

*U. S. Dept. of the Interior.*  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1873. 1872/73



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are better provided with moral and educational instrumentalities. Their educational fund, as provided in the treaty of 1855, still remains unexhausted, and consequently we are maintaining four schools among them; and furthermore they are almost entirely Protestant in religion, and enjoy the benefit of this type of Christianity which has a fear of light and liberty. Not long since I spent a Sabbath with them, and labored worshiped with them in two different settlements. In one neighborhood there was a respectable church well filled. In the other, was a choir of young singers with a cabinet organ, played by one of the young Indians. Several pieces were sung, and some were recited, all in the English language. With these natural and circumstantial advantages, therefore, enjoyed by this tribe, they have outstripped the others in progress and civilization.

#### THE CHIPPEWAS OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

This tribe is located in the county of Houghton, on the upper peninsula of Michigan. Their reservation (three townships) is favorably located about Lake Superior and furnishes them excellent fisheries and farming land. Two schools are maintained, and the Catholic and Methodist Churches each have a mission among them. The tribe numbers about thirteen hundred, and still receives annuities in goods and money. The past year has been one of marked material prosperity with them.

#### POTTAWATOMIES OF HURON.

This is but a small band of about 60 in number, located in Calhoun County; receive \$400 annuity money, and subsist by gardening and basket-making.

#### AGENCY OFFICE.

In the month of April last, by permission of the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, the office of this agency was removed from the city of Detroit to the city of Lansing, the capital of the State of Michigan, it being much more central and convenient to the business of the agency.

#### PROGRESS IN CIVILIZATION.

The chief design of the Government in its policy toward the Indians being their elevation from a state of barbarism to that of civilization, it is a matter of profound interest as to whether or not the beneficent methods employed for this work are succeeding. An intelligent comparison of the past and present condition of the Indians of the State, covering the time of only one generation, reveals the fact that a great advancement has been made. Now they almost universally wear the dress of citizens; they live in houses; they discard polygamy; they engage in husbandry; some become mechanics; many of them become sailors; the younger ones speak in many instances the English language. In religious matters Paganism and conjuring have been almost universally abandoned, and the Christian religion adopted; and furthermore, for the amount of labor expended upon them by the schools and churches in a language foreign to the Indians, after making a charitable allowance for the perversity of human nature, and recognizing the terrible temptations to evil thrown upon them by a class of unscrupulous whites, usually found in the neighborhood of the Indian settlements, I conclude that there is no just grounds for complaint or hopelessness in the condition of the Indians of Michigan. It has been my endeavor to co-operate heartily with the religious agencies for the lifting of the Indians up into a state of intelligence, industry, and piety.

The main traffic is the greatest source of difficulty and degradation. During the past year its influence and effects have been uncommonly disastrous, owing to the fact that new lines of railroads have brought the whites and Indians more generally together. Then, too, in cases of prosecution under the United States law against selling liquor to Indians, we have found it difficult to enforce the law on account of the plea that the Indians had become citizens, they are entitled to no special claims to protection. Respectfully,

Hon. EDWARD P. SMITH,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

GEO. I. BETTS,  
United States Indian Agent

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#### UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,

Green Bay, Wis., September 30, 1871.  
DEAR SIR: The annual report of this agency will be brief as I have been here only between two and three months, most of which time has been consumed in special duties, and the last annual report of my predecessor was so full and complete that little need be added except information contained in the table of statistics herewith inclosed.

This agency includes the Stockbridge and Munsee tribes, the Oneidas and Menomonee, a few of the Menomonee, most of the Oneidas, and all of the Stockbridges and Munsee, and live in houses.

The number of Oneidas now living upon their reservation is 1,279. During the past thirty years this tribe, instead of diminishing, has increased between three and four hundred by the excess of births over deaths. Their reservation is only about ten miles from Green Bay, and contains 60,800 acres, of which a large portion is well watered and fertile. Most of the families cultivate land and keep cattle, and there are many large, well-filled farms among them.

The past year one man has raised 300 bushels of wheat, 550 of corn, 300 of potatoes and 1,000 of oats; and owns 9 horses and 22 cattle. Another raised 148 bushels of wheat, 400 of corn, and 600 of oats; and owns 10 horses and 25 cattle. Still, many of the tribe are no enterpriser or economy, and live contentedly in their huts, tilling their patches of beans and maize.

Services have been regularly held in their two churches. Rev. E. A. Goodough, recently of the Episcopal church, has been teaching and preaching among this people for twenty years, and his experience shows that the Indian is capable of advancement in all respects, although the apparent fruits of his labors have been hardly sufficient to keep alive his enthusiasm. Rev. S. W. Ford, pastor of the Methodist church, and a member of one of the schools, has recently returned to this charge after an absence of about twenty years.

The two schools have had a total attendance of 175 pupils, with an average of 73. There are on the reservation 608 children between the ages of six and sixteen, and I hope to be able to recommend some plan by which the work of education may be carried on more vigorously.

