

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1883.



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## INDIAN POLICE.

I have found the Indian police here very prompt and efficient in the discharge of their duties, and a great power for good and the restraint of evil. I frequently have to send them outside the reservation, sometimes as much as a hundred miles, to make arrests, recover stolen property, &c., and so far they have always been successful in the performance of their required duties, without interference or hindrance from the whites. When ordered outside the reservation in the performance of any duty, I always give them a written order, stating the duty to be performed, and requesting white men not to interfere with but to assist them when necessary and convenient. There being no law requiring white men outside the reservation to respect the authority of an Indian policeman, I respectfully suggest the enactment of a law by Congress giving Indian policemen the power and authority of United States marshals in the performance of their duties outside of reservations.

## CHRISTIANITY.

Experience has fully demonstrated that no healthy and permanent progress in civilization has ever yet been made among our Indians unaccompanied by Christianity. This truth is clearly apparent on this reservation, where all Indians who are trustworthy and upright in their conduct, and have cultivated farms, good, comfortable dwelling houses, barns, granaries, implements, cattle, horses, domestic fowls, with the dress and cleanliness of the whites, are all now, and have for years been, professing Christians. On the other hand, all Indians of this agency who are untrustworthy, lazy, live in rude, comfortless dwellings, or wigwags, and amid filth, vermin, and squallor, the men having long and often plaited hair, and dressed more or less in the costume of the savage, depending but little on agriculture, and that little generally carried on by the labor of the women, and looking to fish, game, roots, and berries as the principal source of subsistence—such Indians, without exception, are not Christians, and adhere to the vile superstitions of their ancestors. The transforming power of pure Christianity is everywhere apparent among our Indian tribes: therefore Christianity should, by the Government, be highly favored among the Indians, and no officials or employes who do not respect, profess, and practice Christianity appointed, as it is upon officials and employes sent among them that they are dependent for civilization, which without Christianity is only cultured barbarism.

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, LIVE STOCK, ETC.

On account of the long-continued drought in this region, there not having been any rain since the 1st of May, the grain crops will not be near so abundant on this reservation this year as some previous years. But all who have attempted in good faith to raise wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and garden vegetables, have succeeded reasonably well. Those who depend upon agriculture for subsistence and made a proper effort in that direction will have amply sufficient for their maintenance and made a proper surplus for sale. This is not a corn country, and but little is raised except hog-feed. Hay, oats, and barley are raised for feed of cattle and horses. Harvesting of wheat, oats, barley, and hay is about all over, and thrashing-machines are busy in thrashing wheat, oats, and barley.

The thrashing of the Department grain is about finished, yielding 1,200 bushels of wheat, 2,000 bushels of oats, and 1,000 bushels of barley. There is, in addition to the new wheat, about 1,600 bushels of old wheat of last year and the year before on hand belonging to the Department. About 50 tons of hay have been put up for the Department from the school farm and about 600 tons at the cattle ranch. These supplies of grain and hay will, I think, be amply sufficient for department use for a year.

As the grain belonging to the Indians has not yet been thrashed, except in small part, the amount thereof can only be estimated as follows: Wheat, 3,500 bushels; oats, 8,000 bushels; barley, 3,000 bushels; and hay, 2,500 tons.

I received from Agent Wilbur 1,241 head of neat cattle, 442 calves, 77 horses, and 12 mules. I have issued to the Indians 71 head of cattle and killed 137 head for beef; but all these matters are minutely set forth in the statistics herewith sent as a bill of particulars.

Very respectfully,

R. H. MILLROY,  
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

GREEN BAY AGENCY, *Keshena, Wis., August 13, 1883.*  
SIR: I have the honor to submit my first annual report, and I trust that the fact that I have only had charge of this agency about three months will sufficiently explain its brevity.

This agency embraces three reservations in Wisconsin—the Oneida, in Brown County, the Stockbridge, in Shawano County, and the Menominee, between Shawano and Langlade Counties—and each reservation is occupied by the Indians for which it is named. The number of Indians in each tribe, the quantity of land embraced in each reserve, the character of the soil, and many other facts of a kind embraced in these things have been repeated by my predecessors, and I may safely pass upon them by saying in these there is no particular change.

The *Stockbridges* are moving on in about the same channel as of old, lumbering to some extent in the winter season and cultivating small farms during the summer. The *Oneida* Indians are in advance in civilization of any other tribe in this agency, and more capable of sustaining themselves. The majority of the tribe are anxious for an allotment of their lands in severalty, and some are desirous of becoming citizens. Farming is the principal employment of the greater portion of the tribe, while considerable wood is cut from dead and down timber and sold at the nearest market.

The *Menominee* Indians, as a tribe, are the least civilized. Many of the Menomonees of the Pagan party clothe themselves entire in buckskin and subsist principally upon the chase. In the winter of 1881 and 1882 the Menomonees made their first venture on their own account in lumbering, or cutting saw-logs from dead timber, upon their logs, made the venture a success financially; but this was followed by bad results in other respects. The firm was entirely neglected and their fields became desolate, at the approach of a long winter again. Last winter they cut and banked about six million feet of this same kind of timber, and although the prices offered are low, they are such as to enable the operators to make a living and some profit for their winter's work; and the Indians are anxious to embark in the same enterprise the coming twenty years. The Menomonees have made very little advancement for the past should be sold to individuals, as it is a noticeable fact that the cattle and wagons belonging to individuals fare better than the tribal property of the same kind.

The agency farm is a failure of itself, as the cost of production of produce and grain with Indian labor is more than its value, and it is only a favored half dozen that it gives employment out of the mass; but the farm as an auxiliary to the boarding-school must be a success, as many of the wants of the school can be supplied from the farm with the labor of the boys.

The boarding-school house, the erection of which was begun in May last, is being pushed forward to completion, with the expectation that it will be in readiness for the winter school.

Very respectfully,

D. P. ANDREWS,  
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

## LA POINTE AGENCY.

*Ashland, Wis., August 15, 1883.*

SIR: In accordance with Department instructions, I have the honor to submit my third annual report of the condition of this agency.

The Indians of this agency, known as the "Chippewas of Lake Superior," are located, under the treaties of 1854 and 1866, upon nine different reservations, situated in the States of Wisconsin and Minnesota. The payments stipulated in the treaty of 1854 have expired, but a small distribution of annuity goods and supplies is still continued to the bands who were parties to that treaty.

## THE BOIS FORT OR VERMILLION LAKE BAND,

who were parties to the treaty of 1866, still receive a payment amounting to about \$14,000 annually, \$3,500 of which is made in money, and the remainder, according to treaty stipulations, is invested for them in provisions, clothing, farming implements, pay of employes, &c. Their reservations being located at Net Lake, Saint Louis County, Minnesota, remote from any white settlements, and in a country abounding in fish and game, they have subsisted principally upon the products of the chase, and have made less progress in civilization than some of the other bands in the agency.