

## REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office Indian Affairs, November 22, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit for your consideration the usual annual report from this office, and for minute details of the operations of the service, and the condition of the Indian tribes, refer you to the various accompanying reports and other papers.

The improvement in the condition of the New York Indians, though gradual, is very perceptible. The farms, buildings, crops and stock, and the substantial comforts surrounding the homes of many of the Oneidas, Onondagas, Tuscaroras, and the Tonawanda, Cattaraugus and Alleghany Senecas, evidence in them a uniform advancement. The reliance of the Alleghany Senecas upon their timber and lumber has not made it necessary for them to turn their attention wholly to agriculture; and while this resource has furnished them temporary aid, the timber and lumber trade in which they are engaged may be regarded as a hindrance to their permanent improvement.

Churches and religious influences, and schools, are well sustained among these Indians, and all seem to be impressed with a desire to educate their children. The State of New York, and the American Board of Missions, continue to make liberal appropriations for education among them. The Thomas Asylum, on the Cattaraugus reservation, is completed, and is now rapidly filling with orphan and destitute children. The Indians on this last reservation have had the kind offices and aid of the Society of Friends, and the patronage of the department has been extended to them.

The Ottowas and Chippewas, and the Chippewas of Saginaw and Swan creek and Black river, all within the State of Michigan, continue gradually to increase in numbers as well as to advance in the arts of peace; and under the liberal provisions of the treaties of 1855, by which every family is to receive a homestead from the public domain, and the friendly feelings manifested towards them by the people of the State, present indications would seem to justify the hope that they will attain a much higher state of civilization, and possess more of the comforts of life, than they have heretofore done. They are beginning to locate on the lands assigned them, and apparently highly appreciate the separate homes to which they are entitled.

The Chippewas of Lake Superior, who inhabit reservations in the northern peninsula of Michigan, the northern part of Wisconsin and that portion of Minnesota between the St. Louis river and the British line, have been furnished with a liberal supply of farming implements, carpenters' tools, household furniture and cooking utensils; and every

Indian having a house and residing in it, has been supplied with a good cooking stove and the usual cooking utensils, a table, bureau, chairs, bedstead, looking-glass, and many smaller articles for household use. The effect of this policy is quite perceptible and salutary, and has stimulated many to erect and provide for erecting new houses at Bad river and several other places. Certificates have been issued to all the half-breeds who, by the provisions of the recent treaty, are entitled to land, which, if respected at the land offices, will serve to secure to each of them the quantity to which they are entitled, and which they may designate from any of the public domain not otherwise appropriated.

In addition to those among the Indians of Michigan proper, schools are now maintained at L'Anse, Bad river, Lapointe, and Grand Portage, all among the Chippewas of Lake Superior.

The extended area of country embraced within the Michigan agency renders it impossible for the agent to devote as much time to the Indians under his charge as is absolutely necessary. There is ample business for two agents, and with two faithful men to aid them in making most available the liberal provisions of the recent treaties, much for their good may be accomplished. They are prepared to take advice and receive instruction.

The jurisdiction of the northern superintendency has been extended over the Indians of Minnesota, the Oneida, Stockbridge and Menomonee tribes in Wisconsin still remaining within its limits.

The condition of the Oneidas of Wisconsin has changed but little since last year, and no event of importance has occurred among them, except the murder of one of the chiefs, by a member of the tribe. This event has produced much excitement, and has caused apprehensions of serious disturbances. The murder was committed under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Under the operations of the treaty of February 15, 1856, between the Stockbridge and Munsee Indians and the government, it is to be expected that the Stockbridge difficulties, which for a number of years past have been a source of trouble and vexation, will soon be terminated. An arrangement has been made by which a tract of land on the west end of the Menomonee reservation has been selected for a permanent home for the Stockbridges and Munsees. Some of these Indians have already commenced to build themselves houses at their new location, and measures have been taken to insure the final removal of all of them as soon as this can be prudently and properly effected. It is to be hoped that any factious opposition which may manifest itself among a few of these Indians may meet with no encouragement, either in Wisconsin or elsewhere. The necessity of the case, and the interests of the Indians, require that they should remove from their present location at Stockbridge without delay.

The advancement of the Menomonees is constant and steady. Although obstacles have been thrown in the way of these Indians, and the vicious and unscrupulous have endeavored to thwart all the efforts made for their improvement, and the grasping avarice of unprincipled white men in seeking to obtain their property, in defiance of justice and right, has rendered them somewhat restless and uneasy; yet,

notwithstanding all this, their progress is very gratifying, and the results already attained leave no doubt but the Menomonee Indians, in a very few years, will completely and perfectly adopt habits of industry and civilization. Indian laborers have been exclusively employed to do the work of the tribe. The agent, farmer, miller, teacher, and one blacksmith, are the only white persons located at the agency and employed on the reservation. All the work in the fields, as well as in the shops, is done by Indian hands. A number of the young Menomonees have become expert carpenters, providing not only the general carpenter shop with hands, but the different bands have carpenters among them, who are erecting houses for the various families, to facilitate which, the council has requested that a set of carpenter's tools be furnished to each band.

In the southern part of Minnesota Territory the Winnebagoes have assigned to them, under the treaty of February, 1855, an excellent tract of land for a permanent home, and laudable efforts are now being made to correct the vicious habits of these Indians. Extensive improvements have been made for them at their new location. White labor has heretofore been mainly relied on, but hereafter it is expected that the Indians themselves will be more extensively employed in performing the work which will be required to be done. It is designed next season to enlarge and extend the improvements upon the Winnebago reservation. At a late council of the tribe a code of laws was adopted for the protection of their persons and property, and for the punishment of crimes.

