

SOCIOLOGY

Bill of Indian Rights Now Before Congress

Measure Would Return Early Americans to Tribal Life; Called Most Far-Reaching Indian Legislation in History

A BILL just introduced into the House of Representatives by Representative Edgar Howard of Nebraska makes a new man of the Indian.

It is a bill of Indian rights, drafted after months of considering what is as complex a problem as white man or red ever tackled. Numerous Indian welfare associations have unanimously endorsed the main principles of the bill.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier calls it "the most far reaching measure of legislation in the whole history of our dealings with the Indians." Yet he adds that it is not radical legislation, but truly conservative.

The two main features of the bill are these, First, a new deal for the Indian economically. Second, a new deal culturally and politically. That pretty nearly covers everything.

The economic reform is basic. The allotment land law of 1887, which has cost the Indians the loss of two-thirds of their land and pauperized whole tribes, is to be repealed. In 1887, it seemed a good idea to try turning the Indians into "responsible citizens" by making them individual property owners, like the white men. But the idea has worked out with unexpected and appalling results. The Indian Office finds 100,000 Indians landless, and most of these paupers, from less than 50 years experimenting with the white man's method of owning land.

Tribes to Rule

The Howard bill provides for a return to tribal ownership. In cautious detail the bill describes the devices for safeguarding vested rights of Indian property holders and for improvement of lands managed by the tribes. It is a return to the Indian's own economic system, plus modern advantages.

The political and cultural reforms are equally sweeping. The tribes are to take over self-government. Tribal councils are to be given authority. As fast as the Indians become able to run their own reservations they are to assume those tasks.

Freedom of worship is to be offered to the Indians. The native Indian ceremonies are the center of Indian life, and vitally important in the morality and industry of the tribe, as the present Commissioner sees it.

Most remarkable of all, perhaps, the Office of Indian Affairs willingly curbs its own autocratic powers over the Indians, and assumes a cooperating and advising relationship.

"We have no illusions about the difficulty of the task ahead," says Mr. Collier. "But we know that the Indians all over the country have awakened and are thinking, as they have never thought before."

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MEDICINE

Cod Liver Made Into Chocolate Bars

IF JUNIOR refuses to take his cod liver oil "straight," he probably will not object to eating it in a candy bar or ice cream, which he may soon be able to do as a result of recent investigations.

A method whereby the fresh cod livers can be mixed with cocoa in such a way that all the health-giving properties of the livers are retained without oiliness or objectionable taste or odor remaining has been devised by H. A. Wentworth of Fairhaven, New Brunswick, the Canadian Department of Fisheries has announced. The new mixture can be successfully used in the manufacture of a chocolate confection.

Manufacture of the candy has already been started and persons who have eaten it declare it is impossible to notice any taste of the oil. The liver-cocoa mixture has also been used in making ice cream and milk and egg shakes.

While the mixture carries no taste or smell of oil, it is produced by a "cold process" and it is stated that there is no impairment of the livers by chemical or physical changes and that they therefore retain unchanged in quality their natural maximum quantity of vi-

tamin A, the growth vitamin, and vitamin D, the rickets-preventive, "as well as substances for pernicious anemia and goiter therapy."

To date it has been believed that there was no means of preserving fresh raw livers but the Canadian experimenters have found that by their methods the livers may be preserved for at least twelve months, and the method is very simple in principle. The livers are first put through sieves to remove skin and muscles, then they are mixed with cocoa in varying amounts, and the resultant heavy dough is passed through rollers and grinders. The mixture as it comes from the rollers has the appearance of cocoa. The operation takes only a short time.

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PSYCHIATRY

Twins Prove Brain Injury At Birth Affects Mentality

PROOF of the long-suspected fact that injury to a child's brain at birth will affect mentality has been afforded by two little Italian girls who are identical twins.

One of these little girls suffered a head injury when she was born. Her twin sister did not. The one who was injured is slightly duller than her sister and is a year behind her in school. The only physical signs of the injury are a slight tendency to the nervous movements typical of St. Vitus' dance.

The twins were described by Dr. Richard L. Jenkins and Esther Glickman of the Chicago Institute for Juvenile Research at the meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

Dr. Jenkins explained that the condition of the injured twin is typical of many children seen in a child guidance clinic. In these cases there is reason to believe the brain has suffered slight damage but the signs are insufficient to constitute diagnostic proof. In the case of the twins, the normal twin furnishes the proof that brain injury at birth is the cause of the mental dullness in her sister's case, and also in other children, suffering from a similar mental condition and known to have been injured at birth.

In addition, Dr. Jenkins pointed out, the normal twin gives a picture of the development of a genetically identical individual in the same home environment without the physical handicap.

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