

receive their annuities. Could the funds be transmitted, as near as might be, on the first of July every year, the whole of the Indians might be paid before the 30th of September; which being the end of the fiscal year, would enable the officers to make all their returns in season to be laid before Congress. By deferring the payments to October, November, and even December, as is sometimes done, the northern Indians are exposed to much physical suffering, and they are called to receive their payments at a time when they are engaged in making their fall hunts, the neglect of which is an irreparable detriment to them. By transmitting the northern annuities early in the season, there would also be a saving in the cost of the transportation of provisions and other bulky articles, and in the personal services of agents to make or assist in making the payments, as the officers of the department could do the whole duty, if they had the whole summer season to do it in.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT,
Acting Superintendent, &c.

Hon. T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD,
Commissioner Indian affairs, Washington.

P. S.—The Indian population within this superintendency cannot be made out till the pay-rolls all come in. It will be furnished at the earliest possible moment, with the accounts.

No. 45.

Report of His Excellency, Henry Dodge, Governor of Wisconsin, ex-officio Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENCY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
 FOR THE TERRITORY OF WISCONSIN,
Mineral Point, Oct. 18, 1839.

SIR: In obedience to your letter of the 5th ultimo, and in accordance with the regulations of the department, I have the honor to submit my annual report, accompanied by reports from the sub-agents of the Winnebago and Chippewa Indians. The report of the sub-agent at Green Bay has not yet been received, but will be forwarded as soon as it comes to hand.

I shall, first, present the condition of the several Indian tribes of this superintendency, with some general remarks relative thereto; and, second, suggest such changes in the existing laws regulating the Indian department, as would, in my opinion, promote the public interest, and conduce to the benefit of the Indians.

The report of Mr. Lowry furnishes a full and satisfactory view of the situation and prospects of the Winnebago school and farm, near Prairie du Chien; and particularly designates the present location of the several bands of Indians attached to his sub-agency.

By the treaty of November 3, 1837, the Winnebagoes stipulated to leave the country then ceded to the Government in eight months after its ratification. This event, had the treaty been strictly complied with,

1838/1839

most have occurred at a season so inclement, that the greatest difficulty would have ensued any attempt to remove them at that time; and subsequently, in the spring, danger was to be apprehended, it would appear, from the removal, by bringing these Indians in collision with war-parties of the Sac and Fox and Sioux nations, then scouring the confines of their country west of the Mississippi. About two-fifths of the Winnebago nation reside within 30 miles of Fort Winnebago; and from the manner in which several of the chiefs of this portion have expressed themselves in relation to the last treaty, and from their refusal recently, after being duly notified by the agent of the time of payment, to go down into the country west of the Mississippi to receive their proportion of the annuities, a determination on their part is evinced not to comply with their treaty stipulations, but to continue at their present homes. In several letters addressed to your department during the year past, I have fully expressed my views on the removal of these Indians, whose frequent intrusions on the lands south of the Wisconsin, depredating on the stock and other property of the settler, must, unless a removal takes place early in the next spring, be the cause of a very serious difficulty between them and the whites. Compulsory measures will be required to effect this, and a mounted force, to collect them and form an escort, will be absolutely necessary. If the judicious policy of the government, in designing permanently to locate this people south of the Missouri river, could but be carried out, it would be attended with the happiest results to the Indians themselves, and would give peace and security to the frontier settler. The promise, however, of being able to do this in a reasonable time is by no means encouraging, as will appear from the following extract of a letter from Mr. Lowry on the subject, dated 10th instant: "As was expected by me, and suggested to the department, the Indians have refused to explore the country southwest of the Missouri this fall, declaring they never will remove there. I am not disposed, however, to regard their present decision as final on this subject; but think a change in the prosperity of their creditors would procure a favorable action on the mind of the Indians relative to a removal." It is understood that Mr. Boilvin intends to proceed alone to the Missouri country, and will make such exploration as the advanced state of the season will permit. From this mission it is not believed that much good can be effected, as, for the purpose of controlling the annuities and securing to themselves the benefits of them, a mighty influence is exerted by the traders now on the Wisconsin to prevent the emigration of the Portage bands west of the Mississippi; and this influence the traders of the whole nation combined will continue to exert, to retain them in the country assigned them under the treaty of 1832.