Various causes have combined to prevent the Medawakantoan, Wahpahkoota, Sissetoan, and Wapatoan Sioux from deriving heretofore much substantial benefit from the very liberal provisions of the treaties of July and August, 1851. Until after the reservations were permanently assured to the Indians in 1854, it would have been highly improper to have made expenditures for permanent improvements; and, since then, the affairs of the agency have not been free from confusion in all its operations. Under the direction of their new agent efficient steps will, it is expected, be taken without delay to advance the interests of these Indians, and to make the various improvements for which the treaties provide. Heretofore large sums of money have been paid to and expended for these Sioux, but they have been indolent, extravagant, and intemperate, and have wasted their means without improving, or seeming to desire to improve, their condition. It is to be feared that bad counsels have controlled them, and their constant war with the Chippewas has also had a sad effect upon them. All the power of the department will be exerted to require these Sioux to cease their roving wandering habits, and to settle down upon their reservations.

With regard to the Chippewas of the Mississippi, and the Pillager and Lake Winnibigoshish bands, it may be remarked that their wars with the Sioux, and the use of ardent spirits, have done much to retard their progress. The agricultural and other labor connected with the reservations at Winnibigoshish, Cass, and Lecch lakes, has been confided to the direction and management of Messrs. Breck and Bardwell, the missionaries in charge, who are making as good progress as

could be expected. They are inducing many to labor and permanently settle themselves, and from the good results already obtained, and the better influences and more favorable circumstances with which they are surrounded, a rapid improvement may be expected. For the first time several of the Mississippi bands planted and worked their own fields, and would, no doubt, have been amply compensated in the yield of their crops but for a very destructive visitation of the grasshopper, which appeared in that region in July, and destroyed all their prospects.

It is hoped that some arrangement may be made by which the deadly strife between the Sioux and Chippewa Indians may cease. The conviction and execution, under our criminal laws, of all Indians guilty of the murder of Indians, would, it is believed, put a stop to the war parties of the Sioux and Chippewa, as well as other Indian tribes; but there has been no fund provided by which such prosecutions can be commenced and carried on. It would, in my opinion, be an act of humanity if such a fund was placed at the disposal of the department, as the prosecution, conviction, and execution of a few Indians would, no doubt, have a most salutary influence.

With the Red Lake and a few other scattered bands of Indians, next to the British possessions, and in the valley of the Red river of the north, we have no treaty arrangements. They are said to be very poor, and if it be not thought advisable to extinguish their claims to lands occupied by them, it is believed that it would be a humane act to give them some aid in the way of a gratuity. A few seeds and agricultural implements would be of great service to them, and would serve to instil in them a grateful sense of the liberality of the government.

The matter of disposing, according to the law of Congress of July 17, 1854, of the interests of the half-breed Sioux, in the Lake Pepin reserve, set apart for them by the treaty of July 15, 1830, it is confidently expected will now soon be brought to a final decision and determination. The subject has been one of some difficulty and intricacy, but the final report of the commissioners has just been received, and steps will be taken at once to cause the scrip to issue to the parties entitled thereto. It is proper to observe that the law provides that no transfer or conveyance of any of the scrip shall be valid, and all assignments thereof will therefore be disregarded.

The central superintendency embraces within its limits all that vast country bounded on the north by the forty-ninth parallel of latitude, on the west by the Rocky mountains, on the south by the Arkansas river and the country of the Osages, and on the east by the Missouri State line and the Missouri river, to near the mouth of the Big Sioux river, and thence in a northerly direction to the British line. Of the Indian tribes, and the operations of the service for the past year within this superintendency, it may be remarked that—

The Blackfeet, Flatheads, Nez Percés, and the other tribes parties to the treaty of the Judith, residing on or near the headwaters of the Missouri river, have, since the negotiation of that treaty in October, 1855, remained at peace, and refused all participation in the hostilities of the tribes of Oregon and Washington Territories. The

common hunting ground provided by the treaty has produced beneficial results, and the conflicts of war and rapine have given place among them to the exchange of horses, peltry, and other articles of barbarous commerce. The Blackfeet, although absolutely barbarous, are said to be intelligent and tractable, and ample provision is made by the treaty for their instruction in the arts of civilized life.

Hitherto difficulties have attended the delivery of the annuity goods to the Crows, who inhabit the country bordering on the Powder, Big Horn, and Yellow Stone rivers. They are warlike, possess large bands of horses, and depend upon the chase for the means of subsistence. Under instructions from the superintendent, the agent will meet them at their hunting grounds, and consult with them as to the future place at which their annuities shall be delivered.

The Assinaboines speak a Sioux dialect, and inhabit a country on the north side of the Missouri river, opposite the mouth of the Yellow Stone. They are expert hunters, subsist by the chase, possess few horses, and use the Esquimaux dogs as beasts of burden.

The Gros Ventres, of the Missouri, reside on the north side of that river, below the mouth of the Yellow Stone. They speak the Crow dialect. On the south side of the Missouri, and a few miles below the Gros Ventres, the villages of the Mandans and Arickarees are situate. These three small tribes cultivate more corn, beans, and other vegetables, than are requisite for their subsistence. In the warm season they inhabit dirt lodges; but as soon as their crops are gathered and "cached," they betake themselves to their skin lodges in the timber, preparatory to hunting and preparing their buffalo robes and meats. The Mandans speak a language dissimilar to their neighbors, and are represented as intelligent and quite dignified. The Arickarees speak the Pawnee language. These three tribes construct their own boats, which consist of buffalo skins drawn over a circular frame-work of willow. They expose or bury their dead on scaffolds. The superintendent is of opinion, in which I concur, that a separate agency should be established for the Crows, Assinaboines, Gros Ventres, Mandans, and Arickarees.

