

OUR REDMEN ASIATICS.

SUCH THE VERDICT OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION SCIENTISTS.

Government Expedition to the Pacific Slope Settles a Long Disputed Question—Finds Traces of Twenty Aboriginal Nations Scattered Over the Golden State.

"Unquestionably of Asiatic origin" is the verdict as to the California Indians rendered by a special commission sent to that part of the country by the Smithsonian Institution. Prof. W. H. Holmes, anthropologist-in-chief of the National Museum, voices the opinion, which practically settles a long disputed question, in a bulletin that is about to be published. He says that the aborigines now found in the Golden state came long ago from the far north, from Behring Sea and beyond, having crossed over from Asia by way of the "frigid arch" which affords a land passage interrupted only by a narrow water barrier a few miles in breadth.

Prof. O. S. Mason, of the Smithsonian Institution, calls attention to the fact that the shortest line between the Straits of Malacca and the continent of North America is a great circle passing northward along the east coast of Asia, across Behring Strait, and southward to the Columbia River, in Oregon. This was the route followed by the first comers to America. Not only was it the shortest, but it may be said that food grew in profusion all along it by the wayside. Early man was obliged to travel in those tracks which were marked out by nature and provisioned for his journeys. Water furnished the greatest quantity and variety of food for the least effort, and the same element afforded easiest transportation.

Travel was mainly in boats, of course. It is easy to imagine a company of the remote ancestors of California Indians setting out, thousands of years ago, from the Indian Ocean in an open boat for a voyage of 10,000 miles to the Columbia river. The route was nearly all the way by sea—an inside passage through landlocked seas and sounds. It led through the Indian Malay archipelago, the South China and Yellow seas, the Japanese and Tartary seas, the Okhotsk sea, and Behring sea, and its bays, the Alaskan sea and inlets, the Tinian, Haida sea, Vancouver sea and the Columbia basin.

All of these marine enclosures swarmed with animal life suitable for human food. The East China and Yellow seas furnished inexhaustible supplies of fish, water fowl, crabs, oysters, etc. In Behring sea there was no limit to subsistence. No sooner was a latitude approached where the rigors of the climate demanded extra clothing and fuel for the body than marine mammals and land mammals were superabundant. These early travelers would naturally avoid the deep ocean, which is a desert to the voyager, offering no food supply. In the shallows the landmarks were their lighthouses and the inlets were their harbors innumerable.

In California at the present time, says Prof. Holmes, are found remnants of 20 distinct nations, speaking as many languages. These varied ethnic elements, embraced within a region only 800 miles in length by 200 miles in width, seem to have been attracted one after another to the lowland and coastal valleys by the bait of an unending food supply. So formidable are the barriers of mountain ranges on the east and so forbidding the deserts on the south that few communities once settled there would ever take the trouble to seek homes elsewhere. It would appear that the peoples were caught like fishes in a trap—the way in was easy, but the way out was hard.

The Indians, or rather their remote ancestors, came from Asia by way of Behring Strait, because that was the easiest as well as the shortest route. On an ordinary map it does not look the shortest, but it is such, nevertheless, and that this is true may easily be ascertained by a brief examination of any geographical globe. It is considered reasonably certain by many scientists that the earliest beings properly called human dwelt not far from the Straits of Malacca, and that from there their descendants spread over the world.

One can conceive of a stream of canoes flowing for many centuries from the Indian Ocean and peopling America steadily from Asia by way of its eastern shores and seas. For 2000 years or more this continent was receiving in this way continuously a population. A great highway was opened through which the stream of boats kept flowing. In every favorable place along the route colonies were dropped, and the nations thus started assumed proportionately over the length of the highway. At length they shot out of the stream of migration by declaring that it should no longer pass through their premises, and the flow of immigration to America being thus cut off, the ancestors of the present copper colored aborigines were left to isolate, through centuries, traits of their own.

Though the present aborigines of California represent so many distinct nations as proved by their languages, which are as far apart from one another as English is from Chinese, the character of the food supply and other local conditions applying to all have made all of them a good deal alike in respect to habits and customs. Generally speaking, the culture of the tribes of the Golden State may be said, as Prof. Holmes remarks, to revolve about the oak tree. They are eaters of acorns, which enable forests of oak furnish in unlimited quantities. They have almost no earthenware, few of them understand anything of the potter's art, but are the most wonderful basket makers in the world, their products in this line displaying remarkably varied phases of form, technique and embellishment.

