



Three Osage Leaders

By JOSEPH A. BRANDT, '21journ

IN the history of every people are one or more black chapters, the recounting of which brings a blush to the cheeks of countless generations. In the history of the United States the Indian is such a chapter. Just how black that chapter really is, is being revealed perhaps for the first time in the series being published by the University of Oklahoma on the Civilization of the American Indian—a record of treaties broken with an ease which makes the Germans seem pikers of the worst sort, land greed and personal abuse which makes the Belgian excursion in the Congo a white chapter.

An honest effort seems in the offing, now, to change our traditional attitude towards the Indian. It is John Collier's "New Deal" for the Indian. The new Indian program has been received with mixed feelings in Oklahoma and it is not our purpose here to discuss its merits; rather, a significant phase of it, a trial balloon which is being sent up by graduates of the University.

Changed conditions in the life of the Indian, almost all who have studied the Indian "Question" are agreed, can best be brought about by active participation of the Indians in their own self-government. It is ridiculous, to say the least, to have incompetent white men directing the affairs of competent Indians. It is unwise,

obviously, to make the habits of the aboriginal Americans conform to the customs of the invaders, even though that has been the record of every conquered people in the past. Or to lump Indians into one great class, ignoring the distinction between the warrior and the pastoral Indian.

By a stroke of the greatest good luck, the Osage Indian tribe escaped the complete destruction of tribal communism when their lands were distributed on an individual basis. Mineral rights were reserved to the tribe as a whole. The discovery of oil brought, temporarily at least, wealth to the tribe as a whole. And with this wealth, increased responsibilities of administration. The Osage Council, consisting of eight members, proved adequate to the responsibility. The allotments of 640 acres closed in 1907; and, for a period of twenty-five years, mineral rights were held as a pool for the tribe, the income to be distributed on a pro-rata basis. The discovery of oil found the Council alive to its responsibility and the communal holding of mineral rights has been extended by Congress at the request of the Council to 1951.

The problems today, brought about by reduced oil income and the inauguration of new policies of Indian administration in Washington, find two graduates of the University on the Osage Council, eager to

show that Indian autonomy is the right road. Both come from Osage families having distinguished records and both have, despite their youth, themselves given great service to the tribe. They are John Joseph Mathews, '20as, and Thomas B. Leahy, '20 ex. Working under the direction of the Council as tribal attorney is another graduate of the University, G. B. "Bub" Fulton, '22law. Incidentally, all three were associated together when in the University as members of the Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Mathews is the Osage Homer, the author of *Wah'Kon-Tah*, the beautiful history of the vicissitudes and decline of the Osage under close contact with the white man. His first novel, the hero of which is an Osage seeking to adjust himself to the white standard of "civilization," will be published shortly by Longmans, Green & Company in New York. The Mathews family had its American beginning during the reign of Charles II of England (the town of Mathews, Virginia, is named for the family). It was through the celebrated western figure William Shirley Williams (Old Bill Williams) that the Osage link was established. Mr. Williams, the great grandfather of Jo Mathews, married an Osage. Mr. Mathews' father, William Shirley Mathews, helped in the reorganization of the Osage tribe at the time it removed from Kansas to the present Oklahoma reservation. At the annual election this summer, members of the tribe asked Mr. Mathews to be a candidate, and like Mr. Leahy, he was handily elected.

Leahy's grandfather on his mother's side was the first tribal judge and active in the administration of the affairs of different treaties and legislation in the early days

Three Osage leaders, all graduates of the University, are Tom Leahy, '22ex, Pawhuska; G. B. Fulton, '22law, Oklahoma City; and John Joseph Mathews, '20as, Pawhuska. Leahy and Mathews are two of the eight members of the Osage Council, while Fulton is tribal attorney.

Walton's writing down the amounts appropriated for educational institutions. The Governor's enemies argued that he had vetoed the appropriations and were clamoring for a special session of the legislature, with the purpose, of course, of impeaching him. It was a most delicate situation with little or no legal precedent to guide lawyers. A careful analysis of legal precedent, however, convinced Mr. Fulton that the Governor, not being empowered with legislative powers, could not alter the legislature's enactment and that his marking down was, in effect, approval rather than veto. He argued this successfully before the Supreme Court.

Friends recall an amusing story in connection with this case, which marked the young attorney's first appearance before the Supreme Court. Mr. Fulton had concluded his argument, and, to clinch it, gave an illustration:

"Now, your honor, suppose a man

walked into your office and shot your dog. The dog is either dead, or he is alive. That's right, isn't it?"