The country on the north side of the Missouri river, from the region of the Gros Ventres to the mouth of the Big Sioux river, is claimed by the Yanctonees and the Yancton bands of Sioux. In consequence of the hostilities that exist between the Yanctonees and the half-breeds of Pembina, it is suggested that a well-defined line should be established between them. Both the Yanctonees and Yanctons cultivate the soil to some extent, but the former rely chiefly on the hunt for support.

On the south side of the Missouri the Unc Papas, Sans Arcs, Two Kettles, and Blackfeet Sioux reside; and the Brulé, Minnecongue, and Ogalallah bands of Sioux occasionally penetrate that region from the country adjacent to the Platte. All these bands are insolent and audacious, and depend upon the chase for subsistence.

Agent Twiss has resumed the duties of his agency; and the annuity goods for the Sioux, Arrapahoes, and Cheyennes, had arrived at Fort Laramie. You are referred to his reports for information in relation to several horrible massacres that have occurred in that re-

gion, and the causes of them, with the action of the agent in the premises. With reference to depredations, I have only to repeat the remarks made in a former report, and to suggest that it would be much better and safer if the law was regarded as the rule of action in all such cases.

The Poncas inhabit the country adjacent to the valley of the l'Eau qui Court. They plant corn. The whites are beginning to settle the country which these Indians claim.

The Pawnees, who were formerly compelled by their hostilities with the Sioux to leave their own country north of the Platte and seek a home south of that river, have now been compelled to abandon the latter. The whites are now encroaching upon them north of that stream; and while these Indians also cultivate land to a limited extent, yet they and the Poncas, from the uncertainty of reaping the fruit of their labors, seem to be depressed, and many have given themselves up to indolence and vice. They infest the highways, are insolent to travellers, and seek to procure a livelihood by begging and stealing. It is exceedingly important that arrangements heretofore suggested with respect to these bands be consummated without delay, which will settle them down on fixed and permanent homes, and thus promote their comfort and relieve the settlers and emigrants from their annoyance.

In speaking of the face of the country, streams, &c., in the upper portion of the central superintendency, the superintendent remarks, that "the Missouri river is navigable for boats drawing thirty-four inches from a point twenty-five miles below its falls to its mouth—a distance of more than twenty-nine hundred miles. Thirty-five miles below the Judith begins the first of three inconsiderable rapids, none of which present any important obstacle to navigation. When the character of the navigation of this river becomes more generally known, it will be the thoroughfare to Utah, Oregon, and Washington Territories. In ascending this river beyond Fort Benton, the first fall is eighty-nine feet in perpendicular height. The upper fall, seven miles beyond this, is thirty-five feet in height; the intermediate space presents minor falls, and a succession of rapids. Above the falls there is uninterrupted navigation for small boats for three hundred miles, in a southerly direction." He also states that the Yellow Stone is navigable for small boats a distance of six hundred miles from its mouth.

The Omahas are represented as improving in their condition. They are contented, and have ample provisions for the approaching winter. Their reservation is highly spoken of by their agent; and when the necessary government and mission buildings, now in course of construction, are finished, and all the other improvements contemplated are made upon it, the home of the Omahas, at the Blackbird Hills, will be a very desirable one. A good crop of corn, potatoes, and pumpkins was produced on their reserve; and, in addition thereto, the Indians have had a very successful hunt.

Some prairie land has been broken and planted for the Ottoes and Missourias, at their new reserve on the Big Blue; but their interests have suffered for the want of an agent to attend to them. It is to be



hoped that they will soon have the advice and assistance of the agent who has been appointed to reside among them, and that their condition and prospects may be improved thereby. Their educational interests have been confided to the Presbyterian board, who are now erecting the necessary school and other buildings.

Measures have been adopted to take a census of the half-breeds who are entitled to participate in the beneficial provisions of the 10th article of the treaty of Prairie du Chien, of the 15th July, 1830, to the end that the President may assign to each of them his or her portion of the reserve situate between the Big and Little Nemaha rivers, in Nebraska Territory.

The Sacs and Foxes of Missouri have made but little progress in improvement. Those who have continued on the home reserve have cultivated fields of corn, potatoes and other vegetables, of all of which they will have an abundant supply; and they have assured their agent that they will endeavor to improve in their habits and conduct. One of their chiefs (Ne sour quoit) has exercised a very bad influence over a portion of the tribe; but from the decline of his power, or from conviction of his errors, he has recently sought a conference with the agent, confessed his faults and promised reformation and obedience, and he with his band have settled down upon the reservation.

The Ioways continue to make some advancement in agriculture. In addition to those heretofore engaged in farming, several young men of the tribe have recently selected farms, commenced making rails, and applied to their agent for wagons, oxen and ploughs. The chiefs and headmen also seem to take additional interest in, and have promised their aid to promote and advance, the cause of civilization. The law of the tribe for the suppression of intoxicating drinks has been observed, and its good effects are quite visible. The Ioway mission school is well managed, and is in a prosperous condition. In addition to the ordinary education, the boys are taught to labor on the farm and in the garden; to plough and drive team, and to handle and use mechanics' tools. The girls learn sewing, making clothes, cooking and all the usual work of housekeeping. Notwithstanding the care bestowed upon them and the comfortable condition in which they are kept, there is quite an aversion on the part of many of their parents to the children remaining at school.

Success has attended the efforts of the Kickapoos, who have at length all quietly settled down upon their reserve and commenced the cultivation of the soil. The necessary steps have been taken to establish among them ample accommodations for the education of all their youth, and with the means and facilities within their reach, and the present advanced state of many of the tribe, it is confidently expected that they will in a very short time be surrounded with all the necessities and comforts of life.

Provision has been made for educational aid to the Christian Indians, and their reserve being well adapted to agricultural uses, it is hoped they will avail themselves of all the legitimate means within their reach to improve their condition and to qualify themselves to discharge properly all their obligations and duties.