Prof. Holmes examined several of their milling places, and describes one of them (a typical example) as a mass of granite rock, with many conical holes, some shallow and some deep. All about were stones for grinding and pounding, adapted in shape to the hollows, in which acorns were put for the purpose of reducing them to meal. This place of industry was covered with a rude shelter of poles and brush to protect the women, who are obliged to spend much of their time at such work, from sun and rain.

The acorn cracking outfit ordinarily consists of a round stone with a shallow pit on the upper surface, and another stone for striking, the nut being set on end to receive the blow. In the absence of such contrivance the teeth are used for breaking the shells. The kernels, after being dried, are pounded in a hole, the resulting meal being winnowed in a flat basket. A basin is then formed in the sand, and in this the meal is put, the water being poured upon it repeatedly and allowed to drain away until all of the tannin is filtered out. It is the tannin that renders the acorn unfit for food in its ordinary condition, but, after going through the process described, the flour, scooped out of the sand-basin with the hands, is sweet and wholesome. The Indians, who call it "byota," vastly prefer it to our wheat flour.

Mortars carved out of stone are sometimes employed for grinding the acorns, with the help of a pestle. Prof. Holmes found two ancient ones, of a globular shape, in the possession of an old miner named John Cannon. They were so highly valued by Mrs. Cannon as receptacles for watering the chickens that one of them was secured only with the greatest difficulty. They had been discovered originally in a mine, together with a number of skeletons, buried six feet deep in gold bearing strata.

Near a place called Murphy's the expedition visited a cave carved out of the limestone by water, which was entered by an opening descending below. Shells and other portions of human skeletons had been found there, and Prof. Holmes secured from the interior of the cavern parts of the remains of a huge animal, which, being taken to Washington, proved to have been a mammoth long ago extinct, whose remains long ago were scattered about the greater part of this continent during the tertiary epoch—New York Herald.

HISTORIC RELICS.

Back to Man's Clothes Dating Back to Feudal Times.

The general lack of picturesqueness about the present day male attire is frequently lamented, yet how many people are aware that the average man carries on his coat at least two historical relics, one of which dates back to feudal times?

This relic of the times of William the Conqueror consists of the two buttons worn at the back of a morning frock coat. The buttons are, of course, useless for any practical purpose, and inasmuch as they are certainly not decorative, you may naturally ask what they are there for.

Sartorial historians now tell us that these two buttons come down to us from the sword bearing age, when they were placed at the back of the coat for the purpose of supporting a sword belt, which, together with the sword, has long since been discarded, save by military men, the sole remaining evidence of its existence being the two buttons. Thus to this day they remain on our coats as mute witnesses of the days that are gone.

The other historical relic which still survives in our modern coats is the nick in the lapel. Though you have been wearing coats and waistcoats ever since childhood's early days you have probably never thought to inquire whether or not there is in any reason why tailors should continue to make this nick. It is now recalled by sartorial experts that when Napoleon first led the way of boundless ambition he tried to implicate General Moreau in Pichegru's conspiracy.

As you will doubtless remember, Moreau had been the man of destiny's rival, and was an exceedingly popular soldier, but in the circumstances, with his petti caporal in power, it was not safe to publicly express sympathy with Moreau. So it came about that his admirers and supporters secretly agreed to nick their coat lapels to show their fellowship, the outlines of the coat after the cut had been made forming the letter M.

It would be interesting to learn if men carry any other marks about their dress which have historic origins or associations.

Our dress, after all, has been evolved from that of those who have lived before us—London Express.

A Russian Millennium.

No newspaper has appeared at Borski (in Finland) for some time past, owing to the official censor being away on a holiday. If all these Russian censors were given a holiday what a lovely time the empire of the czar would have—Vostische Zeitung, Berlin.

Three hundred and twenty-five miles in a day is the record for a sailing ship, 840 for a steamer.

THE MARKETS.

Grain, Flour and Feeds.

WHEAT—No. 2 red	
68	69
59	60
60	61
61	62
62	63
63	64
64	65
65	66
66	67
67	68
68	69
69	70
70	71
71	72
72	73
73	74
74	75
75	76
76	77
77	78
78	79
79	80
80	81
81	82
82	83
83	84
84	85
85	86
86	87
87	88
88	89
89	90
90	91
91	92
92	93
93	94
94	95
95	96
96	97
97	98
98	99
99	100

DAILY PRODUCTS.

