

to \$8 per month. This has enabled the agents to select a better class of men for the service, and will tend to make the force more stable, most of the resignations heretofore having been caused by meager salaries. I also confidently expect that the better class of men will render the force still more efficient, so that notwithstanding the increasing necessity for this class of employes their greater efficiency will enable me to lessen their number, and I have therefore estimated for only seven hundred privates and seventy officers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887.

TRADE WITH THE INDIANS.

In regulating trade with the various Indian tribes, it is my intention to prescribe and promulgate more stringent rules and regulations for the protection of the Indians. Traders are appointed that the Indians may obtain such goods as they desire and are able to purchase, at fair and reasonable prices. The appointments are made with a view of benefiting the Indians and not the traders.

In addition to the requirements prescribed in sections 562 and 563, Regulations of the Indian Department 1884, it is my intention to require each trader to print lists of all goods placed upon sale, giving in plain figures the price of each article; such lists to be submitted to the agent, and if approved, forwarded by him to this office for action. If approved by this office, they will be returned to the agent with directions to require the trader to post them in conspicuous and usually frequented places, so that the Indians may become familiar with the price of such articles as they may desire to purchase. The number of traders on each reservation will be limited to the requirements of the Indians.

ADDITIONAL FARMERS.

In the act making appropriation for the Indian Department, approved July 4, 1884, the sum of \$25,000 was appropriated "to enable the Secretary of the Interior to employ practical farmers in addition to the agency farmers now employed, at wages not exceeding \$75 per month, to superintend and direct farming among such Indians as are making effort for self support."

It was too late in the season to give the matter a fair trial in that year as all that could be done towards preparing the ground and planting for the season had already been done; but as soon as practicable after the appropriation became available appointments were made at agencies where there had been the greatest development in agricultural pursuits, with a view to assisting and instructing the Indians in harvesting and other fall work. Great care was taken to select practical farmers, and they were instructed to go into the fields with the Indians, and by example as well as precept teach them how to become self-supporting through farming. In some instances mistakes were made in the

selections, but agents were notified that they would be held responsible for the success or failure of each man employed, and were instructed that in case any appointee should prove unfit for the position or fail to do his duty the facts should be reported at once. By this course mistakes were soon rectified and a good class of employes secured. About forty were thus employed during such portion of the season as they could profitably work, and the result generally was very satisfactory.

The same amount was appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, and soon after I assumed charge of the Bureau I directed all the agents at the agencies where these "additional farmers" had been stationed to submit, in writing, what practical results had been achieved, and what they had to show for the money expended for such employes. In every instance the replies were most gratifying, nearly every agent commending the experiment, urging the retention of those already employed, and asking that more be furnished if the appropriation would admit of it. In many instances the agents represented that the Indians were clamorous for more allotments of land (alluded to more fully elsewhere in my report), being not only willing but eager to commence farming, if they could be allowed the help of these farmers. Accordingly I placed in the field all the force that could be allowed under the appropriation, and confidently expect that the result will fully confirm the wisdom of Congress in providing for this class of employes.

In view of the good results obtained, and the urgent requests of both Indians and agents for a greater number of these farmers, I have asked that the appropriation be increased to \$40,000 for the next fiscal year and even a larger appropriation for this purpose could be profitably used with paying results.

I submit herewith extracts from a few of the replies received to my inquiries.

From Agent Dyer, Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency, Indian Territory
I have the honor to reply to yours of the 14th instant, and state that any reduction in the number of "additional farmers" would be fatal to the best interests of the service.

We have just made the greatest start with these people that was ever made. Last year there was about 475 acres under cultivation, including farms of half-breeds. This year we have added to this not less than 800 acres; these farms begin at the agency and are scattered for 75 miles on the river bottoms. It requires two or three men in this vicinity to look after and instruct the Indians, who are nothing more than children with the strength of men; and there should be one man up this river 12 miles, another 25 miles, a third at Cantonment, and a fourth on the South Canadian River. With 6,000 Indians to be instructed in farming as these must be, we must have many employes if you wish to push them and secure the best results.

* * * They must be instructed in farming and we must get them into houses they all live in tepees now, but many are talking of houses, and if I am able to help them get out logs, saw lumber, and assist in putting up houses, the change in a few years will be marvelous. * * *

* * * I claim that these people can be made self-supporting in a few years if my plan is firmly held to. I beg of you not to in any way reduce my force, but rather give me

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heathenish customs that have been for many years resorted to, by the worst elements on the reservation, to retard the progress and advancement of the Indians to a higher standard of civilization and education.

