



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1880.



WASHINGTON:
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1880.

From 350,000 to 400,000 feet of lumber have been saved for the Indians and on account of the department, which has largely been used in building and fencing.

During the season we have put up at the hay ranch about 600 tons of hay, worth on the ground at least \$4 per ton, a total of \$2,400, and 150 tons at the agency, worth \$6 per ton, or \$900, making a total value of about \$3,300. Our stock have done well, and notwithstanding the continual drain necessary to provide subsistence for the Pinites, are increasing in numbers. The mills are in good condition and capable of doing constant and effective work. About 100 acres have been broken by government employes for use to sow to grain this fall. We have also built over two miles of fence, including the ground newly broken, and replacing portions of old fence destroyed by storms.

During the year the Indians, with slight assistance, have built a large and comfortable church, capable of seating about seven hundred, handsomely finished, inside and out, which will compare favorably with any in this part of the Territory. Although the object in building was to secure a church large enough to accommodate all the people who habitually attend, yet it is each Sunday filled with a well-dressed, and well-behaved congregation, and numbers unable to obtain a seat are compelled to remain outside. The building formerly occupied as a church has been converted into a school-house, where a day school has been kept for the greater part of the year.

For various reasons—the prevalence of measles and whooping-cough being one—the attendance at the boarding-school has been less than I expected, averaging about forty of both sexes. The progress in this, as well as the day school, has been rapid and thorough, and the results satisfactory. The influence of the boarding-school cannot be measured merely by the numbers attending. Those who go out from the school have acquired much of the manners and customs of civilized life, and each becomes a center of influence among his people, from which the new methods spread, till the whole community is led to imitate something of the manners of whites. This is no more fancy picture, but has many times been exemplified on this reservation.

One of the most gratifying results of my labors here is the almost universal acceptance of the truths of the Christian religion. There probably remain a few who still cling to and believe their old superstitions, but by far the greater number, even of those who make no religious profession, accept, in whole or in part, the tenets of Christianity. I believe, and increased experience only intensifies the belief, that no permanent advance in civilization need be expected from the Indians till they honestly embrace the truths of the gospel. Their old superstitions are so intimately interwoven with their wild manner of life, that till they discard the one, they are not likely to abandon the other.

Notwithstanding the unsettled condition of the Pinites located here, consequent on their uncertain status, I am pleased to notice a marked improvement since they have been here. They were doing extremely well, were nearly all industriously at work for the department or for the Yakama Indians, were cheerful and contented, their children were at school, making rapid progress, and they manifested great interest in my plans for their welfare, when they unfortunately imbibed the idea that the government intended to permit their return to their former location, and bestow extraordinary privileges on them when there. This idea took such complete possession of their minds, that my labors for their improvement were nearly neutralized; they became moody and discontented, and when the order for their return failed to arrive as they expected, they openly threatened to fire the agency and take their departure by the light of the burning buildings. Great prudence was required to deal with this emergency, but by the exercise of caution, forbearance, and firmness, I finally succeeded in allaying the excitement, and am glad to notice that they are beginning to recover their former cheerfulness, and manifest an interest in my plans for their benefit.

In dealing with these Indians, I am naturally embarrassed by my ignorance of the intentions of the department towards them. If they are to return to Mahonee, steps should be taken immediately to provide for their protection, transportation, and subsistence, and this agency relieved from the enormous burden of their support; while, on the contrary, if it is intended to retain them here, the agent should be informed, that he may take measures to locate them permanently, and provide means whereby they may become self-supporting.

I desire, in conclusion, to give prominence to the satisfaction I feel at the increased thrift, providence, and advancement on the part of the Yakama Indians, which I see everywhere around me, as evidenced in the much larger area of land brought under cultivation, the desire for acquisition of herds of cattle, comfortable houses, good barns, and the wish everywhere exemplified to abandon entirely their old ways, and assimilate themselves to the whites around them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES H. WILBUR,

United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

GREEN BAY AGENCY,
Keshaua, Wis., September 1, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my second annual report:

The tribes over which the jurisdiction of this agency extends are the Oneidas, numbering 1,490; the Menomonees, numbering 1,450; and the Stockbridges, numbering 120, making a total of 3,060 men, women, and children. Each of the tribes named is located on a reservation set apart for them by the United States, one of which belongs to the

ONEIDAS.

is situated but a few miles southwest from the city of Green Bay, containing about 65,000 acres, one-half of which, under proper treatment, would make excellent farms. The Oneidas are well advanced in

Agriculture.