Notwithstanding the warlike character of the Delaware Indians,

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and the wrong and injury they have suffered at the hands of the whites, they have maintained a steady neutrality in all the difficulties in Kansas. Their means have been applied to repairing and improving their buildings and extending their farms. A commodious Methodist church has been erected by them, a large school building is in the course of construction, and they express great anxiety about the education of their children. They have enjoyed good health the past season, and slightly increased in numbers. Unfortunately their crops have been damaged very much by the backwardness of the season and the drought which has prevailed in that region. The first public sale of the lands ceded by them in trust to the United States was to commence on the 17th of this month. Such regulations and precautionary measures were adopted as would, it is hoped, secure a fair sale of them. They are regarded as very valuable.

The Wyandotts and Shawnees will shortly experience a very radical change. As soon as the lands of the former are assigned to them in severalty, which is now being done, their tribal state will be dissolved, and gradually, as provided for in the treaty of 1855, they will become citizens of the United States. Some of them are distinguished for their intelligence and probity, and are fully competent for all the duties and responsibility of their new relation. Others are unfit, and will necessarily have to pass through a state of pupillage; and with reference to such and their interests, a great responsibility will rest upon their more intelligent brethren.

The Shawnees are perceptibly advancing. In consequence of the backwardness of the surveys they have not yet been able to select and have assigned to them their homes, as provided by the treaty of 1854; but this will soon be done, and then new trials will await them, by reason of the introduction of white society into their midst. Should these people be equal to the occasion and the circumstances with which they will then be surrounded, resist all improper influences and judiciously apply the large money annuities to which for several years to come they will be entitled, they may attain a higher state, possess more extended improvements, and place themselves in more comfortable circumstances than any other Indian tribe on the continent. Indeed, they have the means, if judiciously applied, to become the most wealthy population, white or red, within the Territory of Kansas.

Those of the Pottawatomies who have turned their attention to agriculture have made good crops. Many of them are averse to abandoning their ancient habits and customs, and the disorderly conduct of portions of the white inhabitants of Kansas territory has served to confirm in their views such of them as are opposed to civilized pursuits. One of the chiefs, with his band, one hundred strong, has left for the Cherokee or Creek country, having expressed the opinion that perhaps he would never return. The Baptist manual labor school has improved slightly since last year, and the St. Mary's mission is in a very flourishing condition. The agent states that he is unable to make a full report because of the loss of his papers. He represents that a band of lawless men drove him from his home, took everything he possessed, scattered his official papers, broke open the boxes con-



taining the agricultural implements sent by the department to the Indians, and carried off large numbers of them.

Good health has generally prevailed among the Miamies and the confederate bands of the Weas, &c., of the Osage River agency. The season has been unusually dry in that region, and has operated seriously against their agricultural efforts. The corn crop has suffered much, and their potato crop is almost a failure. The mission schools in this agency are represented as not in a prosperous condition. The delay in the public surveys and the troubles in Kansas have prevented the Indians from making the selections of lands for their homes, as soon as they desired, and otherwise would have done. Hence they have suffered in their pecuniary interests, and are not now in as comfortable a condition as under different circumstances they would have been. Competent persons have been employed by them to aid in their selections, and when this is done, and each head of a family or other person entitled shall have his or her home set off, it is to be hoped that it will be the beginning of a better time for these Indians.

The Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi are now, as heretofore, distinguished for their great energy and their courage in war. In every contest with the Comanches, though greatly outnumbered by the latter, they have invariably defeated them on the open prairies. They continue to reside in bark huts and persistently refuse the services of the missionary, and reject the farmer and the teacher. Their agent gives a very gloomy picture of these Indians, and one much to be regretted. They have made no advancement, ~~are decreasing in numbers,~~ and are indolent and intemperate. The Ottowas, of the same agency, who reside near the Sacs and Foxes, have good land, are industrious farmers, and are advancing in improvement. The Chipewas of that agency are excellent Indians. They possess a small tract of very good land, and all labor for a support.

But little improvement has been made in the habits or condition of the Kansas tribe of Indians. They manifest great aversion to labor, and continue to infest the Santa Fé and other roads in the Territory. Possessing now but a small reservation out of the large, fertile, and valuable country they once owned; trespassed upon by the whites, and driven from their hunting-grounds by their hereditary enemies, they are the victims of intemperance, disease and poverty. The larger portion of the half-breed (Kansas) tract is now in the possession of trespassers, who have actually driven from their homes some of the half-breed Indian owners. Such lawless conduct is very disreputable, and can result in no permanent advantage to those engaged in it, as the government must protect the half-breed Kansas Indians in their rights.

Those bands of Comanches who spend the winter below the Arkansas, and commit depredations on the Texas frontier, proceed northwardly in the spring in pursuit of buffalo. They are well supplied with horses, and enrich themselves by plunder. They receive their annuities on the Arkansas, and regard them as a compensation paid them by the United States for the use of the Santa Fé road by emigrants. Like the Kioways, they are insolent, and treat their agent with contempt.

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The Cheyennes, who reside higher up the Arkansas, have generally been regarded as quiet and peaceable Indians. They are good hunters, and furnish large quantities of robes and peltries. Recently they have been charged with being accessory to the murders committed on the Platte near Fort Kearney, and to which I have referred you in connexion with the report of agent Twiss. It is said that the Comanches, Kioways, and Cheyennes, who annually assemble on the thoroughfares near the borders of New Mexico, hold in bondage many Mexican and some American citizens, and the agent is powerless to free them. Every year these Indians are becoming more insolent, and serious consequences may be apprehended unless some efficient and adequate mode be adopted by the government to enforce among them respect to its authority.