Butter—Eggs	23	24
Butter—Creamery	20	21
Butter—Country	15	16
Butter—Ohio	10	11
Butter—New York	10	11
Butter—Wisconsin	10	11
Butter—Pennsylvania	10	11
Butter—Maryland	10	11
Butter—Virginia	10	11
Butter—North Carolina	10	11
Butter—South Carolina	10	11
Butter—Georgia	10	11
Butter—Florida	10	11
Butter—Alabama	10	11
Butter—Mississippi	10	11
Butter—Louisiana	10	11
Butter—Arkansas	10	11
Butter—Tennessee	10	11
Butter—Kentucky	10	11
Butter—West Virginia	10	11
Butter—Ohio	10	11
Butter—Indiana	10	11
Butter—Illinois	10	11
Butter—Michigan	10	11
Butter—Wisconsin	10	11
Butter—Minnesota	10	11
Butter—Iowa	10	11
Butter—Missouri	10	11
Butter—Kansas	10	11
Butter—Nebraska	10	11
Butter—Oklahoma	10	11
Butter—Texas	10	11
Butter—New Mexico	10	11
Butter—Arizona	10	11
Butter—California	10	11
Butter—Oregon	10	11
Butter—Washington	10	11
Butter—Idaho	10	11
Butter—Montana	10	11
Butter—Wyoming	10	11
Butter—Utah	10	11
Butter—Nevada	10	11
Butter—Colorado	10	11
Butter—New York	10	11
Butter—Pennsylvania	10	11
Butter—Maryland	10	11
Butter—Virginia	10	11
Butter—North Carolina	10	11
Butter—South Carolina	10	11
Butter—Georgia	10	11
Butter—Florida	10	11
Butter—Alabama	10	11
Butter—Mississippi	10	11
Butter—Louisiana	10	11
Butter—Arkansas	10	11
Butter—Tennessee	10	11
Butter—Kentucky	10	11
Butter—West Virginia	10	11
Butter—Ohio	10	11
Butter—Indiana	10	11
Butter—Illinois	10	11
Butter—Michigan	10	11
Butter—Wisconsin	10	11
Butter—Minnesota	10	11
Butter—Iowa	10	11
Butter—Missouri	10	11
Butter—Kansas	10	11
Butter—Nebraska	10	11
Butter—Oklahoma	10	11
Butter—Texas	10	11
Butter—New Mexico	10	11
Butter—Arizona	10	11
Butter—California	10	11
Butter—Oregon	10	11
Butter—Washington	10	11
Butter—Idaho	10	11
Butter—Montana	10	11
Butter—Wyoming	10	11
Butter—Utah	10	11
Butter—Nevada	10	11
Butter—Colorado	10	11

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Apples—No. 1	75	76
Apples—No. 2	70	71
Apples—No. 3	65	66
Apples—No. 4	60	61
Apples—No. 5	55	56
Apples—No. 6	50	51
Apples—No. 7	45	46
Apples—No. 8	40	41
Apples—No. 9	35	36
Apples—No. 10	30	31
Apples—No. 11	25	26
Apples—No. 12	20	21
Apples—No. 13	15	16
Apples—No. 14	10	11
Apples—No. 15	5	6
Apples—No. 16	0	1
Apples—No. 17	0	1
Apples—No. 18	0	1
Apples—No. 19	0	1
Apples—No. 20	0	1

PHILADELPHIA.

Wheat—No. 2 red	75	76
Wheat—No. 2 white	70	71
Wheat—No. 3 white	65	66
Wheat—No. 4 white	60	61
Wheat—No. 5 white	55	56
Wheat—No. 6 white	50	51
Wheat—No. 7 white	45	46
Wheat—No. 8 white	40	41
Wheat—No. 9 white	35	36
Wheat—No. 10 white	30	31
Wheat—No. 11 white	25	26
Wheat—No. 12 white	20	21
Wheat—No. 13 white	15	16
Wheat—No. 14 white	10	11
Wheat—No. 15 white	5	6
Wheat—No. 16 white	0	1
Wheat—No. 17 white	0	1
Wheat—No. 18 white	0	1
Wheat—No. 19 white	0	1
Wheat—No. 20 white	0	1

NEW YORK.

