

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1886.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1886.

SANITARY.

The health of the scholars was generally as good as could be expected during the year, considering that they had to winter in shanties and crude buildings erected and fitted only for summer use. There were 510 cases treated by the physician, but of this number only 6 died in the school and 2 after returning home. The health of the scholars is now as good as it could possibly be, as there is not a single case of sickness, except a few chronic ones.

This school has averaged a fraction over 200 pupils the past year, representing 20 different tribes, scattered along the western coast from California to Alaska. The Alaska Indians are generally bright and quick to learn, and very tractable, and, in fact the children from all the tribes seem kindly disposed to each other, and are generally obedient and well-disposed.

Respectfully, yours,

JOHN LEE,
Superintendent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

UNITED STATES INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,

Carlisle, Pa., August 21, 1886.

Sir: I transmit herewith the annual report for the seventh year of the history of the school. The following table gives the population during the year beginning July 1, 1885, and ending June 30, 1886:

Tribe.	Connected with school at date of last report.		New pupils received.		Aggregate population during the year.	Returned to agencies.		Died.		Remain in g at school.		Total.
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.			
Apaches.....	48	9	.....	.....	52	6	4	3	43	4	49
Caddoes.....	16	4	.....	.....	25	.....	.....	.....	10	5	15
Chozenas.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Chippewas.....	16	7	5	.....	28	7	2	.....	14	5	19
Comanches.....	6	3	1	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	6	3	9
Crows.....	2	2	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	5
Gros Ventres.....	7	4	1	.....	11	.....	.....	.....	7	4	11
Karais.....	3	2	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Kawes.....	4	1	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Keechies.....	4	1	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Kiowas.....	3	1	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Medonones.....	3	1	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Menomones.....	1	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Moras.....	6	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	6
Naves.....	4	3	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	4	2	6
New Yorks.....	18	3	.....	.....	22	4	2	1	14	2	16
Ondas.....	2	3	20	.....	44	2	2	.....	20	2	40
Ondasgas.....	1	2	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Oreavas.....	2	3	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Pawnee.....	45	13	.....	.....	58	45	13	.....	13	.....	58
Parnee.....	16	6	.....	.....	22	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Teona.....	1	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Tonias.....	1	2	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Funios.....	49	40	20	.....	128	1	15	2	48	1	99
Quabos.....	1	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Sacs and Foxes.....	1	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Seminoles.....	2	1	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Senecas.....	3	2	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Shoshones.....	2	1	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Sioux, Rosebud.....	42	19	1	.....	62	12	5	2	20	14	43
Sioux, Pine Ridge.....	21	6	10	.....	37	11	.....	.....	50	6	26
Sioux, Sisseton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stockbridges.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wichitas.....	4	1	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Winnebagos.....	5	6	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Wyandottes.....	1	3	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
.....	344	150	62	46	604	110	47	7	4	280	147	436

The system of placing out in families and on farms was continued throughout the year, with the following result in numbers:

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Number in families at beginning of fiscal year.....	104	28	132
Number placed in families during fiscal year for longer or shorter periods.....	124	38	162
Whole number in families during fiscal year.....	228	66	294

Placements: Boys, 16; girls, 1.

From which it will be seen we gave out privileges to sixty more students during the year than we did in the year previous. I reiterate the advantages of this system, which have been fully stated in my previous reports. No one feature of our school work, nor, so far as I know, in any work for the Indians, excels anywhere near the same power to bring forward the young Indians in English speaking and in the industries of civilized life; nor does any other system that I know of exert the same influence to overcome the Indians' prejudice against the whites and the prejudice of the whites against them, and begot within them so quickly desires to live civilized lives. The monthly reports which we require all persons, having our students to make continue to show a very general appreciation and satisfaction in the character of our students and the services they render. Almost every student out from the school during the past year has received wages in proportion to their ability as compared with other labor classes. A very considerable number—more than half—have rendered full service and received full pay. The exceptions receiving no pay were only quite small boys and girls, out for summer homes.

Of fifty-two Apaches, part Chiricahuas, arriving at the school from San Carlos Agency in February, 1884, without knowledge of English or civilized habits, thirty-one were placed out in families for longer or shorter periods during the fiscal year. Only four failed to give satisfaction.

