

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

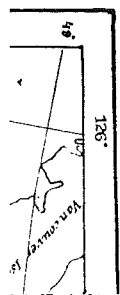
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1881.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
1881.

less than six or seven different newspapers are taken by our Indians, circulating from three to twelve or fifteen copies each; six or eight reapers and mowers are owned and operated by Indians; probably thirty or forty sewing-machines are owned by Indian women; and if required our Indians could furnish from sixty to seventy four-horse teams, each teamster as well qualified for his work as the majority of white men. Each year sees numbers added to this class, and each year sees in these an upward growth.

MILLS, ETC.

Last spring I purchased a new bolting-cloth for the grist-mill, since which time it has turned out an improved quality of flour, fully equal if not superior to the first-class flour made at the Yakama and Goldendale mills.

As the statistics accompanying my annual report of last year have been the subject of much criticism in a certain quarter, and my statement of the amount of wheat raised by the Indians pronounced an absurd fiction, I may mention that the miller reports the amount ground for Indians from September 1, 1889, the date he took charge of the mill, till December 31, 1890, at 10,400 bushels; from January 1 to March 31, 1881, 1,662 bushels, and from April 1 to June 30, 1881, 1,373 bushels, making 13,446 bushels. During August the mill was in charge of F. C. Roe, and the amount of wheat harvested when there would be likely to be a rush of new wheat, it may be assumed to be at least equal to the average of the succeeding four months. This would make 16,040 bushels ground for Indians at the agency mill; and adding the amount sold to the department and to employes, that ground for Indians at the mills in Yakima and Abitum, and the amount fed to stock and reserved for seed, and the total could hardly fall short of my estimate of 35,000 bushels.

Our Indians had made extensive preparations to cut and haul to the steam mill a much larger amount of saw-logs than in any previous year; but owing to the severity of the winter many found themselves without teams in the spring, and those who had succeeded in saving their work-horses found them so poor as to be of little service, so that only about 300,000 feet were delivered, and of these I was compelled to purchase a large proportion for lumber for the new school and boarding-house, as the department teams, being required for the trip to Malheur, could not be used for hauling logs. The mill was started in May, the only white man employed being the manager and sawyer, Indians being employed in all the other departments.

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY FROM MALHEUR TO YAKAMA.

Early in the spring I was notified of the intention of the department to transfer the supplies at Malheur Agency to Yakama, and directed to proceed to that place with teams and remove all the property that in my judgment was worth transporting. Want of funds embarrassed me so that it was not till June 6 that I was able to perfect my arrangements for the performance of this service. Talking with me 16 Indian and 2 department four-horse teams I crossed the Columbia River at Columbus and proceeded to Malheur via Canyon Cr. The people along the route had not forgotten the Bannack war of 1878, and I found their sentiments bitterly hostile, so much so that I had sometimes difficulty in preventing a collision between some of the more reckless and lawless of the whites and our Indian teamsters. Happily all actual violence was avoided and we reached the agency safely, where I loaded such articles as I thought would best bear transportation, and taking the cattle and horses started on my return to my agency. At Malheur City, 45 miles from the agency, I was met with orders to take entire charge at Malheur Agency, and make arrangements for the care of the buildings and remaining property till its final disposition should be determined by the department. The circumstances were such that it was practically impossible to comply with these instructions, as I explained at length in a letter, which I first proved satisfactory. Our route homeward lay via Baker City and Tualilla, where we crossed the Columbia River in safety, and after a journey of two days and nights without water and over a burning desert, reached the borders of the reservation, and two days after, July 18, the agency, after one of the most fatiguing and exhausting journeys that during my residence of more than thirty-five years on the frontiers of the Pacific coast it has been my lot to experience.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

JAMES H. WILBUR,
United States Indian Agent.

GREEN BAY AGENCY, WISCONSIN.
SIR: I have the honor to submit this my third annual report. The jurisdiction of this agency extends over the Menomonees, Oneidas, and Stockbridges, numbering, respectively, 1,450, 1,506, and 135, each located on separate reservations. The

MEMONONEE

Reservation is situated between Shawano and Langlade Counties, in Northern Wisconsin, consisting of ten townships of land, the most of which is covered by a dense forest of timber, principally maple, hemlock, and

Pine,

the last named being estimated at about 250,000,000 feet, and would sell at a fair sale, at present value, at least, for about \$750,000. This the Menomonees have repeatedly asked the United States to sell, and invest the proceeds in United States bonds, the interest to be used annually for their benefit and support. In this they should be immediately heard, and their wishes granted, for their valuable timber is surrounded on all sides by old chopplings and dense undergrowth, that are liable in dry seasons to carry destructive forest fires into their pine and cause its total destruction. Besides the heavy winds are continually blowing down great quantities of the most valuable of said timber, where, under existing laws, it must remain to decay and waste. This is very discouraging to the Menomonees, who are continually asking permission to cut the dead and down timber going to waste on their land, thus giving them employment during the winter season, and means wherewith to improve, seed, and plant their farms in spring and summer. The Menomonees are making steady advancement in

Agricultural pursuits.

