

PREHISTORIC INDIAN TRADE COVERED LONG DISTANCES

The Indians who once roamed the vast plains and forests of western America maintained complex trade relations with distant tribes, according to evidence just brought back from the northwest by Herbert W. Krieger, curator of ethnology of the U. S. National Museum.

In his expedition he examined graves of prehistoric Indians at numerous locations along the Columbia River, and he has found from 80 to 100 different types of articles used, from pipes, pottery, and headdresses to stone clubs and arrow points.

To the ethnologist, these long buried objects indicate the work of various groups of Indians, and show that articles were exchanged throughout the west, from the Pueblos of the south, to the California coast tribes, the Haida of Alaska, and the Eskimo and Chuckee of the Arctic, and even tribes as far east as Minnesota.

"The Columbia River was the center of much trading, because it was the direct route of entrance from the north into the American continent," Mr. Krieger told a representative of Science Service. "Horses were not yet known in that part of the country, and the Indians depended on rivers as their chief routes of travel. They lived near the water, and used the back country only for hunting game in the mountains and for portage in getting from one water-course to another. They traveled along the rivers to seek food and to barter articles that they had for different kinds of things made by other tribes."

The objects found by Mr. Krieger are all from a period before the white man's coming, he says, because no glass beads or other indications of the white man's presence are found among the relics. The articles unearthed were burial offerings which were placed with the remains of their former owners.

So many of the weapons and jars are broken that Mr. Krieger believes that this must have been done deliberately by the Indians who placed them in the graves, so that no one else would ever use them.

SCRAPPED FORDS AND TIN CANS SALVAGEABLE BY ELECTRICITY

Discarded tin cans and automobile bodies, as well as other forms of iron which now go to waste on dump heaps, may be an important source of a very pure form of iron in the future, according to the Engineering Foundation, of New York City.

Twenty million tons of iron are said to go to waste annually because of rust, but this can be greatly reduced by the use of this iron, which scores even higher than a popular brand of soap, for the iron obtained by these electric methods is 99.96 per cent. pure.

It is called electrolytic iron, and a plant has just been established at Niagara Falls to produce it, says the Foundation, as a result of cooperation between French and American inventors. While the first electrolytic iron was produced half a century ago in America, the original product was so rough and brittle that nothing much could