

HOLIDAY FOR INDIANS URGED ON NATION

Red Men Living Here Get Numerous Indorsements of the Project.

PROCLAMATION MADE PUBLIC

Document issued by the Society of American Indians Names Second Saturday of May.

The Society of American Indians, a national organization of white men and Indians, announced several days ago that its campaign to make a national holiday of "Indian Day" had not been forgotten, but that the society was making every effort to make the nation realize that such commemoration of the original American was fitting. Red Fox James, the representative of the society in this city, and Amos One Road, who lives at the Bible Training School, 541 Lexington Avenue, said yesterday that they had received numerous letters from prominent citizens urging the establishment of such a national holiday.

Red Fox James, a blooded Indian of the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana, rode 4,006 miles in 1914 on a pony in the costume of the tribe collecting letters of indorsement from twenty-four Governors, which he brought to Washington and presented to the President. At the fifth annual conference of the Society of American Indians, of which Sherman Coolidge, a member of the Arapahoe Tribe, is President, the following proclamation was issued at Lawrence, Kan.:
Know Ye All by These Presents:

That I, Sherman Coolidge, President of the Society of American Indians, by virtue of the power in me vested by the Executive Council of the society, do hereby declare:

the second Saturday in the month of May

each year shall henceforth be known as American Indian Day, and call upon every person of American Indian ancestry to specially observe this day as one set apart as a memorial to the red race of America and to a wise consideration of its future.

In the judgment of wise and impartial men the heroic struggle of our fathers against forces which they had no means of measuring and appreciating, yet which they fought against for home, for family, for country, and the preservation of native freedom, has no parallel in all history. Yet while we consider these things we are not unmindful that they made upon occasions the same mistakes that have been common to all mankind of every race and age, and yet they were virtuous men. Now that the glory and shadows of the past have become part of the historic record that has been written we are not to forget the present and the future of our people that we may henceforth live in greater fullness. Let us now move forward and acquire those things that make races and nations more efficient and more noble. Let us reach out for a larger life through brotherly love, purposeful action, and constructive service to our country, not only for our own welfare, but in order that the American people and all humanity may be uplifted, because we have performed and strive to perform our full duty as men. Let these things and the means by which they may be accomplished be considered upon American Indian Day.

Likewise do we invite every American who loves his country and would uphold its honor and dignity to celebrate and to consider our early philosophy, our love of freedom, our social institutions, and our history in the full light of truth and in the balances of justice in honest comparison with the annals of other races and to draw therefrom those noble things that we believe are worthy of emulation. But we call upon our country not only to consider the past, but also to earnestly consider the present and our future as part of the American people, to whom we declare our needs now and tomorrow as those primarily struggling for enlightenment and that competency that is consistent with American citizenship. We do now avow our hopes and our destiny inseparably united to that of the people of the United States of America, and that our hearts and minds are now and forever loyal to our country, which we would serve in the fullest capacity as men and Americans.

SHERMAN COOLIDGE,

President the Society of American Indians.

Attest: ARTHUR C. PARKER,

National Secretary.

Amos One Road said that he could see no reason why the national holiday should not be put into effect, as there were many holidays commemorating incidents in national history less important than the red race of America. He considered it a debt the nation owed the Indian.