An incident of peculiar significance in the past year in connection with this Apache party was the running away of two of the young men, Cotton Bulcattat and Grasshopper. Grasshopper was represented as one of the most incorrigible young fellows in the party when they arrived. Agent Wilcox gave him a very bad name. In July, 1885, these two boys were punished for some offense by the denial of privileges to go out of the grounds and being compelled to do "police" duty. They ran away, and I did not hear of them for five months, when Grasshopper wrote from Central Mission school physician, and his teacher, to write to him, and from that there has been correspondence since. Grasshopper relates that they went as far as Saint Louis, Missouri and hired out to a farmer, and has been there ever since. Correspondence with him wrote me a few weeks ago, asking a ticket back, and to let him return to Carlisle; but I thought he had better work his way back the same as he went away, and so informed him. The other boy I have not heard from.

I regard this experience with the Apaches as an extreme test-case, and its success, added to all the others, warrants the assertion that nothing but the adoption and general use of some system of this kind is required to assimilate all the tribes into our body-politic within a short time.

An average of about ninety of our students who were out in families attended public school with white children during the winter—one, two, or three in a place. No evidences came to me but that the utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed between our Indian pupils thus placed and their fellow pupils, and most of their teachers spoke in praise of their Indian pupils.

With these facts in view, I again, and for the seventh time, make use of my annual report to urge that the lines of Indian civilization and progress are to be found in opening the ways into civilization, and in encouraging the Indian to enter; and are not to be found in continuing the systems which segregate them from civilizing principles and opportunities. As slavery could only be possible and success through keeping the negro ignorant and denying him all experience and knowledge outside of the system of slavery, so Indian life, with its ignorance, degradation, and savagery, to continue with its engrafted pampering reservation life and systems, is only possible by continuing the Indian in that life or remanding him inexorably to it. The Indian is not to be blamed for remaining an Indian when all the systems and practices, not only of his tribe, but of the Government, persist in Indianizing him in his education and experiences, any more than the young Anglo-Saxon deserves blame for growing

I from tubercular epilepsy, I from dropsy, as a result of chronic malaria, and I suicide. One hundred and eighteen boys and 63 girls (an average of 15 per month) were taken care of in the hospital. All who are excused from duty, from any cause, are taken care of at the hospital, and many of the cases reported above were very mild. Three hundred and seventy-three outside cases were reported for treatment. A large majority of these were simple colds, sore eyes, boils, and cutaneous diseases.

Our mortality and health rates seem excessive until we compare with the death rate among the lower classes of our own people and the colored race, where the sanitary conditions and previous habits of life are similar to those among the Indians. These show that the Indian death rate is not so excessive, and the plain inference is that the great mortality is due not so much to race characteristics as to nonconformity to health laws. If the death rate from certain specific diseases peculiar to the Indian and whites be examined a noticeable fact is that a much larger proportion of deaths occur from measles, diarrheal and venereal diseases, scarlet fever, and consumption among the Indians, while the deaths from scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever, and nervous diseases are very much less than among whites.

It has been asserted that consumption increases among the Indians under the influence of civilization. This inference is drawn from the statistic tables, which are necessarily very imperfect. It is possible to perfect these tables only as the Indians are brought under civilizing influences and the facts made known. As we cannot know their previous death rate, the comparison falls. Our experience is that the mixed bloods resist disease and death from pulmonary troubles better than the full bloods, and our best health conditions are found among those we send out into families—due, I think, very largely to the regular occupation and varied diet.

I consider the sanitary conditions of the school good, but they can be improved by having buildings more directly adapted for school purposes. The girls' quarters have been thoroughly remodeled and are in as good condition as we could ask. The two sets of boys' quarters need to be overhauled and rebuilt, so that we may have not to exceed three students in a room.

The public and charitable interest in our work has continued unabated throughout the year. The gifts amounted to \$9,828.11, and these have supplemented the Government's work, giving to us the Hooper farm released from debt; \$5,000 of this amount was the gift of one person; \$1,000 the gift of another. There is no lack of encouragement to the Government to continue and increase its efforts to educate and elevate the Indians to a plane with its other peoples. Large charitable co-operation of benevolently-inclined people of the country only waits for emphatic action by the Government. The money given to us has been expended to improve the facilities of our work, and not in the support of students.

