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Compilation of the Indian Languages of America

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HERE IS A STORY OF WEED CONTROL! IM SORRY TOO, NEIGHBOR. WELL SON-I'M SORRY YOU THOSE PATCHES NOW COVER DIDN'T TREAT THAT MORNING MANY ACRES. MY SEED PRO-GLORY AND WHITE TOP WHEN DUCTION IS BELOW NORMAL MENTIONED THE MATTER. AND SO WEEDY THAT I CANNOT ACTIVATED CARBON PAY TAXES OR FEED, S BISULPHIDE WOULD HAVE THE FAMILY. NOBODY FIXED EVERYTHING. BUYS WEEDY SEEDS THESE DAYS! CROPRETURNS NOW IS THE TIME! Eradicate All Noxious Perennials Buy a Mack Anti-Weed Gun and a supply of Bisulphide "Activated" Carbon Our Circular 212-P containing full directions will be mailed to you upon request. WHEELER, REYNOLDS & STAUFFER, 636 California St., San Francisco

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Date, 1941 The Miskin Scraper Works Ucon, Idaho
Gentlemen: My farm is so much like the one in the cartoon above that I would
like information on your scraper forhorses, or
(State make and model) tractor.
Name
Address

Compilation of the Indian Languages of America

By CHARLES E. DIBBLE

T THE last International Congress of Americanists, held in Mexico City in 1939, Robert J. Weitlaner, a linguist of Mexico City, proposed the compilation of a general dictionary of the Indian languages of America. The Congress accepted the proposal, and, with the backing of this organization, the work has been initiated with Mr. Weitlaner as director.

Headquarters have been established in the National Museum of Mexico, and to date three linguistic groups are being studied: the Macro-Otomangue group of Central and Southern Mexico; the Sioux-Hokan group of Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico; and the Uto-Aztecan group of Central America, Mexico, and Western United States. Study on a fourth group, the Maya of Southern Mexico and Central America, is soon to be initiated with the Maya linguistic scholar, Professor Alfredo Barrera Vasquez, as consultant.

Special emphasis is at present being placed on those languages which are rapidly disappearing. Every effort is being made to seek the few survivors and capture a knowledge of these few languages before they are lost forever to linguistic scholars.

The study entails the searching out of all dictionaries and vocabularies thus far published on all of the languages and dialects in each group. It is also to include the work of modern, trained linguistic investigators whose studies are based on the more or less recent method of phonemic analysis.

For comparative studies three hun-

For comparative studies three hundred basic words and fifteen hundred additional words are recorded. On each work sheet is recorded a word as spoken in each language and dialect of the group. On the basis of word comparison and grammatic comparison, the inter-relationships of the language within the group are established.

The organization solicits and welcomes linguistic co-workers, and work sheets are at the disposition of those who desire to contribute to the linguistic fund. The accumulated information of the organization is at the disposition of all, provided proper credit is given to the original contributor.

As the work progresses, other linquistic groups are to be added, and it is hoped that the National Museum of Mexico, due to its central location, will become the center of study for all aboriginal languages of the Western Hemisphere. The task is so large in scope that no time limit is considered. From time to time publications summarizing the accumulated information will appear.