

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

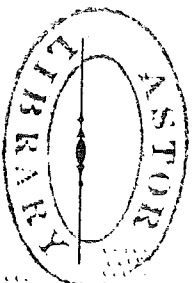
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

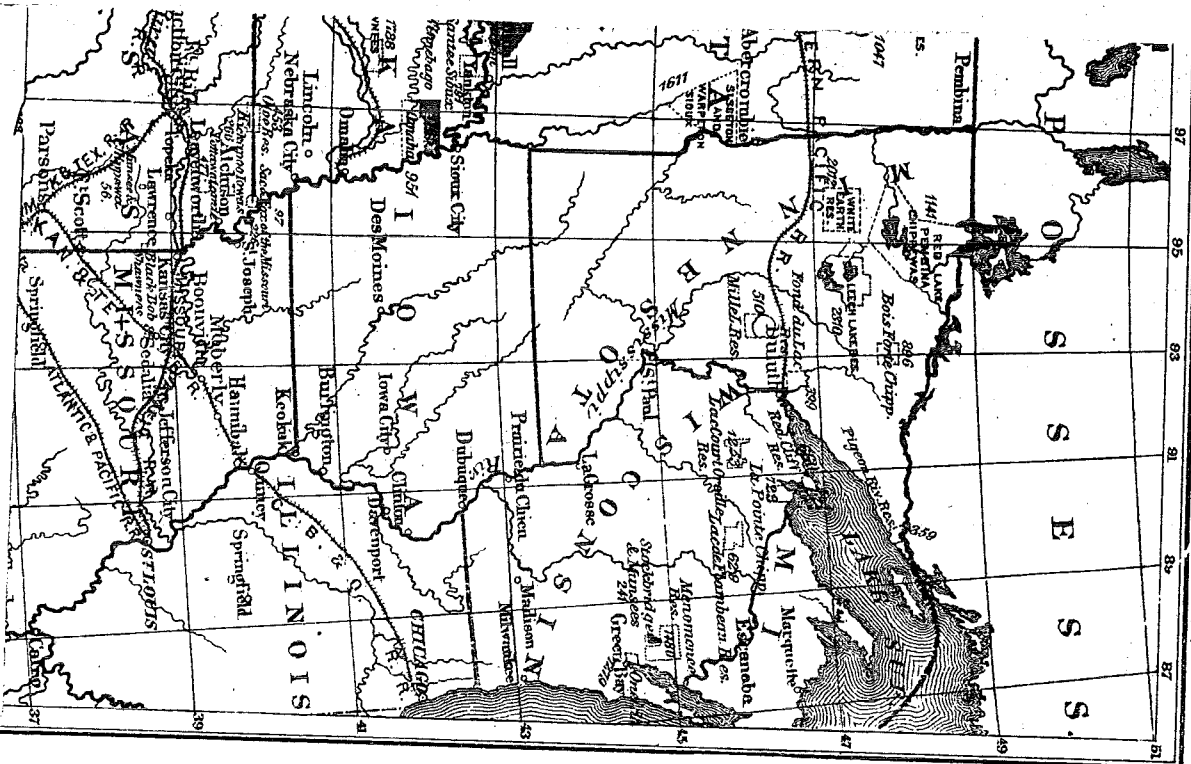
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1874. 1873/74



WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,  
1874.



given to the railroad companies for right of way and railroad buildings at Salamanca. The courts of New York have adjudged all these leases void. Since the making of these leases, which were supposed to be valid, \$1,000,000 or more have been expended on the leased property in the erection of railroad-buildings, dwelling-houses, stores, churches, school-houses, and other buildings. The people of Salamanca are entitled to some relief by the legislation of Congress, growing out of this condition of affairs, and the Indians are as yet unable to agree among themselves as to what specific measures should be recommended. The village is only of a few years' growth; and the lands, before being used for village purposes, were in part covered with logs and brush, and were but partially cultivated. Some of the smartest of the Indians, seeing that a village was likely to be built up at this point, purchased the improvements on a portion of the lands of the Indian occupants, and they and the other Indian occupants not so well off leased these lands to white men for terms of years, some of the leases covering several acres. The white lessees have sublet to other parties in smaller lots, on which valuable buildings have been erected. The council of the Seneca Nation, which is annually elected by ballot, claims the right to extinguish the claims of these Indian lessees to the leased lands, upon paying them a fair compensation for the improvements done upon the lands at the time the same were leased to white men, and upon this being done, to have the rents paid to the treasurer of the Seneca Nation of Indians. I think this claim just, and in legislation by Congress affecting these leases provision should be made accordingly, by the appointment of commissioners, with power to determine the sums to be paid to the several Indian lessors for their improvements and interest.