It is expected that the classification and appraisal of the trust-lands of the confederated bands of Weas, &c., and the Ioways in Kansas Territory, will soon be completed, when these, with the balance of the Delaware trust-lands, may be offered for sale.

Within the bounds of the southern superintendency the past year has been remarkable for peace among the different tribes. Homicides have decreased, and but few aggravated crimes have been committed. Except the Osages, who have experienced unusual mortality, and some sickness among the Cherokees, good health has prevailed. The tribes bordering on Kansas have been somewhat excited by the troubles existing within that Territory, but their fears and apprehensions are rapidly subsiding.

The Osages practise polygamy, detest labor, and are decreasing in numbers. Some favorable changes are nevertheless seen among these Indians, attributable to the influence of the Osage manual-labor school, which is said to be very well conducted. Early in the summer their corn crop was much injured by an overflow of the lands under cultivation. The crops of the Senecas, Senecas and Shawnees, and Quapaws, although not much above a half yield, will produce sufficient to support them through the winter.

The Cherokees continue to improve, especially in agricultural, which are greatly in advance of mechanical, pursuits among them. They also still manifest a commendable interest in education, but a fund on which they have heretofore relied to aid in supporting their schools is now exhausted, and nothing remains but the interest on an invested fund, which will not be sufficient to support their common schools and seminaries. It is to be hoped that the council may be able to adopt some mode by which all their educational interests, so creditable to the Cherokees, may be fully and vigorously maintained. The sale of their "neutral land" to the United States, and the appropriation of the whole or a large portion of the proceeds for a school fund, the interest from which to be annually appropriated for school purposes, would give to them ample means, not only to sustain their present schools and seminaries, but to enlarge them as the wants of the people require.

Under the operation of the treaty of June 22, 1855, between the United States and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, important changes in the political condition of these tribes have taken place

during the year. The Chickasaws have adopted a constitution, by which they have provided for the election of a governor and other officers, and in other respects the instrument is not dissimilar to the constitutions of the neighboring States. Upon some points of grave moment, it is represented that these tribes differ as to the meaning of the treaty, and by a provision in their new constitution the Choctaws who reside in the Chickasaw country are excluded from the elective franchise and from holding office. Both tribes are making steady advancement in their educational and religious interests, and deserve commendation for their increased industry and sobriety. Their schools and places of worship have been well attended. Unfortunately another drought has cut short their corn crop.

During the past summer agent Cooper visited the States of Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, to ascertain the number of Choctaws east, and to pay them the balance of awards due them. He reports that there are about two thousand of them scattered over a large extent of country, and that although some of them are nominally citizens, they are all in a very hopeless and degraded condition. He represents them as enveloped in ignorance and superstition, and thinks it would be an act of humanity to send native Choctaw missionaries from the west among them.

On the 7th of August last an important treaty was entered into with the Creek and Seminole Indians west of the Mississippi river, one of the leading objects of which was to enable the department to overcome the chief obstacle to the removal of the Indians of the latter tribe yet remaining in Florida. The Seminoles of the west have been denationalized, and in a manner degraded, by being placed among the Creeks and made subject to their laws. They felt the humiliation of their position, which not only discouraged them from all efforts at improvement, but engendered a recklessness of disposition and conduct which was constantly complained of by the Creeks, and which would, in the end, have produced serious difficulties between the two tribes. In this situation, which was well known to their brethren in Florida, the latter were totally averse to removing and joining them; hence the necessity of endeavoring to give them a separate country, with the right of self-government, and the necessary means for the comfortable support and improvement of themselves and those in Florida, should they be induced to emigrate. They were unwilling to go beyond the confines of the Creek country, nor could a suitable location have well been found for them elsewhere. The Creeks were much averse to giving up any of their country for the separate accommodation of the Seminoles, but, in consideration of the advantageous terms offered them, finally consented thereto.

The chief objection on the part of the Seminoles in Florida to joining their brethren in the west having thus been removed, and the most liberal and tempting provision having been made in the treaty for their advantageous settlement and comfortable support there, it is confidently anticipated that their removal may now be effected in a peaceful manner; thus rendering unnecessary the very heavy expenditures attendant upon the military operations which have been for many years fruitlessly carried on, for the purpose of trying to coerce them to

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emigrate. The failure by Congress to make the necessary appropriations to carry out the provisions and purposes of the treaty, is much to be regretted, as, had they been made, the necessary measures might have been promptly adopted, and the removal of the Indians probably effected during the present fall and ensuing winter. As these appropriations passed the Senate, and only require the concurrence of the House of Representatives, which it is presumed may be had early the next session, it is hoped that they may yet be placed within the power of the department before the present season for operations shall expire.

This treaty with the Creeks and Seminoles is not confined to the sundering of a connexion humiliating to one and disadvantageous to both, and the opening of a better prospect for the early and peaceful removal of the Seminoles in Florida. Like the similar one of last year with the Choctaws and Chickasaws, it contains provisions which the department is assured will have a material bearing and effect upon the welfare and destiny of those tribes. The relations between them and the United States, as well as each other, are entirely revised, simplified, and placed upon a more elevated footing. The vague and confused mass of old treaty provisions in regard to them are annulled and superseded by a succinct and explicit specification of the rights and privileges of the Indians, and the obligations of the United States towards them. All questions of controversy between them and the government are settled and put at rest, and all their claims and demands adjusted, or put in a train of an early and equitable adjustment. There is no ground left for uncertainty in the future as to their positions, rights, or resources. Such is the character of these two treaties. They are probably the last that will ever have to be made with either of these four tribes until they shall have become sufficiently advanced, and desire to be admitted to citizenship. This many of the Choctaws and Chickasaws are already looking forward to with a degree of interest and eagerness which will greatly accelerate their advancement. In a very few years they will be fitted for, and doubtless seek, this change of condition. Their example will have a powerful effect upon the neighboring tribes of Cherokees, Creeks, and Seminoles; and it is confidently hoped and expected that the present generation will not pass away without witnessing the gratifying spectacle of all these important and now partially civilized tribes of the southwest, numbering over sixty-five thousand souls, becoming acceptable and useful citizens of the United States.