The local religious influence and assistance continues. Our students are welcome attendants in the several churches and Sabbath schools of the town, and are received into church membership. The kindest interest in their welfare is shown on the part of all the churches, and I count this co-operation one of the most wholesome and efficient aids to our work. We have the services, every Sunday, of one or the other of the several clergymen of Carlisle, without regard to creed, who come to the school and preach for us.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. PRATT,
Captain Tenth Cavalry, Superintendent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

HAMPTON, VA., September 1, 1886.

Sir: I have the honor to submit to you the following report for the year ending September 1, 1886, compiled as usual from the testimony of the various school officials. The Government appropriation for the year allowed Hampton 150 Indian pupils instead of 100 as heretofore. Besides those who received board and clothing from the Government there has been a variable number on the list of those supported by private charity. We had on the 1st of November last 142 on our rolls; at present we have 120: 77 boys and 43 girls.

These represent the following tribes:

Sioux	79	Absentee Shawnee	2
Omaha	16	Pawnee	1
Winnebago	7	Chippewa	1
Delaware	1	Wichita	1
Comanche	1	Sac and Fox	2
Onondaga	1	Pima	1
Oneida	1	Menominee	1
Pottawatomie	3	Ponca	1

Average age, about 17 years.

In November, a party of 7 came from Fort Berthold and Standing Rock Agencies, Dakota. In August, 20 more, 10 girls and 10 boys, came from the latter agency, under the care of Mr. McDowell, the efficient superintendent of our Indian training shop. From the opening of the fall term to date 45 have returned home on account of expiration of time, delicate health, or some special reason.

Four girls and 1 boy have died, the latter an infant. In June a party of 13 girls and 13 boys was sent for the summer to Massachusetts, homes having been there found for them in families.

Quite a number of the new arrivals this year were able to enter at once on the normal course with the colored students, who come with the avowed purpose of fitting themselves for teachers. To secure these advanced pupils from the mission and agency schools at the West, who have already stood the test of school life near their own homes, and have shown special aptitude for study or for the mechanical arts, should doubtless be one of the chief aims of Eastern schools. Thus a band of trained leaders and assistants will be prepared to re-enforce the all-important work at the West. The long journey across the continent is in itself an education. A year, or even a summer, in an intelligent Christian home at the North gives these Indian children a draught from the very fountain-head of our civilization, and it is in ways such as these, we believe, far more than in a little more or less facility for mere book learning, that the important lies of bringing Indians East. If ere long they are to be citizens of this country should not their leaders at least know more of it than can be gained from the camps of the West, or even its frontier towns and schools?

Taking out, however, the 25 pupils now in the normal classes who work two days in the week like their colored classmates, and the 8 boys in the night school, who, from choice, work all day at trades or farming and study in the evenings, there are left for the Indian classes proper, 57—36 girls and 51 boys. These, with two or three exceptions, divide the day between study and work.

The Indian school is graded in seven divisions; one of these (the third) having been subdivided into two sections, the A section reciting in the morning with the first, second, and seventh; the B in the afternoon with the fourth, fifth, and sixth. All study English, reading, and arithmetic, the three highest classes using Franklin's Elementary Arithmetic. For beginners Wentworth and Reed's number book has been found useful. The first division, numbering 19, has been reading Story of the Bible with much interest. They have used Paterson's Elements of Grammar and Swinton's Introductory Geography. Some oral instruction has been given them in United States history, the teacher narrating facts and stories and writing on the board events to be copied into note-books and memorized by the class.

The second division of 12 is following hard after the first, using now the same books with the exception of the grammar. Instead, they have sentences to compose and stories to write, these to be corrected by the teacher.

The third division of 17 have used Franklin's Second Reader in the A section, and the Book of Cats and Dogs, during part of the year, in the B. This gives some hints of natural history, as well as easy reading matter. Their English studies consist of conversation, letter writing, &c., varied for a time by simple oral lessons in geography, illustrated by the molding-board.

The fourth, of 13 members, read in Monroe's First Reader; while the fifth, of 12, are in Franklin's First.

The sixth division, numbering 7, is composed of very young children, one speaking very little English, others using it with perfect fluency. They are reading in Appleton's First Reader. As a basis for conversation in their English class they take some of the kindergarten occupations, a friend in the South having generously loaned the low table and chairs, while one in the North kindly furnished the kindergarten gifts. The small fingers of our Brownies seem to take as kindly to molding clay and weaving gay-colored papers as the latter children of Northern nurseries.

