

Yaquis Fighting For Life

By ALBERT B. REAGAN

Mr. Reagan is an ethnologist, recognized as an authority on North American Indians, among whom he has lived for many years. The Mexican government has undertaken a war of extermination against the Yaqui Indians, a wild tribe never yet subdued by white men. The aerial bombardment of two of their villages, noted recently in the press, is a prelude to the real fighting.

In the warfare between the Mexican government and the Yaqui Indians in the State of Sonora, the world is perhaps witnessing the passing of a nation, for the war levied by Mexico will in all probability be one of extinction.

The Yaquis or Hiaquis are said by some ethnologists to have received their name from their principal river, the Rio Yaqui, while others state that they were so named because their talking is in a loud and rough tone, "Yaqui" meaning literally "he who shouts," the river receiving its name from them. When first known to history they occupied a large territory on both sides of our present Mexican boundary, some authorities stating that their possessions extended even as far east as Texas and as far south as Durango in Mexico. They then numbered about 400,000. They now number about 15,000, five thousand of whom are capable of bearing arms.

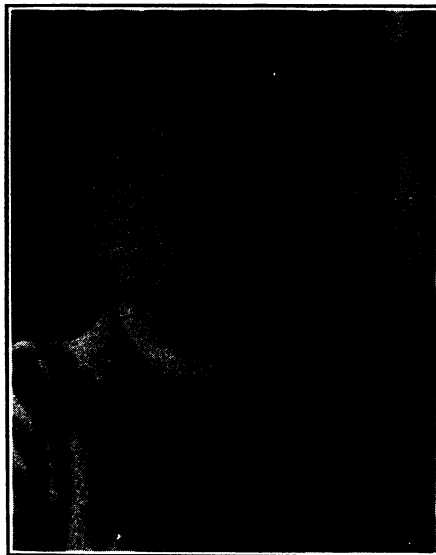
Although at war with the whites since 1740, the Yaquis are an unconquered people. Even their so-called defeat in 1832 cannot be construed as actual when it is remembered that they have since warred against Mexico and been treated with as a nation, that they hold the lands of their present residence under grant from Spain, and that they are governed by their own laws, never having yielded to Mexico.

Their villages are literally cities of refuge under their laws and the fugitive is in sanctuary when he passes the gates of Coorit, Bacum, Torin, or any of the pueblos in the fastnesses of the Vacatete mountains.

General Torres, who commanded the expeditions against the Yaquis in 1896-1897 and in 1899-1901, seemed to be successful in every encounter, with the losses light on the Mexican side and heavy with the Yaquis. However, the peace which concluded the hostilities was not lasting. In 1882 they defeated the Mexicans under General Garcia, killing that officer and four hundred of his soldiers; and they are better armed now than then.

In this war as in the previous ones the Mexicans must follow to the inaccessible natural fortifications of the

(Just turn the page)



ALES HRDLICKA

Tracer of Ancient Trails

Virgil in his great poem has his hero visit the shades of his ancestors in the nether world. A more modern and much more extensive Æneid, embracing the whole round earth and seeking the forebears not of one family but of the entire human race, has occupied the active scientific career of Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, curator of anthropology at the U. S. National Museum, who believes in seeing with his own eyes and examining with his own hands. The most significant of his more recent pilgrimages was his voyage around the world, during which he visited the sites of all the important discoveries of prehistoric man; Crô-Magnon, Neanderthal, Mauer, Piltdown, Broken Hill, Trinil, winding up with a visit to India and to the land of "contemporary ancestors," Australia. His most recent journey was to Alaska and the Bering Sea islands, for the purpose of studying the traces left by man as he migrated from Asia to America.

Dr. Hrdlicka was born in Bohemia in 1869. He was trained in medicine in New York and Paris, but early shifted his interest to anthropology. He was connected at first with the American Museum of Natural History in New York, beginning his career as anthropologist in the State Service of New York. In 1903 he was called to the U. S. National Museum to organize a division of physical anthropology, and has been curator of this division since 1910. Since 1920 he has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

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Studies Giant Cells

How does the living stuff in plant and animal cells make its choice between what it lets in and what it keeps out?

This is the question attacked by Dr. W. J. V. Osterhout of the Rockefeller Institute, New York City, who spoke before the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, telling how he has been aided in his researches by the use of a tropical seaweed named Valonia. Each specimen of this plant is made up of a single cell from one to six inches long—a gigantic size for cells, which are usually so small that a microscope must be employed to see them individually. Because these cells are so large, Dr. Osterhout has been able to inject various solutions into them and then measure how fast the various chemicals can pass through the layer of living substance or protoplasm. Electrical charges seem to have a great deal to do with the secret, he says, for in solutions where the chemicals have broken down into ions carrying electrical charges they are not permitted to pass by the protoplasm, whereas chemicals that have remained as whole molecules, with neutralized electrical charges, in certain cases penetrate the living layer without difficulty.

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Children Individualists

Young children are more truly individuals than older persons, largely because the schools tend to level out idiosyncrasies rather than to develop differences. This is the finding of Dr. Truman L. Kelley, professor of education and psychology at Stanford University, as a result of a statistical study of the influence of training upon native mental differences in school children.

Over 200 children that are gifted mentally were compared with 1,700 normal children by Dr. Kelley. The gifted eight-year-old children were more individual mentally than normal eight-year-olds. But he found that between eight and eleven years the gifted children have their individual traits ironed out by the public school influence, so that at 11 years they have fewer mental idiosyncrasies than normal 11-year-olds. These gifted 11-year-olds are more like normal children of 14 years in respect to their peculiarities, just as they are like the 14-year-olds in other mental traits, he reports.

Science News-Letter, November 13, 1926

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Vacatete mountains. A family of fourteen held a pass in these mountains in 1894 against 400 Mexican soldiers for three days. On the fourth the attacking party were able to get skirmishers upon a narrow ledge above, whereupon the defenders retreated. That evening the Mexicans were halted by shots from an adobe chapel near the edge of a narrow mesa at the mouth of a gorge.

They were held at bay there four days longer and it was only after they had battered the building down with howitzer fire that they were able to pass. It was then they discovered that they had been again held by the same family who had held the first pass. All were dead but a boy, who was wounded so seriously that he died within the hour.

Since 1848 Mexico has lost 40,000 soldiers and spent millions of money in its wars against this people. Moreover, in the present outbreak they may be making their last fight, and the world may expect an heroic one.

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Paper can be made from corn by a new process.

Judging by their teeth, the average age attained by Indian elephants is 70 years.

Water flowing from deep artesian wells is warm because of the internal heat of the earth.

Coronium, a gas found in the corona of the sun, has not yet been found in any star nor on the earth.

Aquatic plants purify water by taking up carbonic acid gas and giving off oxygen, and often save fish from asphyxiation.

The antelope, which is so generally becoming rare, has increased in Wyoming to the extent that farmers have begun to complain.

A woman is estimated to have about 67 per cent as much ability and endurance in running as a man of similar weight.

Apparatus recently invented makes it possible to measure the thickness of the outer layer of pearl of a cultured pearl.

Elephants used as beasts of burden in India and Siam must almost always be caught wild, as the captives rarely breed.