The Thomas asylum for orphan and destitute Indian children on the Cattaraugus reservation was incorporated by the legislature of New York in 1853, and was by the act of incorporation declared to be entitled to share in the appropriations thereunder to be made to the incorporated asylums of the State. It has fifty acres of land connected with it, on which the orphan boys are required to labor a portion of the time in the summer season. In winter they make brooms and do other work. The girls are instructed in household duties. An appropriation of \$2,500 was recently made by the State of New York for the repair and enlargement of the asylum buildings, which have been greatly improved thereby. It can now accommodate one hundred Indian children, and over that number has been kept the past year. This asylum is practically a boarding and manual labor school of the best kind. It is under judicious management, and has done a most excellent work in the civilization of the Indians in the agency. I respectfully recommend the continuance of the annual appropriation of \$1,000 for its support, from the fund for the civilization of Indians. I inclose herewith the last report of this institution, which was delivered to me on the 19th instant.

The Friends' boarding-school for Indian children, on land adjoining the Allegany reservation, under charge of Mr. A. P. Dewees, superintendent, has had an average daily attendance of twenty-five children the past year. It has a farm of about 300 acres connected with it, on which the male Indian children are required to work some, and the girls are trained to do house-work. This manual-labor school is wholly supported by the Society of Friends at Philadelphia, and is doing a good and humane work for the Indians of the Allegany reservation.

I have been unavoidably delayed in making this report by the delay of the local superintendants of the Indian schools in the agency in forwarding to me copies of their official school-reports. I desired to embrace reliable statistics in relation to the schools, which are contained herein.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

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

D. SHERMAN, Agent.

OFFICE OF MICHIGAN INDIAN AGENCY,  
Lansing, September 14, 1874.  
Sir: I have the honor herewith to present my annual report of the Michigan Indian agency for 1874.

The status and condition of the Indians of this State have undergone no particular change since my last annual report. The religious and civil instrumentalities engaged in their improvement in Christian civilization are too few and feeble to justify a reasonable expectation for any very marked improvement. I deeply deplore the fact that the largest tribe, viz, the Ottawas and Chippewas, are very destitute of educational facilities. Having no more treaty-funds with which to maintain schools among them, they are retrograding in the matter of education. This, of course, darkens the prospect of the coming generation, and seriously affects their progress in the scale of their social and civil well-being. Their material prosperity, however, is gradually advancing, but is not sufficient as yet to enable them to sustain schools among them. The "annuities" to this tribe having ceased, no general enumeration of it has been made, so that I cannot definitely state its number; but from their general condition I would

judge they are gradually on the increase. Their reservations are located in an extremely healthy part of the State, and no general sickness or epidemic has prevailed among them for many years. Their dwellings are mostly quite comfortable log-houses, and they wear the dress of citizens. The patenting to them of their lands has stimulated them to labor and improve their farms. Their religious advantages are better than their educational. The Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches are doing the principal work in this regard.

#### CHIPPEWAS OF SAGINAW, SWAN CREEK, AND BLACK RIVER.

This tribe is the most prosperous in every particular of either of those in the State. About one-half of the tribe only reside on the reservation. The balance reside in seven or eight different settlements, where they have purchased lands and are doing, in my opinion, better in every respect than those located on the reservation. This is owing to the fact that they are more contiguous to, and have the benefit of the example of, the whites.

The agricultural statistics of this tribe for this year show a most gratifying advance beyond any previous year. By special application for a portion of their educational funds to be expended for seeds, cattle and farming implements, I was furnished with the means of giving them the best supply of these articles last spring that they had ever had. I took great pains to suitably distribute these among them just at the time required for putting in for a spring crop, and the result has been very satisfactory, and I am convinced that money thus expended for them is five times more advantageous to them than it would be to be put into their hands. I am nearly convinced that money disbursed to Indians is, on the whole, a damage to them.

In the matter of school facilities they are very well furnished. The tribe is nearly all Protestant in faith, and under the missionary care of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They are a peaceable and law-abiding class of citizens, gradually rising to a higher and higher condition in intelligence and respectability. Many of them are men of sterling Christian integrity.

#### THE CHIPPEWAS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

are located on their reservation, which is on the upper peninsula of the State, and on either shore of Keweenaw Bay. They have a beautiful and excellent tract of land, furnishing them good fisheries and agricultural advantages. They are a peaceable and improving tribe of Indians, numbering about twelve hundred.

In religious character they are about equally divided between the Catholics and Methodists. The present generation shows a vast improvement over the former. They have two Government schools and two missions.