The division for beginners is the seventh, with 7 members, some having come only last fall. They have been taught jangly from the blackboard, and by means of objects and actions. Appleton's reading chart has been used, and Prang's pictures for object lessons have been very helpful.

Much of the study-hour work for our Indians is written out by the teacher on slips of paper or put on the board for them to copy.

The need of school books better adapted to Indian pupils has been previously recognized in these reports; readers, no less simple, but more sensible, with stories better worth remembering; histories and geographies, with hard words and involved sentences eliminated, and arithmetics, with their examples in analysis more nearly within the range of our scholars' experience. At the same time we realize that only those skilled themselves in teaching Indians could well prepare such books, and if all Government schools were rigidly bound down to the use of a single set of books, however judiciously compiled, they might be hampered, and thus fail to produce the best results possible.

THE INDUSTRIAL BOARDING SCHOOL.

The industrial boarding school here is in excellent condition, and bids fair to rival the Indian schools of much greater pretensions. The cost of maintaining the school during the first year was but little more than \$100 per scholar. We have now 115 scholars in actual daily attendance (53 boys, 57 girls), about 20 being new scholars, and more coming in daily.

The superintendent (E. J. Kinchard) is faithful and painstaking, and has labored earnestly for the welfare of the school. The appointment of Mrs. Lillie Kahana (a full-blood Indian woman of the Warm Springs tribe, and a graduate of the Salem Indian school) as teacher has proven of inestimable value, much of our success in inducing parents to send their children to school being due to the fact that we have one of their race as teacher—one whose exemplary deportment and kindly influence is well worthy of the highest walks of life. It is my confident belief that before many months this school will number 150 scholars, and rank with the best.

I earnestly recommend that the boys of the school be furnished with a neat uniform.

URGENT NEEDS.

The most urgent need of the agency and Indians at the present time is a saw-mill, the old one having burned about 18 months since. The Indians need lumber for houses, barns, fences, &c., and a great deal of lumber is required for agency use.

In conclusion, we should feel thankful for the present condition of Indian affairs. The incoming of the iron horse, and the disappearance of the buffalo—the Indian's base of supplies—has forever set at rest the question of Indian wars. We should now bend our energies in the direction of education of Indian youth and their training in civilized pursuits; in the seconding of such efforts our National Council seems so deeply interested. In carrying on this great work it is especially important that practical, self-reliant men should be selected as agents, and not impracticable theorists. An ounce of practice, or good common sense, is worth more than tons of theories.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CLIAS, H. DICKSON,

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Special Indian Agent, in Charge.

GREEN BAY AGENCY, KESHUNA, WIS.,
August 25, 1886.

Sir: In compliance with instructions, I herewith submit my first annual report of the affairs at this agency for the past fiscal year. This agency is located on the Menomonee Reservation, in Shawano County, Wisconsin, 7½ miles north of the city of Shawano, and 46½ miles northwest of the city of Green Bay. This agency has jurisdiction over those reservations occupied, respectively, by the Menomonee, Stockbridge, and Oneida tribes.

MEMORANDUMS.

The Menomonee Reservation consists of ten townships, containing about 230,000 acres of land. The Menomonees number 1,356 persons, of which number about 1,000 are christianized. The balance are still pagans and retain many of their ancient rites and customs.

Soil.

The most of the reservation is covered with a dense forest of pine, hemlock, maple, basswood, elm, oak, and other timber indigenous to this latitude. The soil, with the exception of two townships which are sandy, is fertile and well watered by numerous branches of the Wolf and Oconto Rivers, both of which streams flow through the reservation. The soil is capable of producing, when properly cultivated, large crops of wheat, rye, oats, barley, corn, potatoes, and other crops grown in this latitude. In fact, the white settlers in Shawano County often raise crops of wheat that will average 30 bushels to the acre.

Farming.

Apparently but little effort has been made to induce this tribe to endeavor to obtain their living by cultivating the soil. The old and middle aged find more congenial employment in making maple sugar, picking berries, hunting, &c., than in farming.

