

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN
AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1917



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amounted to 9,948,919.45 barrels of which the Osage Tribe received as royalty 1,643,223.68 barrels. The total receipts of the Osage Tribe from oil and gas leases from July 1, 1916, until June 30, 1917, amounted to approximately \$5,000,000.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY OUTSIDE THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES AND OSAGE NATION.

Prior to the fiscal year 1912 comparatively little interest was shown in the oil and gas industry outside the Five Civilized Tribes and Osage Nation. Subsequent to that time, however, the industry has shown a steady increase, until at the present time oil fields are in operation not only on the Indian lands in Oklahoma but in the States of Wyoming and Washington, as well, and recently on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

The greatest development has been made on the Osce, Pawnee, Ponca, Kiowa, and Sac and Fox Reservations in Oklahoma, on allotted lands, Shoshone, Wyo., showing the greatest development on tribal lands.

Owing to the steady increase in the price of oil during the fiscal year 1917, it has been a banner year in the leasing of Indian land for oil and gas mining purposes. The regulations approved September 3, 1912, governing the leasing of restricted allotted Indian land for mining purposes fix the amount of rentals and royalties, making it obligatory on the lessee to pay the amounts thus specified.

In addition to the rentals and royalties prescribed by the regulations, bonuses are paid directly to the Indian lessors, varying in amount from a few dollars to several thousands of dollars, owing to the geological indications of the presence of oil or gas and the proximity of the land to developed territory.

The following statement shows the approximate number of acres on which leases for oil and gas mining purposes are approved, depending at the various agencies outside of the Five Civilized Tribes and Osage Nation up to and including June 30, 1917:

Agency	Approved	
	Acres	Value
Choctaw and Arapaho	4,882.94	20,227.00
Kiowa	2,724.62	28,277.00
Osage	5,228.86	82,944.00
Pawnee	2,891.35	82,000.00
Sac and Fox	6,437.12	1,000.00
Seminole	1,200.00	19,840.00
Shawnee	340.00	6,000.00
Shoshone	281.05	7,000.00
Spokane	205.27	1,000.00
Total	27,554.51	218,000.00

FREE PATENTS TO INDIANS.

During the fiscal year 2,500 applications for fee patents have been received, of which 297 were denied and 2,203 approved, involving an area of 275,553 acres, valued at approximately \$5,000,000. Of the fee patent applications approved, 576 were full blood Indian allottees and 1,627 mixed bloods. Under the new policy and a broadening of its application to requests for fee patents it is estimated that several thousand fee patents will be issued to competent Indians.

COMPETENCY COMMISSIONS.

During the fiscal year competency commissions have investigated the qualifications of Indian allottees to manage their own affairs on the following Indian reservations: Cheyenne and Arapaho, Crow, Owl Creek, Devils Lake, Kickapoo, Lower Brule, Onaida, Sac and Fox, Seneca, Shawnee, and Sisseton. These commissions are composed of men who are well qualified for the work and who have had long experience in the Indian Service. Numerous fee patents, involving an area of about 50,000 acres of land, have been issued on the recommendation of these commissions.

FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES.

The area of the Five Civilized Tribes was 19,525,966 acres of unallotted lands, of which 15,794,238 acres have been allotted to enrolled members, 3,130,129 acres not needed for allotment, have been sold as surplus unallotted lands at public auction to the highest bidder for over \$17,000,000, while 139,284 acres were reserved from sale and set aside for town sites, railroad rights of way, churches, courthouses, schools, cemeteries, etc., leaving remaining unallotted 48,937 acres in Choctaw Nation, 721 acres in Chickasaw Nation, none in Cherokee Nation, 2,495 acres in the Creek Nation, and 162 acres in Seminole Nation. The Choctaw and Chickasaw tribal unallotted lands will be offered for sale at public auction to the highest bidder from October 15 to 31, 1917, to be followed on November 19 by a sale of the remaining unsold Creek tribal lands.