Each year many of the old clearings are enlarged, and new ones are being opened and cultivated. Their urgent request at every council, besides the sale of their pine, is the

Allocation

of the land in severally that they may have a home of their own where they may enjoy the benefits of their industry, and take pleasure in making their homes more comfortable and valuable. Knowing that their homes are their own individual property. A farmer has lately been seen who will go among them to teach and encourage them in the enlargement of their farms, repairing and building substantial fences and barns, and instructing them in the general cultivation of crops. They also have a

Grist and saw mill,

situated at Keshena Falls, one mile from the agency, both of which are driven by an excellent water-power. During the past year the Indians have manufactured 247,082 feet of lumber, and a quantity of shingles, all of which has been used by them in improvements on the reserve. I will here state that if Congress had the welfare of those people in view, a law authorizing them to lumber the dead and fallen pine timber, now rotting and going to total waste on their reserve, would immediately be passed, giving them authority to sell the same to the whites settled outside of the reserve, thus granting them a source of revenue, and a strong incentive to industry, thereby occupying their time and attention in one of the strongest civilizing agencies. At present they have nothing to do for a large portion of the year except to engage in their old-fashioned dances, hold council, or go outside to look for work. If there is a general desire among the people of the United States to

Civilize the Indians

of Northern Wisconsin, for the sake of humanity, justice, and common sense, let them all join in one general chorus in urging Congress to read and under the bonds that hold them in their imprisoned and morbid condition. They are not allowed, under existing laws, to cut a load of wood from the dead timber wasting on their reserve, and sell it at the nearest market. Nor can they legally cut a few hoop-poles from the dense undergrowth on their reserve and sell them wherewith to buy the necessities of life for their hungry children. Is this not a national disgrace? Place the German, Norwegian, or Irishman (who is accustomed to hard labor) in our forests, restrict them to the same rules, and they would be hand-banded to such an extent that it would be impossible for them to clear their hands into large and profitable farms. They while clearing their hands hand their wood, staves, hoop-poles, and timber into market and sell them to buy the necessary supplies to sustain themselves and families. Why not permit the northern Indian the same privilege? If cannot be possible that Congress exclude and confine clearing up profitable farms without granting them some source of support. Nevertheless this is the condition the Indian who remains on his reservation is placed in. It is well known that the Indian requires to be protected against the arts of unprincipled white men who make it their business to defraud the Indian whenever opportunity offers; but why not protect him and not bind him by impracticable laws that require him to perform impossibilities—laws that are intended to enslave and civilize him, but practically hold him down tied hand and foot? Some one may be ready to ask what manner of laws I would recommend for the In-

ains. This I would gladly answer as follows: For the Indians of Northern Wisconsin laws authorizing the locating and building of manufacturing establishments on their reservation, viz. saw-mills, planing-mills, saw, door, and blind factories, barrel and stove factories. Men these establishments with Indians; manufacture the valuable timber on the reservation into more valuable productions; ship them to market the Indians for their labor, and deposit whatever remains to the credit of the tribe elevates the Indian; he does not, generally speaking, know the value of it; but it is offered to them by the different demobilizations, would produce a great change in their condition in a short space of time. It is very true that a wonderful change for the United States, particularly among some of the Western tribes; but to continue in the forcible living, or they will settle into indolent habits, like many of the white population in the Southern and Middle States, which ought to be deplored. The Menomonee now have three

Schools

on their reservation, two of which were opened during the last year, both conducted and taught by Indian women; the other is a boarding-school held at the agency. They are all well attended, and promise great benefit to the tribe. All the

Religions

advantages of the tribe are taught by the Roman Catholic denomination, and three priests and two lay-brothers of the Franciscan order are located at the agency, doing missionary work among them. It is estimated that about two-thirds of the Menomonee are members of the above denomination, and one-third remain in their primitive state, as adherents to the old Indian customs and teachings.

Intoxication

is indulged in to some extent by the young men, who frequent the city of Shawano, about 5 miles distant, where they procure liquor, sold to them as cider, which is very intoxicating in its effects. The new

Agency farm,

containing about 90 acres, has produced a very fair crop of small grain, potatoes, turnips, and corn, as will be seen by my statistical report.

