

MONTAUK INDIANS DEFEATED IN COURT

Fail to Secure Title to Tribal
Lands Sold.

(Special to The Eagle.)

Albany, January 31—The action brought by the chief of the Montauk tribe of Indians, so-called, to have set aside certain deeds affecting their alleged lands on the Eastern end of Long Island, has just been determined by the Court of Appeals.

The case was entitled, Wyandank Pharaoh, as chief and head of the Montauk tribe of Indians, plaintiff-appellant, vs. Jane Ann Bensen and others, defendants-respondents.

The action was brought in the Supreme Court of Suffolk County, under a special legislative act of 1906, to determine the existence of the tribe of Montauk Indians, and for judgment declaring that the tribe had and possessed certain rights in the peninsula of Montauk, and particularly, that portion known as North Neck and Indian Field; to declare certain deeds obtained from various persons invalid, and restraining any interference with the rights of Pharaoh, as chief.

The action was brought in 1906, and the defendants generally interposed answers, denying that the chief, as plaintiff, had any rights. The complaint was dismissed by the courts, and the Court of Appeals has just rendered a decision, sustaining this dismissal.

The land in question consists of about 4,200 acres on the Eastern end of Long Island. The opinion written by Justice Burr, in the court below, declared that the evidence showed that the so-called tribe had rarely met for tribal action.

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**admin510**

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