

A P A C H E A G E N T

"Nantan-betunnykahyeh," he said, "we have heard you. It is well, what you said to Great White Chief at Tucson. We are good Indians, here at San Carlos. We are peaceful. We are happy. We will not join Chiricahuas on warpath. But we are ready to go on warpath against the Chiricahuas, if it is the wish of Nantan-betunnykahyeh."

'If the citizens of Tucson, the Governor of Arizona, and the Congress of the United States could have been present at that powwow of my Apache chiefs, those horrible pages of our Indian wars in the Southwest (1881-86) never would have been written. "Atrocious red men?" "Savages?" "Only dead Indians are good Indians?" Tommyrot. That speech of Eskiminzin's, with all of its loyalty and patriotism and courage, deserved the same niche in our historic archives as that celebrated oratorical outburst of Patrick Henry. I have given only the gist of what Eskiminzin said. He spoke for fifteen or twenty minutes. As he spoke, I could hear the word "enju" being expressed intermittently, but softly, by the other chiefs. Enju, it is well.

'When Eskiminzin concluded, all the other chiefs wanted to make speeches. They were great orators, those Apaches. But I told them we must not spend more time with talk; if they all agreed with Eskiminzin, and would go on the warpath against bad Chiricahuas, just say the word, and we would get busy. The vote was unanimous. I sent couriers back into the mountains of our reservation, spread the news of the Chiricahua outbreak, told of the decision of the chiefs, called for volunteers.

'We needed no "draft." Within six hours from the time I returned to San Carlos from Tucson, two hundred and fifty special Apache scouts