THE OXENPAS,

numbering 1,506, are situated a few miles southwest from the city of Green Bay, on a reservation containing about 65,000 acres, over one-half of which is considered excellent farming land. They are well advanced in

Agriculture,

and a large portion of their land is classed with the best land of Brown County. The main settlement extends nearly the whole length of the reservation, through the center, north and south, and is one continuous line of large farms, supplied with many good dwellings and outbuildings. They harvest large crops, which find a ready and profitable market at Green Bay, Deperet, and Appleton. They are also engaged in profit-able raising horses, cattle, swine, and sheep. They are steadily advancing in civilized pursuits, and many new farms are being cleared and more land cultivated each year. But their continuous appeal to the agent and honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs is to have their

Lands allotted

to each individual. This would be a great incentive to further industry among them, and should be done without delay. They have four

Schools,

which are well attended, and the results show that the scholars are thoroughly instructed in the common branches. The tribe all being Protestants, are taking a strong interest in

Religious matters.

The Methodist mission is presided over by Rev. S. W. Ford, who is very energetic in both church and school. The Episcopal church is in charge of Rev. E. A. Goodenough, and is considered in a prosperous condition. One great drawback to this tribe is the

Liquor traffic.

Their reservation being so near villages and cities, where they do their trading and market their produce, it is very easy for them to secure all the liquor they want, notwithstanding the many arrests, trials, and convictions for selling and giving intoxicating liquors to Indians. This fact is deplored by the better and greater portion of the tribe. During the past year five young men of the Ononda tribe have come to an untimely death through its influence; two by driving into a flooded stream were drowned, and three were run over by trains while they were on the track in a state of intoxication. As I stated in my last year's report, drunkenness will continue among the Indians of many localities, in spite of the strongest efforts of agents and Indian agents, until Congress amends the law by adding not less than three months' imprisonment, until Congress amends the law by adding not less than three months' imprisonment. The following table shows the number of persons found guilty of disposing of intoxicating liquor to Indians of this agency during the past fiscal year, together with the fine and term of imprisonment prescribed to each by the court:

Defendants.	Date of sentence.	Amount of fine.	Imprisonment.
John Keyser	1880, July 14	\$1 00	And 30 days in Winnebago County jail.
Daniel Giam	Aug. 14	1 00	And 60 days in Brown County jail.
Isaac Dronche	Aug. 13	1 00	And 60 days in Milwaukee County jail.
Donald McLeod	Sept. 13	50 00	And 1 day in Milwaukee County jail.
William P. Brown	Nov. 10	1 00	And 10 days in Milwaukee County jail.
David Torham	Nov. 17	1 00	And 60 days in Milwaukee County jail.
John Kenzath	Dec. 20	50 00	And 40 days in Milwaukee County jail.
William P. Brown	1881, Jan. 5	1 00	And 90 days in house of correction, Milwaukee.
Alexs. Bohman	Jan. 5	1 00	And 40 days in Milwaukee County jail.
Anton Kankaput	Jan. 5	1 00	And 40 days in Milwaukee County jail.
Levi Weaver	Jan. 27	1 00	And 30 days in Milwaukee County jail.
Jacob Jacobs	Feb. 1	1 00	And 60 days in Milwaukee County jail.
Henry Miller	Feb. 11	10 00	And 1 day in Milwaukee County jail.

THE STOCKBRIDGES,

numbering 135, are located on a reservation seven miles west from Keshena, containing eighteen sections of land, which is considered fair for agricultural purposes. Most of the tribe are engaged in agricultural pursuits, from which they reap fair crops, but their love of

Drinking,

in a great measure, retards their elevation, and many of them spend their time about villages where liquor is sold, instead of improving their homes. They seem to be very expert in adopting the vices of the white man, but slow in adopting his virtues. They have one

School,

which has been moderately attended during the year, the majority of the tribe seeming to take but little interest in educational matters. They have one

Church,

of the Presbyterian denomination, presided over by Rev. Jeremiah Slingerland, who is an Indian, a member of the tribe, and teacher of the school. These people should be

Citizens of the United States

as soon as possible, and they ought to have been such many years ago. They are divided into two or three factions, engaged in continual strife against each other, and the only way to improve them is to civilize them, and make them amenable to the laws of the State, both civil and criminal. This, and this only, will ever end their bitter quarrels over tribal funds and property, which have continued probably a hundred years or more.

I herewith enclose my statistical report. All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. STEPHENS,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

United States Indian Agent.