A large portion of their reservation being with propriety called the garden of Brown County. The main settlement extending nearly the whole length of the reserve, north and south, is one continuous line of large, beautiful farms, with many good, substantial dwellings, barns, granaries, and tool-houses. By their industry they harvest large and profitable crops, and raise (considering the climate and latitude) a good proportion of horses, cattle, hogs, and some sheep. Not having a farmer on this reserve it is impossible for me to give an accurate account of all their productions. Interest in agriculture is steadily and yearly increasing; many now farming are being cleared and cultivated, while many of the old are enlarging and improved. Their continuous cry to the government is for the

Mining.

of their lands to each individual without being subjected to taxation, sale, or judgment of any court. This would be an incentive to further industry among them.

They do not want to become citizens (as heretofore reported), but claim the protection of the government for at least twenty-five years in the future, as they deem the liabilities of a citizen fatal to the welfare of many of the most destitute Indians.

They have four

Schools.

two of which were opened during the past year. All are well attended, and will be productive of much benefit to the tribe. Considerable interest has been awakened among them in

Religious.

matters. At the Methodist mission quite a number have been added to the church, which is in charge of Rev. S. W. Ford, who is energetic in both church and school. The Episcopal Church, in charge of Rev. E. A. Goodenough, is well attended and in a prosperous condition.

Drunkenness.

and the liquor traffic in villages and cities not far distant are the worst enemies the agent and the most respectable portion of the tribe have to contend with. In spite of the many arrests, trials, and convictions (for selling and giving intoxicating liquors to the Indians), the traffic is still continued by various and ingenious ways which are intended to evade the law. One of these devices consists in having an outlaw (called a white man) place a bottle of liquor under the sidewalk, woodpile, or some other convenient place easy to describe, then an accomplice is sent to tell the Indian that if he (the Indian) will give him a certain sum of money he will inform him where he can find something that will do him a heap of good; the Indian takes the hint, pays the money; is told of some particular spot, goes there and finds a well filled bottle containing what is called Indian whisky. The only practicable remedy consists in clipping off the light end of the penalty prescribed by statute, thereby depriving the judiciary of the discretionary power now allowed. Think of \$1 fine and one day's imprisonment after the government has expended perhaps not less than \$100 in bringing the prisoner into court! Unfil Congress makes the change stated, drunkenness will continue among the Indians of many localities.

THE MEMONONES.

are settled on their reservation containing ten townships of land, the south line of which is only five and one-half miles north of the city of Shawano. Some portions of

this reservation are highly valued on account of its fine forests, estimated at 250,000,000 feet, the value of which at present prices will reach about \$500,000. The soil in the greatest portion is sandy and not valuable for agricultural purposes. The land crew of this tribe is for the sale of the pine, and that three or four years be given the purchasers to lumber it off, and that the lands be

Alcohol

to each member of the tribe. But they will never consent to the sale of any of their land, fearing if their lands are sold they will be sent to the far West, the thought of which is greatly dreaded. The Menomonees are making steady strides in

Agricultural and industrial pursuits.

Every year new lands are cleared, fenced, and more seed sown and planted. The past year has been one of marked growth in all branches of industry in which the Indians are capable of taking part. They have a saw and a grist mill, both of which are run by an excellent water-power situated at Keshona Falls, one mile from the agency, and operated by the Indians. These mills cut all the lumber and shingles used, and grind all the grain raised. When they fail in finding employment on the reserve, great many of the young and middle-aged men go to the pineries, the rivers, railroads, and among the white farmers for employment. The Menomonees have, by their industry, reaped a fair harvest this season, which they are now thrashing with a machine of their own, furnished them by the government and operated entirely by Indians, in a manner that would do credit to many settlements among the whites. A marked interest is taken in the

Education

of their children; a large number of whom attended the boarding and industrial school at the agency during the past year; the number of scholars being one hundred and twenty during a part of the winter. Sixty-three learned to read, and good progress was made in all branches of study taught at Indian schools.

Religious

meetings are held every other Sabbath in the two church buildings, both being Catholic; and over half of the tribe are said to be enrolled as members of that denomination. No effort has been made among the Menomonees by any Protestant denomination of late years.