The agent of the Nez Percé Agency, Idaho, says:

The court and police force have worked wonders among this tribe. Friend and foe alike of the Indians in this vicinity acknowledge the same.

The agent of the Western Shoshone Agency, Nevada, says:

Its existence has been a preventive to the commitment of any serious offenses coming under its purposes.

The agent of the Standing Rock Agency, Dakota, says:

It is growing to be an important factor in the administration of affairs at this agency. Regular semi-monthly sessions of the court are held, where all offenders are brought by the police for trial, and cases impartially decided by the court. A number of cases for violation of office rules have been tried during the year past, and the offenders punished either by fines or imprisonment in the agency guard-house, and the decisions of the judges have, in every instance, been sustained by the better class of Indians, and usually accepted by the transgressor as just and proper. The present judges are members of the police force, but the judges of this court should be independent of that body, as it places the police officers in an embarrassing position when obliged to arrest, try, and punish offenders. If there were salaries of \$20 per month attached to the office of judge the best men among the Indians would be willing to serve in that capacity, as the service is now becoming quite popular, and having these two branches independent of each other would add to the usefulness of both.

The agent of the Siletz Agency, Oregon, says:

I am well pleased with its workings. I have not had to reverse a decision made. The judges try in every case to do the right thing, tempering justice with mercy. I have every confidence in them. They solve questions oftentimes that are knotty for me.

The agent of the Klamath Agency, Oregon, says:

The court of Indian offenses has been well conducted, and much improvement in its working has been manifest. It has been of much benefit to the Indians, and an important factor in their advancement in civilization. Offenses against morality are becoming less frequent, and a due respect for law has been carefully enforced. The judges have become more efficient with practice, and try the cases appearing before them with deliberation and prudence.

The agent of the Cheyenne River Agency, Dakota, says:

Since the organization of the court dancing has been discontinued and plural marriages are unknown. Misdemeanors are of rare occurrence.

The agent of the Santee Agency, Nebraska, says:

I think the court has a good influence and is quite a help to the quiet government of the Indians.

The fines assessed and collected at one of the agencies during the past year have reached as high as \$395, and out of this money the agent has been authorized to pay his judges \$10 each per month. Although it has worked satisfactorily at the Nez Percé Agency, and has had no apparently bad effect on the decisions of the judges, I am well satisfied that it is not a wise or safe policy to have the salary of an officer contingent on his own decisions, and instead of having the fines

collected used for this purpose, it would be much better to use the money for the benefit of the tribe generally, building bridges, improving roads, or for general educational purposes.

In most cases the judges are also members of the police force. This should not be so; the court should be entirely independent of the police, and its members should receive a salary from the Government sufficient to induce the best and most intelligent of the Indians to serve in that capacity. In this connection I beg to say that I fully agree with my predecessor that the judges should have at least \$20 per month for the services required of them, and as the court is no longer an experiment, but a success, I trust that Congress will appropriate an amount sufficient to pay this salary to each of the judges, and to defray other necessary court expenses.

INDIAN POLICE.

The rapidity with which the entire area of the western part of the country is being opened up and settled, brings settlers to the very doors of the Indian reservations, oftentimes introducing a class of men none too scrupulous regarding the rights of others; men who regard the property of the Indian as lawful prey, and the life of the Indian as no obstacle to the possession of it; men who are without many of the necessities of life, needing fuel, needing horses or ponies, needing beef, needing grazing ground, and a thousand other things, many of which are possessed by the Indians through issues made by the United States. This has made some kind of a constabulary force on Indian reservations an actual necessity, and the necessity has been increasing every year in a ratio far exceeding the relief granted. Agencies, which a year ago few white men had ever crossed, may be almost surrounded this year with settlers and invaders. Mines, real or prospective, have tempted thousands of men into localities heretofore occupied only by Indians. Without regard to the rights of the Indians, they are constantly trespassing, harassing the Indians, provoking quarrels, thieving, and making the life of the agent one of constant anxiety and vigilance. Agency employes are very few, and cannot be spared for police duty.

Under these circumstances, relief has come through and by the Indians themselves; for, fully realizing the situation, Congress has, for the past few years, provided for the appointment and equipment of Indian police. To a great extent they have met the necessities of the situation, and have proved valuable aids to the Indian agents in preventing trespassing and robbery by lawless whites, and in suppressing disorder, violence, and incipient revolt among the more restless of their own people. Many instances of surprising fidelity to the trust imposed upon them, under circumstances which would swerve many a white man from his duty, might be related of these Indian policemen.

Commencing with the present fiscal year, the salary was increased for the officers from \$8 to \$10 per month, and for the privates from \$5