The policy of colonizing the Indians of Texas was commenced early in February, 1855. The reservations for that purpose are in Young county, Texas, one on the Brazos river, and one on the Clear-fork of the Brazos. The Caddoes, Anadahkos, Tahwakleros, Wakoes, and Tonkahwas, have been congregated at the former reserve, called the Brazos, and the Comanches at the latter, called the Comanche reserve.

On the 18th of September last, there were nine hundred and forty-eight Indians at the Brazos, and five hundred and fifty-seven at the Comanche reservation. At the former, during the past season, there have been five hundred and forty acres of land fenced in and culti-

vated; and at the latter, two hundred acres. The Indians have made considerable progress in building houses, and making other improvements, and have advanced in their moral and social condition. Whiskey has, by great vigilance on the part of the agents and the military and State authorities, been kept entirely away; and in every point of view the enterprise, in its present state and future prospects, is more encouraging than its most sanguine friends had anticipated.

The forays and depredations occurring last spring on the confines of Texas were not, it is said, to be traced to the indigenous tribes of that State, but were committed entirely by Indians that had not any connexion with the reserves. The chastisement of some of these predatory bands has happily been succeeded by a period of unusual quiet and peace.

The flattering success in Texas gives promise that, by a similar policy, the southern Comanches, Wichetaws and other wandering bands near the northern frontier of that State, may be successfully colonized on the western end of the Choctaw country, for which provision was made by the treaty of June 22, 1855, between the United States and the Choctaws and Chickasaws. It will be expedient to take early steps to set off the western end of the Choctaw country, and an appropriation will be necessary to consummate the arrangement for the location and colonization of these Indians after the survey is completed. An amount deemed adequate has been estimated for, and will no doubt be placed by Congress at the disposal of the department.

The depredations committed by the Indians of New Mexico have been less serious this than for any one of several preceding years. The Mimbres Apaches have remained peaceable and are cultivating the soil. The Mescalero Apaches are charged with committing depredations, and it is not deemed practicable to work a change in their habits without the advantages of a permanent home. The Gila Apaches have not made any improvement. They live chiefly by the chase, and occasionally commit robberies. The Jicarilla Apaches have been furnished with provisions and agricultural implements, which have enabled them to live in comparative comfort. They desire to be located in permanent homes. These Indians have been charged with robberies and murders, but the superintendent expresses the opinion that they are not guilty. The Utahs are quietly awaiting the ratification of the treaties concluded with them, and will commence farming whenever permanent homes are assigned them. The Navajoes cultivate the soil and are improving in their condition. This tribe has made partial reparation for the thefts and murders committed by a few bad men among them, by remunerating, according to their ability, the owners for the property stolen, and a promise to make good the remainder. The pueblo Indians maintain their character as peaceable, industrious communities. Some of them have lost the title-papers for the grants of land obtained by them from Spain and Mexico. In such cases their agent has taken testimony in their behalf. They deserve the fostering care of the government, and Congress will no doubt confirm their titles. About five thousand Indians are embraced within the Gadsden purchase. They are mostly pueblos and reside in six different villages. They have houses and

flocks, and raise wheat and other products of the soil. It is suggested that as these Indians are about three hundred miles from any agency, they should have an agent assigned them. Although the treaties which had been negotiated with the Indians of New Mexico, by virtue of the act of Congress of July 31, 1854, were not ratified by the Senate at its last session, yet Congress, by making an appropriation for assisting the Indians to settle in permanent abodes, &c., has indicated its approval of the objects sought by them, and early measures should be taken to institute a scheme of colonization for the Indians of New Mexico; for, without some essential change in the condition and habits of the more uncivilized bands of Indians there, we can only expect a recurrence of the former unsettled and unsatisfactory condition of Indian affairs in that Territory.

The Indians in the Territory of Utah have, with but few exceptions, continued quiet and peaceable. According to recent reports, some of them have manifested an aptitude and disposition for agricultural labor beyond the general expectation. For reasons adverted to in my annual report for 1855, instructions were not given for entering into negotiations with the Indians in Utah, as had been contemplated in accordance with the act appropriating money for that purpose. And as the department designed for these tribes articles similar in some respects to those framed with tribes in New Mexico, so long as the treaties negotiated with the latter were not ratified by the Senate, it has been deemed proper not to prosecute negotiations with tribes in Utah. Agent Hurt, however, without instructions, entered into an agreement of peace and friendship, as the department was advised in August, 1855, with the Shoshonee tribe, but the original instrument has never been received here. That agent has also taken the responsibility of collecting Indians at three several locations within the Territory of Utah, and commenced a system of farming for their benefit. As the enterprise has not been sanctioned or provided for by appropriations for that purpose, and was believed to involve a larger expenditure than existing appropriations would warrant, without condemning his action in this respect, I have felt constrained to withhold an express approval of his course.

The report of Superintendent Henley presents an intelligent view of our Indian relations in California. There are now four permanent reservations established: the Tejon, in the southwestern part of the State; the Nome Lackee, in Colusa county, west of the Sacramento river; the Klamath, on a river of the same name, which enters the Pacific ocean about twenty miles south of Crescent city; and the Mendocino, fifty miles south of Cape Mendocino, on the shore of the Pacific. About seven hundred acres of land have been cultivated this year at the Tejon—five hundred in wheat and barley, and the remainder in corn and vegetables. Owing to the drought in that region, the product of the farm is much less than it would otherwise have been, but it is sufficient for the consumption of the place.