A mortality list inclosed herewith shows 35 deaths from such diseases as are prevalent among the whites of this climate. Seven deaths resulted from small-pox, of which there were some fifty cases. The disease was arrested by vaccinations performed by Mr. Ford, mission teacher. For medical attendance they are dependent upon the physicians of Green Bay and De Pere, at an expense of from six to eight dollars a visit. I believe me that their community of 1,279 ought to have a physician.

The dissensions with reference to individuals cutting and selling timber, and the status in the tribe of those called "homeless Indians" who came to the reservation later than the others, continues to exist without any apparent prospect of settlement, unless the Department takes up these questions and disposes of them.

Under the provisions of an act of Congress of 1871, relating to the Stockbridges and Munsee, two rolls were made, one containing the names of those who wish to leave the tribe and become citizens of the United States, the other the names of those who wish to continue as a tribe. Of the former there are 131, and of the latter, 110. Owing to conflicting views and wishes these rolls have not received the signature of the superintendent of the allotment, or the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. On the 4th of one and a half townships of land sold in January, 1873, have not been divided, and the tribe is now in a very unsettled condition. It is to be hoped that the proceeds from the sale of the special Indian commissioner who has recently visited this reservation will lead to a settlement of existing difficulties.

A school has been taught with fair success by Rev. J. Slingerland, a Presbyterian clergyman, and a member of the tribe, who has also acted as the pastor of their church. These educational and religious influences have been very much neutralized by the quarrels in the tribe.

Certain parties who had purchased the pine on a certain tract of the unsold portion of the reservation have committed trespasses to the amount of about seven hundred thousand feet, worth four or five dollars a thousand, against some of whom formal proceedings have been commenced in the United States court. I hope that neither the social standing nor political influence of these men will shield them from deserved punishment. If white men can be taught that it is a crime to take timber from Indians, the value of their property will be increased, the work of the Menomonee are the largest of the three tribes in this agency. Their last annual report contains 1,480. Their reservation is about fifty miles from Green Bay, and contains 250,000 acres. During the past year these Indians have built for themselves several new block-houses, and some progress has been made in agriculture. Their houses, however, have not been located in accordance with any system. I suggest that their reservation be carefully surveyed and platted, and some plan adopted whereby each member may have a sufficient quantity of good land without interference from others.

The members of this tribe are gradually becoming accustomed to labor. During the

year they have cultivated considerable more land than ever before, made fifty tons of maple-sugar, cut 550 tons of hay on their marshes, and done a large part of the work of cutting and putting into the river 2,500,000 feet of pine timber, besides working some in other lumber-camps.

The productions of the farm have been 200 bushels of potatoes, 12 tons of hay, and 450 bushels of oats. At the mill 7,280 bushels of grain have been ground, and 27,300 feet of lumber sawed. The blacksmith reports that he has shod 163 horses and 39 oxen; repaired 65 wagons, 93 guns, 27 traps, 5 axes, 11 knives, 79 sleds, 94 grub-hooks, 17 pitchforks, and 13 plows; mended 59 chains; made 53 over-rods, 140 spears, 3 clevises, 27 hinges, 31 knives, 78 needles, 73 chain-hooks, 15 wedges, 15 chisps and staples, 14 pan-handles, 10 cant-hooks, 8 swamp-hooks, 107 cold sheels, 18 saw-gauges, 39 rakes, 106 tannal-chains, 9 shovels, 3 trovels, 8 sled-traves, 11 drag-tooths, and 7 wheel-wedges; ironed 26 whiffletrees, 11 neck-yokes, 19 sleds, 12 cutters, 13 wagon-longes, 7 wagon-boxes, and 5 ox-yokes; and haled 10 kettles.

The school of Alex. Grignon has been continued without much encouragement for its teacher or the friends of the Indian. The school at Keshena having but few pupils, a school-building and a dwelling-house for teachers were built in the hard-wood timber-land where many of the tribe had settled. Since January last Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Stryker have been teaching the few pupils they could induce to attend, sometimes forty and sometimes two. The boys prefer playing ball outside of the school-house to studying inside, and Mr. Stryker's unusual enthusiasm has failed to excite in them any great desire for learning. Scarcely any in this tribe, except some of the young men, can learn, however, if they try. One lad in five months learned to read intelligibly in the second reader. A system of compulsory education seems to be needed. I hope the way will soon be clear for the establishment of a boarding-school. I have talked with the chiefs about it, and they appear to be in favor of using some of their pine money for this purpose.

The only purely religious work among them has been done by the Romanists, who now have a priest at Keshena. My predecessor cut about 2,500,000 feet of pine logs last winter, and although he labored under disadvantages, because of his employing Indians, of his limited experience in lumbering, and of opposition from unfriendly outsiders, and although the price of logs is unusually low this season, yet he cleared for the tribe much more than the same class of timber has sold at on the stump.

