GAVE A GRAND POTLATCH.

The Singular Method a Siwash Indian Took of Spending $1,400.

Speaking with a prominent canner a few days ago a representative of the Westminister (B. C.) Columbian inquired how the Indians were faring this year in the salmon fishing, and whether they would be rich enough to indulge in the potlatch. "They won't have much money to throw away in that direction this season," replied the canner. "Last year a great many Siwashes made good wages, and potlatches were all the rage for some time afterward. They are a curious people, and it is astonishing the delight they take in appearing liberal and wealthy in the eyes of their friends. Last year I had an Indian working for me who earned $1,400. He drew the whole of this in a lump sum and laid it out in eight muskets, a dozen boxes of crackers and the balance—about $1,200—in blankets. Then the noble red man called all the Indians within reach together and announced his intention of giving a grand potlatch.

"The blankets were spread out in a 2-acre field, with the crackers on the outside for his friends to lunch on and the muskets in the center. When the appointed time arrived to begin the ceremonies the Indian waded through the sea of blankets to where the muskets lay. Here he climbed on a box and began a long oration which lasted over an hour, at the end of which time he picked up the blankets one by one and smashed them over the box, signifying that all enmity between the tribes present was forever ended and rifles would no longer be needed. Then he gave the signal that the potlatch had commenced, and the Indian women sailed in and packed away not only one pair of blankets, but as many as they could carry, and in a few minutes there was not even a single blanket left for the use of the generous contributor. This grand give away of course made the Siwash very popular, and a few days after he was made subchief of his tribe. A few weeks later this same Indian came to me dead broke and got a sack of flour on credit."

"Is the potlatch common among the ordinary run of Indians?" asked the newspaper man.

"As a rule the head men of the tribe do this sort of thing," replied the salmon packer, "but once in a while an ambitious young Siwash tries to make a name for himself. Last fall a young fellow who had made a little money fishing for me came into the office and got $150 in silver. With this he climbed on the top of a shack, and after addressing the multitude for an hour and a half scattered every cent of the money among the people below. This young Indian is looked upon as a coming man, and by the time he has squandered the earnings of half a dozen seasons' fishing he will be made a chief. But fish are few and there won't be many potlatches this year," concluded the cannery man.

The President of the Argentine.

The constitution of the Argentine Republic is in its principal features identical with that of the United States. Nevertheless there are some differences worthy of note. The president is elected in precisely the same manner as in the United States, but cannot be re-elected, and his term of office is six years. He has more power than the president of the United States, as far as making appointments is concerned, since he only asks the advice and consent of the senate to appoint diplomatic ministers, judges and officers of the army and navy above the rank of colonel.

He fills all other offices at his own discretion, but all his decrees, proclamation, etc., must be countersigned by a cabinet minister or else are valueless. Thus the constitution makes the cabinet ministers responsible for all the acts of the president.

The members of the cabinet can answer questions and take part in the debates of the house and the senate, although they are not members of either body, nor does an adverse vote on any measure of the government carry with it a change in the cabinet, as is the case in France and England and is becoming the custom in Chili.

The powers of the Argentine congress are similar to those vested in the congress of the United States, though somewhat greater. The congress has the power to legislate for all the provinces, dictating codes to be applied in all of them, thus securing uniformity of legislation. The provinces reserve the right to elect their own judges, as well as the other officials that their local constitution demands. All federal and provincial judges are appointed for life, and cannot be removed unless they are impeached and condemned.—New England Magazine.

A Smart Yankee Skipper.

A writer in The Nautical Magazine tells a story of how a Yankee skipper contrived to free his ship from rats. While he lay in port he discovered that one of the British ships then in the harbor had among her cargo a great quantity of cheese. He thereupon found an excuse for hauling over to her and mooring his own packet alongside. The next step was to procure a plank, smear it well with an odoriferous preparation of red herrings and place it so as to lead through one of the ports on board the Englishman. The immediate result was a wholesome emigration of the rats from the American ship's hold to the cheese laden vessel alongside.

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