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PAWNEES KEPT ARROWS

Cheyennes After Council and War Dance Fail to Recover Sacred Relics

1916?

Pawnee, Okla., August 22.—The Dog Soldier band of the Cheyenne Indian tribe, from western Oklahoma, has been visiting the Skedee band of the Pawnees. The Cheyennes, to the number of 300, came to recover two sacred arrows captured from them by the Pawnees many years ago, and this visit was the first time the two bands had met in friendly council since the time when both were on the warpath. The Pawnees entertained the Cheyennes at a war dance, and gave them many presents including ponies, blankets, calico and provisions, but would not relinquish the sacred arrows. The Cheyennes performed what they called the lightning dance.

The two sacred arrows, according to a local writer in the Times-Dispatch, were captured from the Cheyennes in a battle on Platte river, Nebraska, about sixty years ago. A Pawnee who had previously been crippled and who preferred death to the suffering caused by his wounds, had stationed himself far in advance of the other Pawnees, in a clump of bushes. As he was picking off a great many Cheyennes with his arrows, they saw that it was necessary to dislodge him.

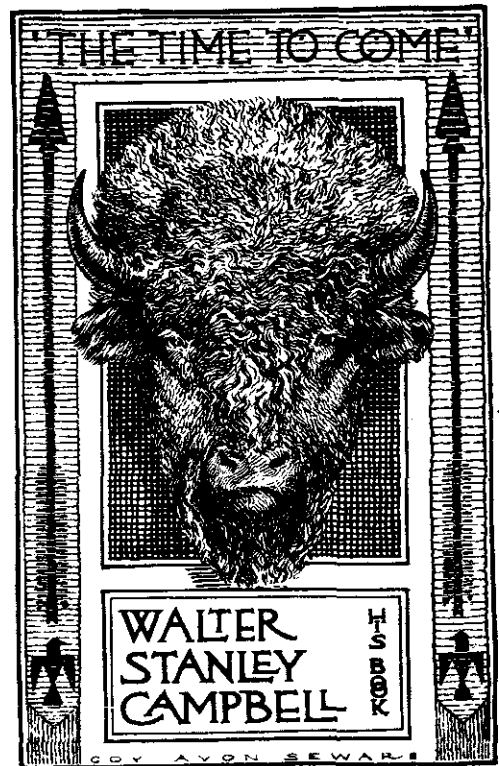
PAWNEES TOOK THE ARROWS.

Accordingly a bunch of Cheyenne warriors on horseback made a dash for the clump of bushes, their sacred arrow keeper in the lead. He had the arrows, four in number, fastened to a long spear, and as he struck at the Pawnee, the crippled man dodged to one side and grasped the spear, wresting it from the Cheyenne's hand. Almost simultaneously with the charge of the Cheyennes, a few Pawnees in the rear, seeing the danger of their crippled brave, rushed to his assistance. The Cheyennes were thus routed before they could regain their sacred arrows.

About ten years later the Cheyennes recovered two of their sacred arrows by giving the Pawnees 200 ponies. In their negotiations here, the Cheyennes were unable to convince the Pawnees that the two arrows still in the latter's possession should be surrendered at this time. The Pawnees said that if the Dog Soldier Cheyennes should prove worthy friends of the Skedee band after the intended visit of the Pawnees to the Cheyennes next summer, the Pawnees would accept a proposal from the Cheyennes. At this time the Cheyennes must be satisfied

with the presents they have received. CHEYENNE CHIEF AND HIS TRAIN. The Cheyennes considered the Skedee band as the most formidable in the Pawnee tribe. Likewise the Dog Soldiers band is the most numerous among the Cheyennes. The head chief of the Dog Soldiers is also a prophet and medicine man. At present Flying Hawk, who was here with them, holds this position. Under him are the medicine arrow keeper with four assistants, eight priests or medicine men and four leading chiefs and forty chiefs of lesser importance.

The Cheyennes are degenerating gradually. The string of dilapidated wagons and worn-out ponies with their load of dirty, greasy Indians which passed through here Monday would scarcely compare with the worst class of Gypsy outfits. Even the Pawnee war dance lacked much of its former energy and reeroticity. Some of the fat braves tired easily and frequently sought rest, while those who beat the tom-tom had to sit on chairs instead of taking the original position on the ground.



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