The young men work for short periods in the lumber woods, or on the river, driving logs, and in consequence labor on their farms is spasmodic and barren of results. Their farms range from 1 to 5 acres in extent, and from their appearance when I took charge of the agency the acreage under cultivation had decreased instead of increasing during the past few years. To remedy this deplorable state of affairs has been my constant aim during the past season. I appointed a practical, intelligent farmer, who has consistently and faithfully superintended the Indians' farming operations, instructing them what and when to do and how to do it. I have also devoted all the time I could spare from other duties to this work, believing that the only way to make this tribe self-supporting is to induce them to till the soil. As a result of constant supervision and encouragement the Indians appear to take an increased interest in the work. Five hundred dollars worth of seed was issued to them last spring. They have cleared 124 acres this season, and have now in crops 1,011 acres, which I am in hopes to largely increase another year. Unfortunately this vicinity this season has experienced the severest drought known in years, and in consequence the crops will not be as good as had it been otherwise.

Farming.

For several winters previous to that of 1885-'86 the Government allowed the Indians to cut the dead and fallen pine timber, the Government loaning them funds to operate with. I would suggest that, instead of loaning them money to operate with, during the coming winter those Indians who are industrious, have teams, and who have raised crops, and who can obtain supplies on their own credit, be allowed to cut the dead and down timber, and they be charged a reasonable amount for stump-removal, to go in the poor fund. Those that did log would give employment to others who could not obtain supplies, letting them sell their logs under the direction of the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the agent, thus encouraging them to learn how to do business, besides holding out inducements to others to be industrious in their farming, so as to be able to have supplies with which to operate following winters.

School and missionary work.

The members of this tribe are constantly advancing in civilization, as is shown by the increased interest taken in the schools and churches. There are two boarding schools at the agency, both located on the Menomonee Reservation, one built and carried on by the Government, and will at present accommodate 85 scholars, but in an addition for a school-room, dining-room, and dormitory, which I would build, would be done. The average attendance during the year has been 80, composed of pupils of the three tribes of the agency.

The other school was built and is in charge of the Catholic order of Franciscans, who, since the former school and church buildings were destroyed by fire in February, 1884, have expended over \$16,000 in building school houses, workshops, and a church; the latter not being yet completed. These buildings are for the exclusive use of the Indians; and since this order took charge of the mission, six years ago, they have had a marked effect for the better on the morals and spiritual welfare of the tribe. Their school buildings will accommodate 150 scholars, of which number the Government supports 100. This school is in charge of three priests, five Brothers and seven Sisters of the order of St. Joseph.

The pupils of both schools are taught the common branches of education, farming, carpentering, shoemaking, blacksmithing, and other industrial branches. The girls are taught house-work, sewing, baking, and knitting, and many of both sexes take a keen interest in their work. A temperance society has been organized by the Fathers, and now numbers over 100 members, and is having a beneficial effect.

Hospital.

A hospital for the sick, orphans, and aged members of the tribe was opened January 25, 1886, in the old school-house, and contains ten beds for patients. It is under the charge of three Sisters of St. Joseph, who do all in their power to alleviate the suffering of those under their charge. Since the hospital was opened there have been 34 patients treated and 8 deaths. Much interest has been taken in the hospital by the charitable people, who have donated many articles of clothing and delicacies. The hospital has a long-tail want, and has a good effect in showing the Indians the good effect of proper care and treatment of diseases by a regular physician and attendants, in contrast to their medicine charms, so prevalent.

Diseases.

The prevalent diseases, according to the report of the agency physician (and this will apply to the three tribes), are those usually found among the poorer class, excepting venereal diseases, which are rarely found in this tribe. Scrofula and consumption are very prevalent, and scrofulous ophthalmia has caused many cases of partial and total blindness.

Mills.

A new saw-mill, run by water power, has been built during the past year, which has a capacity of sawing 15,000 feet of lumber a day. Last winter the Indians cut for agency use 200,000 feet of logs and 100,000 feet for themselves, which are now being sawed. There is a shingle-machine, planer, and lath-mill attachment to the saw-mill, and I am in hopes to see a decided improvement in the comfort of the buildings hereafter erected by the Indians on this reservation. The grist-mill is in poor condition, and should be at once repaired, in order that the Indians can receive the benefits from the crops they raise, as without a mill to grind their flour there is but little incentive for them to try and raise grain.

Stock.

The Indians of this tribe own 44 cows, 516 ponies, and 23 oxen, and they have cut 240 tons of tame and wild hay. There are 31 tribal oxen, which are from fifteen to twenty years old, and are of no use for work. They should be killed this fall while fat and the meat issued to the poor of the tribe, and young oxen bought for the use of the Indian farmers.

Farm produce raised.