The pine of the Menomonees would yield about a million dollars if it could be utilized at its real value. If the interest of such a sum could be used for educational and agricultural purposes, the work of their civilization could be pushed rapidly forward. I must add a word upon the threadbare subject of intemperance among the Indians. Every Saturday gallons of the vilest stuff are swallowed by these people. Some evil have been punished, but the business is still brisk. I have been very much surprised to see the evil but hardly have returned suggestions as to its remedy. I do hope, however, that the Department will give agents full opportunity to try expedients, and will be liberal in the use of funds that are available for this object.

Hon. E. P. SMITH,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

FEOS N. CHASE,  
Chief Supt. Indian Agent.

WHITE EARTH, December 1, 1872.

Sir: I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report.

My commission bears date May 17, 1872. From my monthly report, and from letters official relating to the Otter Tails, Gull Lake, and Pembina bands of Indians, may be obtained a more minute description of their condition and of my labors than would be allowed in this document, and to such papers I would respectfully refer you.

During this year that portion of the agency known as Red Lake has been constituted a separate department, and the funds belonging thereto have, in accordance with your order, been placed to the credit of the special agent in charge at that point.

With this exception no changes of importance have been made in the general features of this charge. In the absence of a regularly appointed agent the general management of affairs became necessarily somewhat deranged; and this, together with the revival of the spirit of industry and self-improvement, have made my labor exceedingly onerous, and prevented me from beginning the annual distribution of

goods and money before October 1. The enrollment, but just completed, gives the following result:

	ENROLLMENT.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.
White Earth.....	161	198	252
Otter Tail Pillagers.....	113	150	222
Gull Lake bands.....	20	30	22
White Oak Point.....	172	242	349
Mill Lake.....	134	169	207
Sake River.....	62	76	125
Level Lake Pillagers.....	463	574	505
Pembina.....	87	113	196
	1,217	1,542	1,878
			4,637

MISSISSIPPIANS..... 2,209 against 2,139 in 1872.  
Pillager and Lake Winnobagoish..... 2,042 against 2,088 in 1872.  
Pembina..... 396 against 547 in 1872.

The excess of 137 of last year is owing to my dropping 150 half-breed Pembinas from the annuity roll.

The Pillager, Otter Tails, the Gull Lakes, and 147 of the Pembina band were paid with the White Earth Indians at the agency; the Mill Lake at Sault's Camp, on Rain River; 160 Pembins at Pembina on the 26th ultimo. The Pillagers and White Oak Point Indians received their annuities upon their respective reservations. From a perusal of the annual report of 1871-'72, I am unable to discover any remarkable change in the condition of any of these 4,627 Indians, with the exception of such as reside upon White Earth reservation.

OTTER TAILS.

The Pillager Otter Tails, 500 in number, a powerful and most promising people, stand pleading for admission to this reservation, and for assistance from Government enabling them to adopt the habits and enjoy the blessings of civilized life. They have indicated their preference for a township 20 miles southeast of this agency, where there is abundance of water, pine and oak timber, and excellent prairie soil for cultivation.

The paper which I had the honor of sending the Department upon this subject expresses the desirableness of removing this ill-used people, who, from a clerical error in the original summons, were, it is said, not represented in the grand council in Washington, and as a consequence are to-day without any reservation or civil protection. I have referred to their earnest pleading for houses and lands, for school and church privileges, and under all the circumstances of the case I cannot but believe that an appropriation of at least \$25,000 will be secured in their behalf at the present session of Congress.

GULL LAKES

This band probably numbers 300 members. One hundred of them were located by my predecessor in comfortable houses upon this reservation. The rest of them reportedly disappointed his reasonable expectations for their removal. The houses built for them have in part stood unoccupied, exposed to destruction by fire, the responsibility resting back upon such as failed to fulfill their promise to remove hither. Recently I have removed 75 more of them, and shall be obliged to subsidize them until next spring.

PEMBINA

In accordance with a regulation made by the Department and the White Earth Indians, a township has been assigned to the Pembina band of Mississippi Indians upon the Wild Rice River on this reservation, 17 miles northwest of this agency. The entire band was duly notified that the annual payment would be made this year at this township. Their extreme poverty and destitution, the great distance which they would be obliged to travel, from 150 to 300 miles, and the evil influence of men who hope to be benefited by their being paid at Pembina, prevented them from coming, with the exceptions of such as lived at Grand Forks and at other points not distant from the proposed place of payment. The balance were paid at other points not distant there. The Turtle Mountain band have virtually abandoned that distant field to the Sioux, and live, as do the others, upon forbidden soil, without hope. There is neither hunting nor fishing in the vicinity of Pembina, and I would earnestly entreat the Department to secure their early removal to White Earth. By prompt action they may be saved to themselves and to the world. If neglected, their ruin is inevitable.