Drunkenness

is not uncommon among them. Shawano, being only 8 miles from the agency, is often visited by the Indians, who, through the cunning devices resorted to by saloon-keepers to evade the law, often manage to get liquor into their possession. The unusual

Rains and floods

of last June caused great damage to the tribe by carrying away all their bridges, three of which were large, crossing the Wolf River—one at the agency; one at the mill; the other near Keshonaway settlement, 4 miles above Keshona Falls. Two large breaks were washed out in the embankment of the millpond, which have already been rebuilt by Indian labor. The first two bridges are now being rebuilt by Indians.

A new agency farm has been fenced in since winter, containing about one hundred acres; and forty acres cleared, plowed, sowed, and planted, which promises a good crop of potatoes and a light crop of oats. The

STOCK-BRIDGES

are located on a reservation 7 miles west of Keshona, containing less than a township of land, which is considered as medium for agricultural purposes, in which nearly all of the tribe are engaged more or less, and reap a fair estimate of the products of the soil common to this section of country. They have one

School

which is not well attended by the youth of the tribe, probably on account of the lack of interest on the part of parents, the average attendance being eight or ten; and yet many children of people that are known as the old citizen party, who reside on the reserve, are prohibited by some of the Indians from attending and receiving the educational advantages afforded.

Religious

meetings are held in the only church building on the reserve, which is denominated as Presbyterian. The attendance is very small, and but little interest is taken in religion or things pertaining thereto. The continuous quarrels between two or three factions of these people is very detrimental, if not fatal, to their future welfare.

Drunkenness

is freely participated in by a large number when opportunity offers. Opium eating, as the habit is commonly called, is also practiced by many; and they are frequently heard making earnest appeals to the agency physician for the poisonous drug.

Saloon-keepers and accomplices.

During the past year fifteen persons were convicted for selling intoxicating liquor to the Indians of this agency, and six are awaiting trial at the next term of the district court. Those convicted were sentenced as follows: 2 for 60 days' imprisonment, and \$1 fine; 2 for 50 days' imprisonment, and \$1 fine; 2 for 3 days' imprisonment, and \$1 fine; 1 for 25 days' imprisonment, and \$1 fine; 1 for 30 days' imprisonment, and \$1 fine; 1 for 5 days' imprisonment, and \$30 fine; 1 for 1 day's imprisonment, and \$1 fine; 1 for 5 days' imprisonment, and \$50 fine; 1 for 10 days' imprisonment, and \$50 fine; 1 for 2 days' imprisonment, and \$1 fine; 1 for 40 days' imprisonment, and \$1 fine. Herewith inclosed I respectfully submit the statistical information required, for the three tribes of this agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. STEPHENS,

United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

LA POINTE AGENCY.

Sir: In compliance with office circular letter dated July 15, 1880, I would respectfully offer the following as my first annual report:

I came to the agency as an employe in 1873, and have served as superintendent of duty the department has my record, and it is very gratifying to me that they have shown their appreciation by appointing me to the position of agent, made vacant by the promotion of I. L. Mahan to the position of inspector.

The treaty made at La Pointe on La Pointe or Madelaine Island in Lake Superior, Wisconsin, gave to this agency its name. The headquarters are located at Bayfield, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, just opposite to La Pointe on the main land. The agency includes in its boundaries seven different reservations, four in Wisconsin and three in Minnesota. The census was taken in 1877, and general rolls made of all the bands, and they are known by the reservation on which they live. The population of the different reserves are Red Cliff, 726; Bad River, 736; Lac Court Orellais, 1,093; Lac de Flambeau, 665; Fond du Lac, 404; and Grand Portage, 267. The treaty with these Indians expired in 1875, yet through the kind influence of our friends in Congress we have received each year since an appropriation of about \$16,800. Of this amount \$600 is for the support of one blacksmith and shops; \$1,200 for salaries of two farmers, and the balance, \$15,000, is for agricultural and educational purposes, pay of employes, purchases of goods and provisions, and such other purposes as may be deemed for the best interest of said Indians, and with the exception of the amount necessary to pay salaries of employes the department makes the disbursements. Bois Forte bands, numbering 1,088, are still receiving benefits under their treaty of 1856. They have five years yet unexpired.

FED CLIFF BANDS

occupy a reservation of four sections of land 3 miles north of the agency; we have communication with these both by land (a good wagon road) and by water (on Lake Superior). Thirty-one allotments of eighty acres each have been made to these Indians. They are enjoying prosperity and are well worthy of attention from the department in securing to them the rights of citizens in every sense of the word. They live in houses of their own, dress like the whites, and, in my judgment, are able and in a condition to care for themselves, and I would, therefore, in my judgment, are able and in a con-