At the Nome Lackee, about one thousand acres were cultivated, producing about fifteen thousand bushels of wheat and corn, pumpkins, melons, turnips, and other vegetables in great abundance. The superintendent gives a very interesting account of the harvesting of



the wheat crop, which was cut with German reaping-hooks, used by the Indians with great dexterity.

The Klamath and Mendocino reservations have been but recently established, and, in addition to land for tillage, have important advantages in the abundant supply of fish, muscles, and other means of subsistence with which they abound.

In addition to these reservations, temporary reserves or farms have been established on the Fresno and King's rivers, and at Nome Cult valley in the coast range of mountains. At the Fresno and King's rivers about seven hundred acres of wheat and barley, and about one hundred acres of corn, were planted. Owing to the drought the wheat and barley crop was an entire failure; the corn, from irrigation, was expected to be an ordinary crop. Nome Cult valley farm has just been established.

The Indians in every part of California have been made acquainted with the policy of the government with reference to them; and, except where prejudiced by the false representations of interested white persons, are pleased with it. The number upon and in communication with the reservations and farms, is now about ten thousand, and increasing as the means for their accommodation are extended. Although lawless and desperate men commit frequent outrages upon the Indians in that State, the superintendent represents the sentiment of the great mass of the people of California in relation to them, embracing every class in life, as all that the friends of the Indian could desire.

The usual annual reports from the superintendents in the Territories of Oregon and Washington have not been received at this office, and I am hence compelled to speak of Indian affairs there, in the absence of such information as these reports would be expected to furnish. In July, 1854, provision was made by law for entering into negotiations with the tribes of these Territories, and shortly thereafter instructions were issued to the superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon, and the governor and *ex officio* superintendent in Washington. Before the expiration of the month of August, goods, suitable for presents during the negotiations, were procured in New York and Boston, and shipped to the superintendents, to reach them in time for use early in the spring of 1855. The commissioners were severally instructed to obtain a relinquishment of the Indian claims to lands, with proper rapidity; and, if practicable, to effect the concentration of the tribes and bands on a few reservations, in locations not touching on the white settlements; and to commence their negotiations with those tribes or bands nearest to, or brought into actual contact with such settlements, and between which and the settlers conflicting claims had arisen, or were likely to arise.

The officers entered at once with energy upon the execution of the duties confided to them, and whilst they were apparently in the full tide of success, hostilities broke out, in southern Oregon, and with the Rogue River Indians; and afterward, in Washington Territory, the Yakimas and Klikitats commenced war against the settlers, which communicated to a number of the adjacent tribes in both Territories. The war raged, in various localities, from October, 1855, till the 1st

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of June, 1856. Its various incidents, and the causes from which it originated, it is not now deemed necessary to review. The reports received with reference to these hostilities were laid before the President early in March last, and he immediately recommended an appropriation for maintaining and restoring peace with the Indian tribes on the Pacific coast, which was placed at his disposal by the act of 5th April, 1856.

Temporary provision having been made early in December, 1855, from appropriations at the command of the department, for the extraordinary expenses of preventing an extension of the spirit of dissatisfaction among the tribes, and of collecting the peaceful Indians in locations withdrawn from contact with hostile bands, the placing of the appropriation, by the President, at the disposal of this department, enabled its officers to extend their plans and prosecute them with vigor.

In both Territories the same policy of collecting and temporarily subsisting the peaceful tribes in large numbers, and encouraging hostile bands to surrender their arms, and join the friendly Indians, was adopted and carried out with considerable success. Hostile bands were met and chastised by the military power of the Territories and the United States army, and, until the latest advices, the reports were that peace had been restored in both Territories; but the superintendent of Oregon Territory, in a communication dated the 10th of October, reports a renewal of hostilities east of the Cascade mountains, and that one-half of the very powerful, and hitherto friendly tribe of Nez Percés Indians had joined the war party. No information was received from Governor Stevens, of Washington, but the public journals state that he was obliged to leave Walla-Walla, and that the indications were that a general Indian war was inevitable.

The policy pursued by this department has been attended with a considerable expenditure; and it was hoped that the results of its operations, of both a temporary and permanent character, would show that, all things considered, it had been the best that could be adopted, and the most humane and economical. It cannot be disguised that a portion of the white population of the Pacific Territories entertain feelings deeply hostile to the Indian tribes of that region, and are anxious for the extermination of the race.

Referring to a paragraph in my annual report for 1854, your attention is called to the provisions of law, to be found in the 2d section of the act of September 11, 1841, respecting investments for Indian tribes, which have been construed to require the department to invest all Indian moneys held in trust in stocks of the United States. The high price at which these stocks have been held, as compared with the stocks of the States bearing a like rate of interest, has caused the execution of the act to injuriously affect the interests of the Indians. Accordingly, since the 4th of March, 1853, no purchases have been made; but where liabilities of this kind have resulted from treaty stipulations, the department has estimated annually for appropriations from the treasury for five per cent. on all such trust-funds. Congress has responded to these estimates, and a policy has thus been

initiated, if not established, in regard to such cases. Other cases, however, occur, where trusts arise upon cash deposited in the treasury for the payment of matured stock, the avails of land sales, and by accumulations of interest on stocks now held, which are not immediately necessary in the performance of treaty stipulations. These accumulations are now considerable; and after the sales of the Delaware and other trust lands in Kansas Territory, they will be very largely increased—in view of which, it is suggested that the law of 1841 ought to be repealed, and a general enactment obtained from Congress, authorizing all sums of money arising from trusts, and held by the Secretary of the Interior, to be passed into the treasury at the end of each fiscal half year, by transfer warrants, and pledging the United States thereafter to pay five per centum per annum for the benefit of the Indian tribe entitled thereto. Such a measure would simplify the business of this department and that of the treasury, reduce gradually the stocks on hand as they mature, and be an act of justice to the Indians denied to them under existing laws.