Prairie du Chien and the Portage of Fox and Wisconsin rivers have, for a half century back, been places of resort for these Indians to trade, where spirituous liquors have been freely dealt out to them. Their intercourse with the white man at these places has tended to produce and to confirm in them habits of indolence, vice, and dissipation, subversive of their best interest. Unfortunately, these poor deluded creatures esteem those to be their best friends who most freely gratify their strong propensities for drinking, and whose motives are of the most mercenary character. Indeed, it has been long apparent to the intelligent portion of the community, that the Indian can only be redeemed from his present de-

graded state by the protecting policy of the Government removing him where intercourse with the white man can be prohibited, and establishing schools and farms among them, under the supervision of competent agents. Thus, by instructing the rising generation in a knowledge of letters, and acquainting them with the arts of agriculture, and the easy and certain subsistence the tillage of the soil affords, the adult Indian, by their example, would be gradually withdrawn from the chase, his roving inclination would be overturned to habits of industry, and the whole nation ultimately converted to agriculturists and stock raisers, and brought to appreciate the benefits of civilization. With these advantages, and in the enjoyment of the large amount of specie, goods, and provisions, annually secured to them, they would become a happy and prosperous people.

The report of Mr. Busnell contains the census and location of the different bands of Chippewas belonging to his sub-agency; designating those who have participated in the annuities under the treaty of 29th July, 1837. At that treaty, all the bands of the Chippewa nation, west of Lake Michigan, were represented, although several of the chiefs then present, and who signed the treaty, disclaimed any interest in the cession made; declaring that those only who immediately occupied the land sold were entitled to the annuities. It was, however, deemed proper that the whole of the bands should become parties to the treaty, leaving it to the tribe afterward to determine their rights under it. These Indians depend much on their annuities; and it is a matter of vital importance to the people settled on the St. Croix and Chippewa rivers that the Government should strictly and fully comply with all the requisitions of that treaty. It will not only afford peace and safety to the settler on those rivers, but will attach those Indians to our Government, and prevent and destroy the influence to be apprehended from agents of the British government. Heretofore, the Chippewas have been wholly dependant on the American Fur Company for arms, ammunition, and supplies of every kind; and their country has been apportioned among these traders as best suited their convenience and interest. Until within the past two years, our citizens have had very little intercourse with them. Like all other tribes of remote Indians, they are fond of war; and it would be extremely difficult, in their present state of feeling, to restrain them from attacks on their old enemies, the Sioux. You have been advised of the killing of more than one hundred of the Chippewas by the Sioux, on the 4th July last; an event greatly to be deplored. The warfare between these nations has continued so long, and so deep rooted has become their animosity to each other, that a peace effected by the mediation of the Government would be of short continuance. Although it is contrary to the long-established policy of the Government towards those nations of Indians with whom it is in friendly intercourse, it is highly probable that the vindictive wars that have existed, and yet continue, with these people, are calculated to preserve peace with the whites, and to promote the safety of the remote settlements on the St. Croix and Chippewa rivers, which would be completely in the power of the Indians meditating an attack.

The Chippewas possess a very large extent of country, extending to the sources of the Mississippi in the west and Lake Superior in the north, interspersed with numerous lakes connecting with the waters of the Mississippi and the rivers emptying into Lake Superior, furnishing fish and wild rice in abundance, which afford them great facilities for travel in

of the Government south of the Missouri river, and another part express an anxiety to be admitted to the rights and privileges of citizens. I am induced to believe that if this exchange of lands was effected, the condition of these Indians would be eventually improved. The Missouri country is better adapted to the growth of corn and the raising of stock, than that now held by them; and they would be removed from an intercourse with the whites—always fatal to the Indians. For this latter reason, these families found it advantageous to emigrate from the State of New York to Green Bay many years since; and now that their settlements are about to be surrounded by a white population, the same inducement will prompt them again to change their location. From the earliest period of the settlement of our country history has shown that the Indian never prospered in the vicinity of the white man. Few in numbers, the Oneidas, Stockbridges and Munsees more especially require the fostering and protecting care of the Government; which, I trust, will be extended to them. * * * * *

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY DODGE,
Supt. Ind. Affairs.

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD, Esq.
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

No. 46.

Report of D. Lowry, Sub-agent at Prairie Du Chien.

Physical aspect of the country.

The general face of the country, with the exception of that portion immediately in the vicinity of the school, is unobscured, alternately beautiful groves of timber and rich prairies. Water privileges, too, are found in abundance on streams of the most lasting character.

But little is known of the mineral resources of this country, as the spirit of enterprise is yet too limited to call forth experiments on this subject.

Numerical strength of the Winnebagoes.

Nothing definite can be said on this subject, as the only data on which we have to rely is the pay roll of the tribe, which I have no doubt presents a very incomplete and inaccurate return of the number of Indians belonging to the several bands. The head of each family wishes to make his number as large as possible, knowing that he draws money according to the inmates of his wigwam; and very often the chiefs who witness the fraud and whose business it is to correct it are afraid to exercise their authority.

My predecessor, Major Boyd, estimates the number of Winnebagoes at five thousand, men, women, and children. One thousand and eight hundred of this number are considered as warriors. I have no authority for saying this is incorrect, though I think the number full large.