Wheat—No. 2 red	75	76
Wheat—No. 2 white	70	71
Wheat—No. 3 white	65	66
Wheat—No. 4 white	60	61
Wheat—No. 5 white	55	56
Wheat—No. 6 white	50	51
Wheat—No. 7 white	45	46
Wheat—No. 8 white	40	41
Wheat—No. 9 white	35	36
Wheat—No. 10 white	30	31
Wheat—No. 11 white	25	26
Wheat—No. 12 white	20	21
Wheat—No. 13 white	15	16
Wheat—No. 14 white	10	11
Wheat—No. 15 white	5	6
Wheat—No. 16 white	0	1
Wheat—No. 17 white	0	1
Wheat—No. 18 white	0	1
Wheat—No. 19 white	0	1
Wheat—No. 20 white	0	1

LIVE STOCK.

Cattle—No. 1	10	11
Cattle—No. 2	9	10
Cattle—No. 3	8	9
Cattle—No. 4	7	8
Cattle—No. 5	6	7
Cattle—No. 6	5	6
Cattle—No. 7	4	5
Cattle—No. 8	3	4
Cattle—No. 9	2	3
Cattle—No. 10	1	2
Cattle—No. 11	0	1
Cattle—No. 12	0	1
Cattle—No. 13	0	1
Cattle—No. 14	0	1
Cattle—No. 15	0	1
Cattle—No. 16	0	1
Cattle—No. 17	0	1
Cattle—No. 18	0	1
Cattle—No. 19	0	1
Cattle—No. 20	0	1

CATTLE.

Prime beef	10	11
Medium beef	9	10
Low beef	8	9
Prime steer	10	11
Medium steer	9	10
Low steer	8	9
Prime cow	10	11
Medium cow	9	10
Low cow	8	9
Prime bull	10	11
Medium bull	9	10
Low bull	8	9
Prime heifer	10	11
Medium heifer	9	10
Low heifer	8	9
Prime calf	10	11
Medium calf	9	10
Low calf	8	9

WHEAT.

Prime heavy	10	11
Medium heavy	9	10
Low heavy	8	9
Prime light	10	11
Medium light	9	10
Low light	8	9
Prime extra	10	11
Medium extra	9	10
Low extra	8	9
Prime standard	10	11
Medium standard	9	10
Low standard	8	9
Prime common	10	11
Medium common	9	10
Low common	8	9
Prime inferior	10	11
Medium inferior	9	10
Low inferior	8	9
Prime refuse	10	11
Medium refuse	9	10
Low refuse	8	9

WHEAT.

Prime heavy	10	11
Medium heavy	9	10
Low heavy	8	9
Prime light	10	11
Medium light	9	10
Low light	8	9
Prime extra	10	11
Medium extra	9	10
Low extra	8	9
Prime standard	10	11
Medium standard	9	10
Low standard	8	9
Prime common	10	11
Medium common	9	10
Low common	8	9
Prime inferior	10	11
Medium inferior	9	10
Low inferior	8	9
Prime refuse	10	11
Medium refuse	9	10
Low refuse	8	9

WHEAT.

Prime heavy	10	11
Medium heavy	9	10
Low heavy	8	9
Prime light	10	11
Medium light	9	10
Low light	8	9
Prime extra	10	11
Medium extra	9	10
Low extra	8	9
Prime standard	10	11
Medium standard	9	10
Low standard	8	9
Prime common	10	11
Medium common	9	10
Low common	8	9
Prime inferior	10	11
Medium inferior	9	10
Low inferior	8	9
Prime refuse	10	11
Medium refuse	9	10
Low refuse	8	9

WHEAT.

Prime heavy	10	11
Medium heavy	9	10
Low heavy	8	9
Prime light	10	11
Medium light	9	10
Low light	8	9
Prime extra	10	11
Medium extra	9	10
Low extra	8	9
Prime standard	10	11
Medium standard	9	10
Low standard	8	9
Prime common	10	11
Medium common	9	10
Low common	8	9
Prime inferior	10	11
Medium inferior	9	10
Low inferior	8	9
Prime refuse	10	11
Medium refuse	9	10
Low refuse	8	9

WHEAT.

Prime heavy	10	11
Medium heavy	9	10
Low heavy	8	9
Prime light	10	11
Medium light	9	10
Low light	8	9
Prime extra	10	11
Medium extra	9	10
Low extra	8	9
Prime standard	10	11
Medium standard	9	10
Low standard	8	9
Prime common	10	11
Medium common	9	10
Low common	8	9
Prime inferior	10	11
Medium inferior	9	10
Low inferior	8	9
Prime refuse	10	11
Medium refuse	9	