During the month of July I made an allotment of their lands as provided in the treaty of September 30, 1854. This pleased them very much, and I think will call out extra exertions in the improvement of their circumstances. This fall they receive the last of twenty annual appropriations in money and goods.

In reviewing the year I can see a considerable degree of progress has been attained in the moral and material condition of the Indians. Being very much scattered and removed from each other in their settlements, it is impossible for me to be with them as much as I could if they were collected upon one reservation, and the clerical duties of my office requiring my personal attention, (not being allowed a clerk,) I am not able to devote that personal attention to their instruction that I could wish, and that I believe would aid them very much in improvement in the arts of civilization. For further particulars I respectfully refer to my statistical report.

GEO. I. BETTS,  
United States Indian Agent, Michigan.

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

#### UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY.

Keshena, Wis., September 1, 1874.

Dear Sir: The following report of this agency, for the year ending August 31, 1874, is respectfully submitted:

#### ONEIDAS.

This tribe receives from the Government only \$300 in annuity and about \$1,000 in support of schools, and the agent has been accustomed to give them little attention. Their reservation is completely surrounded by whites. A large portion of them speak English, and many

of them have good farms. As a tribe, they are like boys sixteen or seventeen years old; they know too much to be Indians and too little to be white people. Two important changes at least should be made. Their government by hereditary chiefs should be superseded by some simple but strong system, and their lands should be allotted to individuals of the tribe. How to accomplish these things without the aid of corrupt politicians, or resorting to the usual bad artifices, I have been unable to determine. Members of the tribe have continued to cut and market large quantities of wood and timber without much benefit to themselves, since they have been extensively swindled by purchasers and have invested a large fraction of the proceeds in whisky. The late decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Cook case has checked this business, and it is to be hoped that the Department will stop it entirely. If individuals are to be allowed to cut and market timber, some system should be devised by which the tribe shall receive pay for the standing timber. A division of lands will correct this evil.

The two schools and missions under Rev. E. A. Goodenough, Episcopal, and Rev. S. W. Ford, Methodist, have been more than usually successful. The combined efforts of the teachers and agent have availed to increase the attendance of the pupils and the interest of the Indians in the subject of education.

Intemperance has continued to prevail. The Oneidas are as completely surrounded by grog-shops as any southern city was by earth-works during the late war. Efforts to suppress this evil will be alluded to under a separate head.

During the year I have asked the Department to consider and settle the status of those Oneidas living on the reservation called the "homeless Indians," and hope that the subject will be taken up at an early day.

#### STOCKBRIDGES.

Most of their business has been transacted by congressmen, and Special Commissioner Wells, of New York, who has made three visits to the tribe during the year. I have not been able to shut my eyes to what have seemed to me great wrongs practiced upon a portion of this tribe, but have felt that it would be useless to raise my voice in their behalf. Allow me in this connection, as an agent whose resignation has been accepted, respectfully to submit that, for an agent to perform his duty intelligently and efficiently, he needs to be informed of all the correspondence had, or business done, in connection with the tribes of his agency, whether through private individuals, special commissioners, or members of Congress.

The school taught by Mrs. J. Shingenand has been well attended, and the pupils have made good progress. The spirit of kindness and harmony manifested in the school-room is in pleasing contrast with the selfishness and bitterness that seem to reign when the older people gather in the same place for business.

A large addition has been made to the membership of the church, and it is probably in fault of the doctrines of Calvin that the fruits of the Spirit are no more manifest in the lives of many of these people who profess Christianity.

Many teams and tools have been purchased by members of the tribe, and more ground has been cultivated than usual.

#### MEMORABLES.

This tribe needs more attention than the other two, because they receive more aid from the Government and are less advanced in what is commonly called civilization. The farmer here raised for the Indians upon the farm at Keshena about 240 bushels corn, 600 bushels potatoes, 30 tons of hay. The corn and potatoes will be distributed among members of the tribe for seed next year, and the unusually heavy crops raised will tend to stimulate the Indians to a better cultivation of their lands. He has devoted all the time he could to visiting the homes of the Indians, teaching them how to cultivate their land, care for their stock, and build houses and fences. In the main they appreciate this service and are anxious to improve.

The miller has ground about 2,000 bushels of grain, saved 150,000 feet of lumber, and superintended putting 2,000,000 feet of logs into the river for the mill and for market. The mill-site has been seriously injured by the works of the Keshena Improvement Company. The blacksmith reports that he has shod 214 horses and 69 oxen; mended 63 chains; made 20 chain-hooks; repaired 100 guns, 33 traps, 50 hoes, 62 wagons, 61 sleds, 9 stoves, 9 axes, 8 belts, 9 plows; set 27 wagon-tires; ironed 27 whiffers, 9 neck-yokes, 8 ox-horns, 1 wagon-tongue, 25 new sleds, 6 new cutters; made 1 cultivator, 23 rakes, 5 wagon-handles, 91 stove-logs, 14 wedges, 50 hoes and staples, 130 spears, 84 needles, 45 scythe-wedges, 8 heel-rings, 123 cold-shears, 9 shovels, 164 trammel-chains, 20 ssp-gauges, 21 clevises, 20 drag-teeth, and 2 cart-hooks.