In volume of business transacted by the office of the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, the fiscal year 1917 surpasses all previous years. One million pieces of mail and \$42,000,000 were handled. One hundred and eighty houses and barns were erected at a cost of \$126,492.11; 2,042.25 acres of land were bought for homes at a cost of \$52,437.10; 489,076.62 acres of tribal and allotted lands were sold for \$2,190,293.13; \$1,741,550 were invested for individual Indians in liberty loan bonds; \$7,500 were invested in other loans and pur-

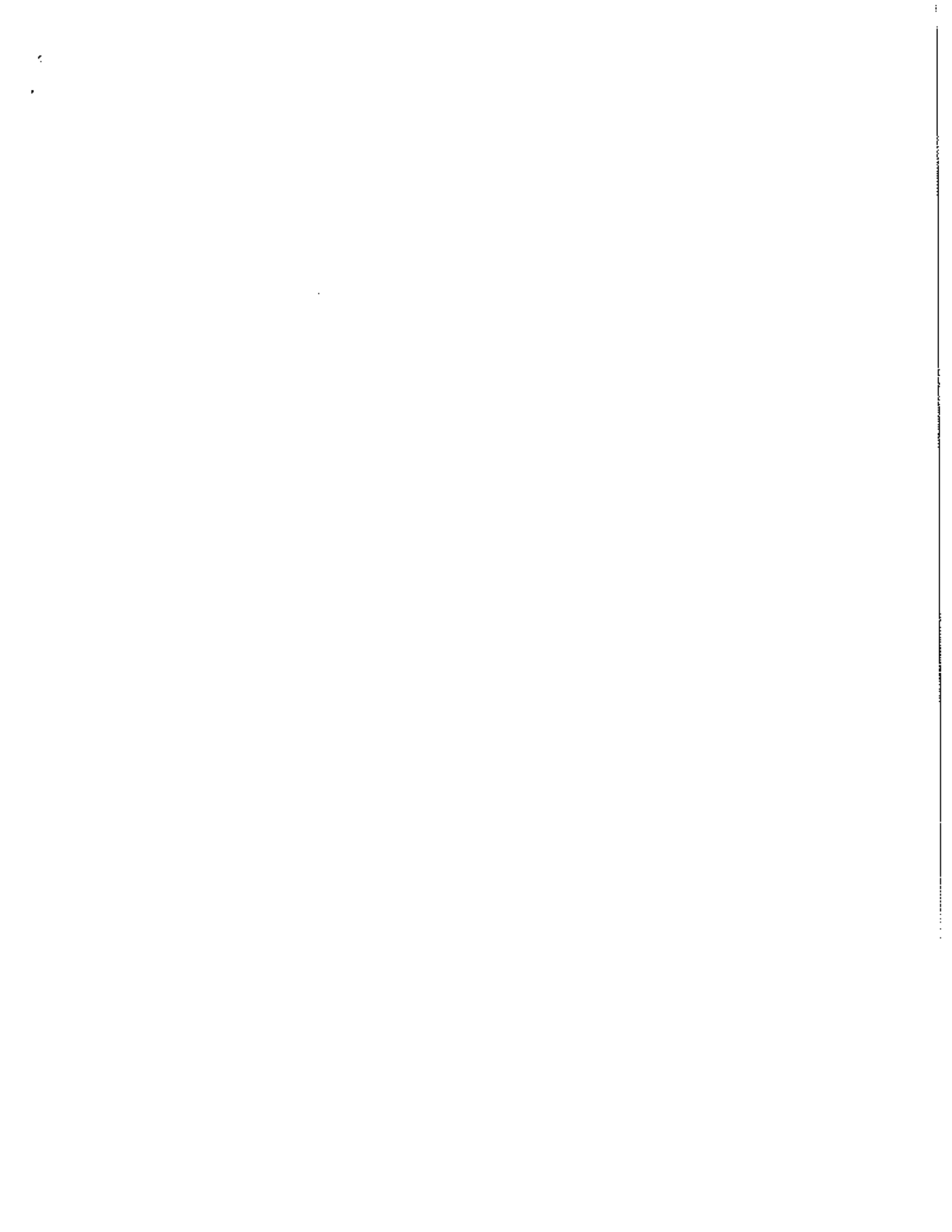


TABLE 17.—Indian and school population, number eligible for school attendance, number in schools, etc., and capacity of schools provided for Indian children during fiscal year ended June 30, 1917—Continued.