The judge smiled.

"Quite right, Mr. Fulton. But, suppose he shot off a leg of the dog?"

After private practice for several years, Mr. Fulton became a municipal counselor of Oklahoma City. He was a candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court in the last primary election. The Fultons have two children, Jim, age five, and Isabel, age three. The appointment as tribal attorney became effective in August.

The new councilmen have actively plunged into the work which faces them and the new Council. In giving Indians greater autonomy it requires keen, forward-looking minds, and these University graduates, interested both by tradition and education for the task, may become important figures in Indian reconstruction—if it is not too late for reconstruction.

of the tribe. Just as Mathews' father was a member of the Council, so did Leahy's father serve as Councilman for twelve years and was a member of the celebrated Allotment Council which subdivided the pooled interest of the tribe, yet most wisely retained the communal feature as regards minerals. Shortly after leaving the University Mr. Leahy himself became secretary of the Osage Council (in 1923), at the time when the first extension was granted to reserve the mineral rights until 1945. While Leahy's ancestors on his mother's side were Osage (his grandfather was born near Pawhuska in 1834), his father's people came from Ireland shortly before the Civil War. His grandfather married into the Osage tribe. While active in tribal affairs, particularly on committees recommending legislation for the benefit of the tribe, Leahy made banking his vocation and is now assistant cashier of the American National Bank of Pawhuska. His bride was Marcelle R. Darling, whom he married November 10, 1921. The Leahys have one son, Thomas B., jr., age eleven years.

The affairs of the tribe, naturally, represent a tremendous task for the tribal attorney. Fulton, although not himself a member of the tribe, is married to a member of the tribe, his wife being Teresa Bennett, a graduate of the School of Journalism of the University in 1928. Administering the affairs of his wife has given him a deep and sympathetic insight into the problems of the Osage. In addition he has had a most varied legal career. Coming out of the University's law school, he was early plunged into the exciting episodes of the Walton administration, as assistant attorney general, a post he occupied when only twenty-six years old. Keenly interested in the University (as are both the Councilmen), Fulton was able to do education a service in presenting the arguments for the State in the celebrated case resulting from Governor

It's Now Larry Cotton

IT was only three short years ago that luncheon eaters at the Varsity shoppe, just off the Sooner campus, were entertained at noon by the tenor crooning of one Maurice Cotton.

Every noonday he sang the latest popular hits with a few of the old favorites thrown in to please students and faculty members at their mid-day meal. The campus liked his voice but was a little skeptical that winter when he was given a part in the grand opera, "Faust," when it was produced on the campus.

Young Cotton, of the crooning voice, however, came through in convincing style and showed the lovers of the higher forms of music that his vocal possibilities extended beyond the range of the ordinary eat-shop crooner.

When school closed two years ago, he decided to go to the west coast and cast about in the regions of Los Angeles where singers often have the opportunity of crooning for more than meals.

Carol Lofner heard him shortly after he arrived in Los Angeles and offered him a contract to sing with his orchestra. Cotton had become a baritone in the meantime and was an immediate hit. He changed his name to Larry Cotton for publicity purposes and became a favorite.

During the last few months, Lofner and his orchestra have gone to Houston where they have played for several Sooner alumni dances sponsored by the Houston

Alumni club and directed by Joe Williams, '22ex.

A story printed recently in the *Houston Chronicle* said of Cotton:

"Larry Cotton, baritone soloist with Carol Lofner and his California orchestra, knew that his voice had won him many engagements on the University of Oklahoma campus during his five years at Norman, but he did not realize then that some day he would be scheduled for regular broadcasts on the big trans-continental radio chains.

"Cotton finished at Oklahoma University in 1932 and made his way to California where he gainted entree into the largest studios. His belltone baritone voice was immediately accepted by listeners and fan letters started rolling in. It was in Los Angeles that Carol Lofner, playing an engagement at the Beverley-Wilshire hotel, learned of Larry's romantic voice. Larry was offered a contract to join the band immediately.

"Since that time Cotton has sung in many of the famous West Coast rendezvous including the Beverley-Wilshire, the Hollywood and Los Angeles hotels, the Cosmopolitan Hotel at Denver and the St. Francis in San Francisco, which was the band's last engagement before coming to Houston.

"Lofner and his orchestra may be heard over radio station KTRH at 11 P.M., daily. The band plays on the Rice Hotel roof for noon luncheon, evening dinner and for dancing each night."