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Investments by Onidas

The Onidas were in a better financial circumstances at the beginning of the last World War than the old people were still holding their allotments and most of them had about cleared their land and had most of their 90 acre allotment under cultivation. They had also started to engage in dairy farming. Some of these Onida dairy farmers had as many as 12 or 15 dairy cows in their herd. Therefore, these farmers were getting big milk checks, and were able to buy U.S. Liberty bonds. Some of them may still have them, or they may have sold and got cash for it. There is a large percentage of Onidas have their life insured, even today. But of course many of them were forced to drop their insurance, or to surrender for small cash payment during de-

pression. Quite a number are again
insured. A large proportion of the
farm owners have their places
and stock insured. Some are stock
holders of Wisconsin Loan Association
but I know of only one that is a
stock holder in the electric company
in Menasha. He is employed by
the company. There are a few Okies
men that work in Green Bay paper
mill who have bought their money
in ^{new} automobiles. There are a few
parents, and widows that got ten
thousands dollars from the govern-
ment whose ~~own~~ husbands died in
active service during the last world
war. These people have been able
to invest their money in new auto-
mobile every year. There are a
very small percentage of Okies
who have refrigerators, and a few
have refrigerators. There are only
a few that have invested on a
farm, or small houses, very few

have electric cook stoves, quite a few have oil heaters, and few have bottled gas cook stoves. Most of them have kerosene oil stoves and cannot afford electricity as they use small wood stoves. There are only a small percentage of Chicadas working in factories in nearby cities that are getting good salary. The majority of Chicadas are working for the H.P.A. projects and are only making enough to cover their budget, so they can't hardly set aside any of their earnings for investments.

About 30 years ago, before the Chicadas started to purchase used cars, and before they had radios they could save their money from the sale of milk, cattle stock or produce, or their earnings, because their living expenses was not as much. At that time about 10% of the people had money in the savings account.

Some had as much as several thousand dollars some put their investment on real estate. Today about 2% of the Quevedos have any saving account. There is about 1% of the Quevedos who never put their money in the bank, but keep their savings in their homes. The young people do not save their money, they invest their money in clothing or bicycle, and even have their low priced used roaster. Parents these days have a bigger expense because their young people do not go away to school, but attend the high schools of the nearby cities. For many years ago, the Quevedos were admitted to the largest Indian school away from Quevedo, and they boys and girls were away excepting in the summer time they were allowed to visit their homes, and return to school in the fall at government expense.

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Very few young people stayed home in the winter time. The parents did not have to take care of their young men and women. The government clothed and boarded them. So the parents were not burdened with their growing children's expenses 30 years ago, like they are today. Living expenses is much higher today than 30 years ago, and about 75% of the Ojibwas are just common laborers today.

The old homesteads are gone with few exceptions. The white people have possession of their farms. It was only recently that the government re-assigned small allotment of land back to the Indians, and the Ojibwas were included, but the land is in government ownership, and an Ojibwa can occupy a tract of land assigned to him as long as he is willing to farm.