

## MONTAUK INDIANS' SUIT BEGUN

Papers Served Upon Counsel of the  
Long Island Road.

CLAIM NEARLY 6,000 ACRES.

The Right of Way on the Montauk Extension and the Corbin-Pratt Purchase About Fort Pond Bay Is the Property Involved—Valued at Over \$1,000,000. Was the Benson Grant Confirmed by the Legislature?

A complaint was served yesterday upon William J. Keiley, counsel for the Long Island Railroad company, in an ejectment suit commenced by the Montauk tribe of Indians, through their chief and king, Wyandank Pharaoh, against the railroad company, to recover the possession of about six thousand acres of land on the Montauk peninsula, at the east end of Long Island, in the town of Easthampton. The action is based upon a consent signed on Thursday by Benjamin H. Reeve, the county judge of Suffolk county, permitting the suit to be brought. The Indians are represented by Curtis & Scott of New York, who claim that the original title of the white men to the land, and any deeds which their Indian forefathers may have given are worthless, as the grants have never been confirmed by the state or colonial legislatures. The tract involved in the present suit covers the right of way of the Long Island Railroad company over the line of the road from a point dividing Napeague beach and meadows from the Montauk peninsula to the terminus of the road at Fort Pond bay, a distance of about six miles; also about 4,200 acres lying in a body about Fort Pond and Fort Pond bay and Great or Indian Pond.

Should the plaintiff be successful in this suit the entire peninsula will be claimed by them. The right of way of the railroad consists of a strip of land varying in width from seventy to one hundred and fifty feet and at some narrow parts of the beach near Napeague harbor occupies nearly the whole of the upland portion of the beach. The 4,200 acres includes about all the upland between Fort Pond and the lands occupied by the buildings of Alexander E. Orr, H. W. De Forest and other wealthy men composing the Montauk association, who have erected a number of handsome cottages on the beach, form-

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