States and superintendencies.	Indian population.	Number of school age.	Ineligible for attendance.	Eligible for attendance.	Indian children in school.										Capacity all schools.				Total capacity all schools.	
					Government.				Mission and private.				Public.	Total in school.	Eligible children not in school.	Government.		Mission and private.		
					Non-reservation boarding.	Reservation boarding.	Day.	Total.	Boarding.	Day.	Boarding.	Day.				Boarding.	Day.	Public.		
Wisconsin	19,640	3,122	165	2,957	365	493	125	1,488	541	221	437	2,683	659	470	208	435	660	432	2,253	
Grand Rapids	1,372	382	42	340	81	184	60	210	138	46	122	218	38	74	120	120	120	38	38	
Hayward	1,277	427	30	397	220	177	60	210	46	46	310	61	170	80	220	120	120	46	120	
Keahna	1,745	504	15	489	23	185	43	310	243	102	655	101	170	80	220	120	120	60	220	
Lae du Flambeau	749	206	10	196	23	125	27	148	60	60	203	101	100	100	100	100	100	60	100	
Laona	1,335	385	16	369	27	128	27	133	28	28	401	164	100	100	100	100	100	28	123	
La Pointe	1,048	344	66	278	78	128	78	218	78	46	421	164	100	100	100	100	100	49	139	
Oneda	2,576	873	4	871	237	182	32	410	41	41	141	601	273	140	100	100	100	141	331	
Red Cliff	1,511	499	2	497	27	128	32	190	33	33	170	181	33	62	65	65	65	70	187	
Scattered	1,874	509	87	422	107	167	26	310	59	59	137	370	100	335	25	140	170	170	1,370	
Wyoming: Shoshone	1,874	509	87	422	107	167	26	310	59	59	137	370	100	335	25	140	170	170	1,370	
Alaska	1,322	332	1	331	332	332	332	332	332	332	332	332	332	332	332	332	332	332	332	
Maine	15	15	1	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
Maryland	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Massachusetts	3	3	3	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Minnesota	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Missouri	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Pennsylvania	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Porto Rico	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Texas	6	6	6	0	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Total	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	358	
Capacity ⁴																				

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

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¹ Attend mission school in Wisconsin. ² Includes pupils off reservation. ³ Attend St. Mary's Mission School. ⁴ Includes 192 pupils at Hayward School. ⁵ Attend Lae du Flambeau School. ⁶ Nonreservation schools not included above.

RECAPITULATION.

Indian children of school age	89,601
Indian children ineligible for school attendance because of illness, deformity, etc.	6,126
Total Indian children eligible for school attendance	83,475
INDIAN CHILDREN IN SCHOOL.	
Government schools:	
Nonreservation boarding	11,298
Reservation boarding	19,902
Day	6,438
Mission schools:	
Contract boarding	28,753
Noncontract boarding	1,667
Day	3,296
Private schools: Contract boarding	4,022
Public schools	5,689
Total all classes	143
Number eligible children not in school	29,173
Total eligible children	63,765
Total children	146,789

¹ Includes eligible and ineligible children not reported in Oklahoma; the number of eligible pupils shown by this table as not in any school is somewhat less than the actual number, because in the other columns has been shown the total enrollment in the several schools, whereas not all those so enrolled have remained in attendance during the entire school year, and in a few cases there have been transfers from one school to another, thus duplicating the enrollment.

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