common beverage. Leather footwear has displaced sandals to a noteworthy degree; all classes are wearing warmer and more comfortable clothing; and the native women are decking themselves out in more ornaments, after the manner of their prosperous sisters in other climes.

"The climate of Quetta has interesting aspects. The place is in the same latitude as Cairo, Jacksonville, Fla., and Shanghai; but, because of its 6,000 feet of altitude and the physical aspect of the surrounding country, its climate is very different. Each day the mercury bobs up and down through a wide range. The difference between daily maximum and minimum has been known to reach 90 degrees; but such excessive changes are confined to certain short seasons. The hills and even the valleys of Baluchistan are largely treeless, and when the sun is down heat radiates away rapidly. As a consequence the nights are always cool—

"In the matter of combating the climate, there is nothing like an American standard of comfort in the homes even of Europeans in Quetta. The winters in general are no more severe than those of Washington, but the houses are so constructed that it is most difficult if not impossible to keep warm. The rooms are huge—16 by 25 feet or so, with ceilings 18 to 24 feet high. Small fireplaces are set far into the very thick walls and what little warmth they radiate into the rooms is lost in their vastness. Yet coal of fair quality is mined nearby and is used in the town. Its use in modern heating systems could make Quetta homes as comfortable as any in the world.

"Clearest Sky in the World."

"If the National Geographic-Smithsonian solar observatory is established in Baluchistan it will be placed on top of 7,525-foot Kojak peak about 40 miles north of Quetta near the railroad which pierces the Kojak range and extends to Chaman, ten miles beyond the Afghan border. To the east beyond the Kojak mountains the Registan or Helmand desert stretches for more than 100 miles. It is 60 miles to the nearest mountains in the north. To the east lies a long, broad valley. On this relatively isolated mountain ridge on the edge of the desert the precipitation is even less than in Quetta—probably seven inches or less per year. When Doctor Abbot visited the Kojak peak in January he reported that the sky was perfectly blue right up to the sun's edge and added: 'It was the clearest sky I have ever seen in the world.'

Can't Be Mike

Milwaukee.—An Italian who wanted the name of Michael Maloney was refused that privilege in the Circuit court here.

SPEEDS WORK OF COURT OF CLAIMS

Change to Seven Judges Expedites Handling of War-Time Suits.

Washington.—As a result of the increased volume of claims against the government since the World war the Court of Claims found itself swamped with work. It had been jogging along comfortably with five judges who were appointed for life. Testimony was taken by stenographers, and from this the judges reached their decisions. In many cases the testimony was so voluminous that it took them some time to make up their findings of fact so that the case might be heard in the court. With the sudden influx of new cases the judges found the task too great to permit them to handle them with the desired promptness.

Last March, therefore, congress authorized the appointment of seven commissioners for terms of three years each. They are all lawyers, and it is their duty to take the testimony in cases brought to the court and then to make their findings of facts so that they may be presented to the court when the case is brought before it.

"The appointment of these commissioners has not only proved a great aid in expediting the handling of cases, but it has saved the government money. A large number of claims bear interest, and it is therefore greatly to the advantage of the government to have them settled promptly. These are for the most part cases of refunds of taxes erroneously assessed. Interest is also allowable as part of the amounts due for just compensation for property taken.

As is well known, during the war the various executive departments were authorized to take what they needed in the way of coal, ships or other things necessary to the successful prosecution of war. In a great many instances the owner was not paid the full value of the articles, but he was permitted to sue the government for the balance. Such cases are now reaching the court daily. The sooner they are adjudicated the greater the saving in interest to the United States.

System Saves Time and Money.

The new system of having trained lawyers take the testimony and present their findings to the court is also a great help to the plaintiffs. Where under the old method of procedure it was necessary for the plaintiff to come to Washington to give his testimony, the commissioner now goes to him. He is therefore spared considerable expense and time. There is now in Europe a commissioner taking testimony in what is known as the Brooks-Scanlon group, which consists of eight cases involving \$35,000,000.

No foreign subject can sue the United States government unless it is shown that his government allows a like privilege to the citizens of the United States. An investigation is now being made in Russia to discover whether the Soviet government provides for this. In the Civil war claims it was necessary for the plaintiff to prove his allegiance to the federal government before he might file a claim. The Court of Claims is the only court in the United States where a citizen may sue the government. If he is not satisfied with the decision of the court he may appeal to the Supreme court of the United States. An unofficial survey recently made showed that of 175 cases taken to the Supreme court the decision of the Court of Claims was upheld in 150. Nineteen decisions were reversed, four modified, one approved in part and one case remanded.