This report gives a good idea of the state of advancement of the tribe. The physician, who came the 1st of July, has had a large number of patients, and has met with less opposition from the medicine-men than was expected.

The two schools, taught by Alexander Grignon and Mrs. H. E. Shuyler, have been small. All efforts of the teachers and agent, including a generous distribution of clothing and a soup dinner for the pupils, to secure a better attendance, were unavailing, until at a council held the last of June the words of the agent, for some reason, produced such an impression

upon the Indians that the attendance for July was three times as large as before. I hope that my successor may have an opportunity to put into execution all the devices he can originate for building up schools.

The agency buildings at Keshena village, founded upon the sand, have had stone foundations put under them, and have been otherwise repaired, mostly by Indian labor.

A plan has been inaugurated for permanently locating these Indians in a regular manner upon some of their best farming-land. To this end a road has been surveyed and partially built, and lots of forty acres each laid off upon it. This seems to me to be the best thing to be done for this tribe at the present time. The Indians are beginning to appreciate the plan, and I recommend that a large portion of their annuity-money be used in making roads upon section-lines and in aiding them in making farms along these roads.

Contrary to the inclination of the agent, circumstances led him to carry on lumbering operations for the Menomonees the past winter. All the work of cutting, sawing, swamping, teaming, scaling and cooking was done by Menomonees. The miller was the only white person in the camp. The logs have not yet been sold, but if they bring a fair price he net proceeds of the standing pine will be over \$5 a thousand, which is more than twice its market value. I have become converted to the policy of allowing these Indians to cut and market their own pine, and in a separate report shall urge that the business be conducted the coming season on an extensive scale, and sincerely hope that no one man, nor set of men, will be allowed to prevent this from being done.

At the beginning of the year I was hoping to start a manual-labor school, but my experience and observation have led me to the conclusion that it is impracticable for Protestants to undertake such an enterprise for this tribe, about two-thirds of whom are Catholics, easily and fully controlled by their priests, who would naturally create opposition. I have, however, had logs brought to the mill suitable for making lumber for such buildings as would be required. This tribe is slowly advancing from year to year by building comfortable block-houses, clearing good land, raising cattle, &c., and if they can be protected from the whisky-sellers and pine-theives that hover around them like birds of prey, and too often have the sympathy and support of men in high places, they will become an industrious and valuable class of citizens.

#### INTEMPERANCE.

Special efforts have been made to suppress this evil. Early in the year I employed a detective, but he was not successful. I then offered a reward of \$25 for evidence sufficient to convict, which secured one case. By my own efforts, principally, eleven persons have been indicted for selling whisky to Indians. Three of these have not been arrested by the United States marshal. Most of the others pleaded guilty, and were fined \$100 and imprisoned one day. The extreme penalty is two years' imprisonment and \$300 fine, and I think there should be a minimum penalty of not less than three months and \$100. Public opinion, as reflected by the grand and petit juries, would sustain it. The conduct of the district attorney has discouraged me very much. At one time he positively refused to bring five good cases before the grand jury; he has allowed persons to go at liberty on their own recognizance, and has been unwilling to ask for any heavier penalty than has been inflicted. The churches and temperance society among the Oneidas have had considerable influence for good in this direction, and the efforts of the Catholic priest among the Menomonees have been remarkably successful. He, however, thwarted the attempts of the agent and employes to supplement his labors by holding temperance meetings at the council-house and school-houses upon Sunday.

The use of tobacco among the Menomonees has been discouraged, and "free tobacco" has been abolished.

Allow me to remark, in conclusion, that my futile efforts to punish certain pine-theives and to prevent the extortions of the Keshena Improvement Company are familiar to you, and while I cannot refrain from expressing my regret at the course that has been pursued, I am aware that this is not the place to dwell upon these topics.

Very respectfully,

Hon. E. P. SMITH,

*Commissioner Indian Affairs.*

THOS. N. CHASE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,

*Bozefield, Wis., August 29, 1874.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor of submitting the following as my annual report for the year ending July 29, 1874:

#### PAYMENTS

were made to the Grand Portage bands at Grand Portage in September at which point it was expected to meet the Boise Fort bands; but owing to disaffections among the chiefs a