

a half century, they moved from the prairies of the southwest, these native of Oklahoma are fast losing their identity. Tribal ways and customs are vanishing rapidly. Most of the Indian children resent speaking their native tongue. The change seems to have started with the advent of the Model-T Ford, when tribesmen abandoned the Indian ponies for the white man's gas buggy and the movement appears to be gaining momentum. Before glass and closed cars became popular, Big chiefs scooted down the highway in open cars with his braids waving in the breeze. Almost every Indian family now owns a car and most of them have a difficult time keeping it on the road. Indian ponies ate little more than grass, but a car can't be operated on grass. The three wars have played a major role among the Indians as it has among many other races. Inter-marriage became common whereas it was almost unknown in the early days. Even marriages outside your own tribe were frowned upon but now--and mixed marriages are common. As a result, it will soon be a rarity to find a full-blooded Indian. Many Indian maidens have married white servicemen, mostly from distant points and many of the unions have resulted in half breed progeny. Anthropologists have estimated that it requires 2,000 years or 70 generations for a race to entirely lose its identity. And this may eventually happen to the American Indian. The trend to indoctrinate the Indians with white man's culture began years ago, but most of it failed to gain favor until older Indian generations passed to the happy hunting ground, their idea of eternal bliss. Several decades ago, the Department of Interior with jurisdiction over the Indians employed Indian farmers to teach the men to till the soil and Indian matrons to instruct the women in house-keeping and the culinary art. All instructors were white. Most of the efforts were wasted as the old Indian men never had a hankerin' for work.