It seems to be little known that the Court of Claims handles a great many tax cases—that is, those based upon internal-revenue taxes, such as capital-stock taxes, income taxes, excess profits taxes, beverage taxes, estate taxes, sales taxes and stamp taxes. During the fiscal year 1925 this court disposed of approximately 325 of such cases, and there are a number still pending. These are cases where the taxpayer has been dissatisfied with the ruling of the board of tax appeals and has taken his case to this court.

One of the new commissioners said recently that it frequently happens that a decision of a single case in the Court of Claims disposes of hundreds of thousands of similar cases without prosecuting further litigation. "Such a decision was recently rendered by the court," he added. "I do not know the entire number of cases affected by this decision, but there are 7,000 cases in the Baltimore collection district alone affected thereby."

The Court of Claims was established by act of congress February 24, 1855, and was at first merely a commission whose duty it was to file facts regarding claims for the guidance and action of congress. The Civil war resulted in a great many claims for damage to property and such things, and the court was given general jurisdiction over cases involving contracts.

2,000 Claims Pending Now.

There are now pending in the Court of Claims more than 2,000 cases involving approximately \$2,000,000,000. In some of these cases the interest amounts to \$5,000 a day, so that for each day of delay the government is out that much.

LINCOLN NOTES.

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Williams have purchased a home near 23rd and Orchard Sts., and have moved in.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Stanley sold their home at 1211 Plum, and have left for the East.

Mr. Thomas Long, formerly of Lincoln, is visiting friends here.

A number of the members of Cornhusker Lodge No. 579 I. B. P. O. E. of W. left for Kansas City, Mo., Saturday to attend the dedication and festivities of the New Elk home there May 23-24.

Mrs. Ada Holmes is taking lessons of the Poro Hair dresser treatment Co. at Omaha, preparatory to establishing a parlor here.

Some fifteen masons, wives and friends went to Omaha Sunday, when they attended services, and the re-laying of the cornerstone of the Cleaves-C. M. E. Church by the M. W. G. Lodge of Nebraska.

Cornhusker Lodge of Elks held their three nights carnival in German Hall last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, and is said to have been largely attended, and a booming success.

Quarterly meeting was held at Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church last Sunday. Rev. John Adams, P. E., of Omaha, was present, and conducted services. Communion was given. Other special services were carried out at night. Quarterly conference on Monday night.

Rev. H. W. Botts held services as usual at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Sunday. The Buds of Promise held their annual Candlelight services with a short program at 8 p. m., followed by a sermon by the pastor.

Next Sunday, May 30, at 3 p. m. the Mission will have services, a feature of which will be a sermon by a boy preacher of Omaha. He will preach for Rev. H. W. Botts at night.

A big chicken dinner will be served at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Monday May 31, from 5 to 9 p. m.

Mr. Carl Christman is yet considered quite ill at his home, N. 9th St.

Subscribers are requested to remit in the next two weeks.

RESERVES NECESSARY

Washington.—Speaking to a group of prominent men who contemplate the organization of a "Second Trust Company" in this city, Lieut. Thomas H. R. Clarke, one of our best known real estate operators, in pointing out the necessity and the opportunity for financing our own enterprises, said: "One firm in this city loaned over six hundred thousand dollars last year to colored home-buyers. This particular firm has had many years of experience in dealing with colored property owners and has never had a loss. Yet this firm does not care for loans in certain parts of the city. It does see that if we should make the attempt to organize on a large scale our unused funds, and create large reserves of money in many parts of the country, it could be safely employed in financing residence properties of the Race in localities where for one reason or another white capital declines to go. Such reserves would be a needful protection against malevolent elements in the event of financial disturbances. This situation applies to practically all parts of the country where any considerable number of colored people live."

101 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Kansas City, Kans.—One hundred and one boys and girls will graduate from Sumner High school junior college and teachers' college May 27th.

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W. G. MORGAN—Phones ATlantic 9344 and JACKson 0210.

H. J. PINKETT, Attorney and Counselor-at-Law. Twenty years' experience. Practices in all courts. Suite 19, Patterson Block, 17th and Farnam Sts. AT. 9344 or WE. 3180.

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