

That much is not disputed. But, now comes the claim that the government officials pursued the course of awaiting payments from settlers, in some cases, before making final settlement with the tribes. Then, this delay in turn was visited upon the Indians, without final settlement, and now at long last turns up a claim for settlement.

Particularly are involved the consolidated Otoe and Missouri Indian tribes, now numbering only a "few hundred people," whose representatives have filed a claim in suit at Washington for \$9,726,921 with interest under treaties dating back to 1830. The acres involved represent practically the three western tiers of Iowa counties from the Missouri to the Minnesota border, and other such area in Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. The claim of the tribal attorneys is weakened somewhat by statement in their petition that the lands had a certain actual value, upon which they rely, rather than upon actual amounts defaulted in payment of money, goods and services agreed to be paid therefor.

A question of fact seems to be the crux of the situation—with bookkeeping and accounting having much to do with the consideration and delivery of same as provided in the treaty. How carefully and accurately the records of the tribe and the government have been kept and preserved must now develop.

PELLA CHRISTIAN CENTENNIAL

A noteworthy centennial observance took place on August 20, in the West park at Pella, commemorating the arrival there of 800 Hollanders in 1847. The band of settlers came to America and founded the original colony at Pella, under the leadership of Dominie Hendrick Peter Scholte, grandfather of Dr. John Nollen, of Grinnell, and Gerard Nollen, of Des Moines.

The celebration program of the day was in keeping with the religious history and experiences which resulted in the emigration to America, and was participated in by speakers from various Pella churches. An offering

in a substantial sum was taken at one of the sessions of the day, for the re-establishment of the Doeveren church in the Netherlands, the Scholte church, which was completely destroyed during World War II.

This is the same church at Utrecht, from which, in 1907, the Misses Sarah and Hannah Nollen, of Des Moines, obtained the pulpit from which their grandfather had preached before coming to America, and brought to the Iowa Historical department on loan, until provision was recently made for its installation in the new museum at Central college at Pella.

PETERSON HEADS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The board of curators of the State Historical society at Iowa City, at their mid-summer meeting, elected Dr. William J. Peterson superintendent of the society. He had served for the past seventeen years as a research associate, and now succeeds Miss Ethyl Martin as superintendent. As a writer of ability his articles have appeared in the *Palimpsest*, the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* and other publications of the society, also teaching Iowa history in the State University of Iowa. Dr. Peterson has lectured extensively throughout Iowa to schools, clubs, patriotic, religious and professional organizations and historical societies. The new superintendent was born at Dubuque, where he graduated from Dubuque high school and the University of Dubuque. He received his doctor's degree in history from the State University in 1930.

DEATH CLAIMS DONOR OF WAR POSTERS

The death of William P. Kerwin, president of Kerwin's Inc., at Waterloo, occurred September 7, 1947, from the effects of a stroke suffered the previous Friday. For 58 years he has been in the clothing business, first with his father and later became president of the company which has stores in Oelwein, Waverly and Cedar Falls.

In World War I he served overseas with the Eighty-eighth U. S. division as a Knights of Columbus divisional

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