	Bushels.
Wheat.....	320
Oats.....	5,994
Corn.....	5,500
Beans.....	1,000
Potatoes.....	10,000
Turnips.....	2,000
Onions.....	1,000

STOCKBRIDGE AND MUNSEE.

The Stockbridge and Munsee Reservation contains a little over a half township of land, and joins the Menomonee Reservation on the west and south, about seven miles from the agency, on which resides what remains of the Stockbridge and Munsee Indians, numbering about 150 persons. Those Indians are all civilized, read and write the English language, and are fully capable of becoming citizens; in fact, under the constitution of the State of Wisconsin, are voters, and exercise that privilege at all general elections. They are engaged in farming, lumbering, and working for the white settlers of Shawano County. This tribe receives an annuity of about \$4,500 a year, derived principally from the interest on the amount received from the sale of some of the allotments are occupied. This tribe governs themselves, and requires but little attention from the agent. Number of tons of hay cut, 15; pounds of butter, 200.

Bushels of farm produce raised.

Wheat.....	271
Oats.....	440
Corn.....	1,950
Potatoes.....	715
Barley and rye.....	55
Turnips.....	100
Onions.....	20
Beans.....	30

There is one day school on this reservation, supported by the tribe, but is very poorly attended.

ONEIDA.

The Oneida Reservation is located in Brown County, Wisconsin, 46 miles from the agency, and contains 65,540 acres of land, 45,000 acres of which are susceptible of being cultivated. The tribe now number about 16,000 persons, and are well advanced in civilization. As a general thing they have good houses, and obtain their living by farming, cutting stove-logs, hoop-poles, cord-wood, &c., which they dispose of in neighboring towns. Many of them have large and well-tilled farms, and are as well off as the average farmer among their white neighbors. This tribe receives an annuity of \$4,000 from the Government.

Church and schools.

There are two churches on this reservation, under the control of the Episcopal and Methodist denominations, which are well attended, and are under the charge of missionaries who have the welfare of the tribe at heart. There are six day schools in operation upon this reservation, but on account of the great extent of territory which they supply it is almost a physical impossibility for quite a large proportion of the children to attend them during the winter months. Again, here, wide-awake, energetic teachers will not teach on an Indian reservation for \$25 per month, and be compelled to board with Indian families. Such teachers find employment in communities more congenial to their tastes, and receive better remuneration for their services. As a consequence agents have been compelled to select their teachers from poor material, chiefly Indians, whose ability to teach of the lowest order. If we are responsible for the education of the children of this people, are we justified in putting away their time and opportunities with this boarding school, large enough to accommodate teachers and children, and only in this way can your agent furnish teachers in the true sense of the word.

I inclose the reports of the physician and missionaries who labor among the Indians of this agency.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I would say that I have studiously endeavored to induce the Indians of these tribes to be self-supporting, and think that if any policy is rigorously enforced for a few years that eventually these Indians will become self-supporting. Thanking the Department for the liberal manner in which they have strengthened my hands for the work I had to do, Very respectfully,

THOS. JENNINGS,

United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

KESHENA, WIS., July 20, 1886.

Sir: Complying with your request, I cheerfully submit the following report of the missionary work done among the Indians of this reservation by members of the (Franciscan) order: It is now six years since the Right Rev. F. K. Krauthrauer, late Bishop of Green Bay, asked the Superior Provincial of the Franciscan Fathers of Saint Louis, Mo., to take this mission in charge. In consent, two fathers and one lay brother were sent, who arrived here on the 2d of September 1880, their number being increased soon after. Up to that time the Menomonees had their spiritual wants attended to by various missionaries that visited them occasionally and never staid long enough to acquire either a full knowledge of the language of this tribe, or effect any lasting good in matters of religion. The Menomonees, to the greater part of their number, had been Christianized by Catholic missionaries, but never learned their religion so thoroughly as to have their lives regulated according to its precepts; nor could this be, since they had no temporary visits of the former missionaries only served to keep alive the Christian belief in those that had been converted, and prevent their relapse into paganism. It is evident that then those Indians could not be expected to be good Christians, and it cannot be wondered at that they really were found by the Franciscan Fathers in such a degraded moral condition.

Immorality had full sway among them. Special incentives thereto are, above all, two vices, viz. dances and drunkenness. These are the principal sources of their crimes, though much baseness must be accredited to their ignorance and laziness.