Owing to the imperfection of records, the different modes in which their names are written, the difficulty of properly identifying applicants and other causes, the progress in making and deciding the applications for bounty-land warrants for Indians has been slow. Under the regulations adopted, there have been three thousand two hundred and seventy-three Indian applications for bounty land, of which three have been decided adversely at the Pension Office; two thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight are in the course of examination or suspended, and four hundred and forty-three warrants have been granted and sent to this office for delivery to the proper parties. Among the accompanying documents will be found the forms prescribed for the sale and transfer of these warrants, by the Indian holders, which, it is hoped, will amply protect them from imposition or fraud.

Twenty-six quarter sections of Choctaw orphan land, in Mississippi, which had reverted for non-payment, have been re-valued and sold; and thirty-four sections of Creek reserves, in Alabama, have also been re-valued and sold, and the prices obtained in both cases are believed to be the fair cash value of the lands.

The construction of the road from Fort Ridgley, in Minnesota, to the South Pass of the Rocky mountains, in Nebraska Territory, for which an appropriation of \$50,000 was made on the 22d of July last, having been assigned by you to this bureau, instructions were issued on the 18th day of September last to Wm. H. Noble, esq., who was appointed superintendent. He is now in the field in the discharge of his duties. His instructions forbid him to anticipate any further appropriations for this road, and require that he proceed to lay out and construct such an emigrant wagon road between the points referred to as a judicious and economical expenditure of the money will authorize.

A map of the Indian territories within the United States, provided for by the act of August 18, 1856, is in the course of construction, and will be completed without any unnecessary delay.

The tabular statements appended to this report contain much valuable and useful information in relation to Indian affairs.

A contract has been entered into with the publisher for the execution of the work connected with the printing of the sixth volume of the History, Condition and Prospects of the Indian Tribes.

Proceedings have been instituted in the Court of Claims by parties holding drafts for large sums of money, drawn by agents and sub-agents in California, for beef and flour, alleged to have been furnished for the Indian service there in the years 1851 and 1852. It is understood that other similar drafts are still outstanding. An act was passed on the 29th of July, 1854, appropriating a sum equal to \$242,036 25, for the payment of one lot of drafts of a like description. These drafts were all drawn without authority of law—a fact notorious at the time—and of which the parties to whom they were made payable had full notice. Having had occasion to examine the subject to some extent, there appears to me to be irregularities of such a character connected with these beef and flour transactions, that a full and thorough investigation into them should, I think, be instituted, especially as there appears to be no satisfactory evidence of the issue of the articles to the Indians.

The operations of this branch of the public service would be greatly promoted if the authority and means were placed at the disposal of the department, to keep constantly in its employment a special agent of high character for intelligence and integrity. Occasions frequently arise requiring the services of such an agent.

Since the 4th of March, 1853, fifty-two treaties with various Indian tribes have been entered into. These treaties may, with but few exceptions of a specific character, be separated into three classes: first, treaties of peace and friendship; second, treaties of acquisition, with a view of colonizing the Indians on reservations; and third, treaties of acquisition, and providing for the permanent settlement of the individuals of the tribes, at once or in the future, on separate tracts of lands or homesteads, and for the gradual abolition of the tribal character. The quantity of land acquired by these treaties, either by the extinguishment of the original Indian title, or by the re-acquisition of lands granted to Indian tribes by former treaties, is about one hundred and seventy-four millions of acres. Thirty-two of these treaties have been ratified, and twenty are now before the Senate for its consideration and action. In no former equal period of our history have so many treaties been made, or such vast accessions of land been obtained. Within the same period the jurisdiction of this office and the operations of its agents have been extended over an additional area of from four to six thousand square miles of territory, embracing tribes about which, before that time, but little was known; and by authority of several acts of Congress thirteen new agencies and nine sub-agencies have been established. The increased labor which has been thus devolved on the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the entire force of the bureau, as well as upon the superintendents and agents, has been very great, and has swelled the business connected with our Indian affairs to an extent almost incredible. The labor of this branch of the service has doubled since 1852, and

yet with this extraordinary increase, the permanent clerical force of this office is the same now that it was on the 4th of March, 1853. The permanent force is now insufficient to promptly perform the labor of the bureau; and the classification and arrangement of the business of the office should be modified and improved, but this cannot be done thoroughly without a small permanent increase in the clerical force.

The existing laws for the protection of the persons and property of the Indian wards of the government are sadly defective. New and more stringent statutes are required. The relation which the federal government sustains towards the Indians, and the duties and obligations flowing from it, cannot be faithfully met and discharged without ample legal provisions, and the necessary power and means to enforce them. The rage for speculation and the wonderful desire to obtain choice lands, which seems to possess so many of those who go into our new territories, causes them to lose sight of and entirely overlook the rights of the aboriginal inhabitants. The most dishonorable expedients have, in many cases, been made use of to dispossess the Indian; demoralizing means employed to obtain his property; and, for the want of adequate laws, the department is now often perplexed and embarrassed, because of inability to afford prompt relief and apply the remedy in cases obviously requiring them.

The general disorder so long prevailing in Kansas Territory, and the consequent unsettled state of civil affairs there have been very injurious to the interests of many of the Indian tribes in that Territory. The state of affairs referred to, with the influx of lawless men and speculators incident and introductory thereto, has impeded the surveys and the selections for the homes of the Indians, and otherwise prevented the full establishment and proper efficiency of all the means for civilization and improvement within the scope of the several treaties with them. The schools have not been as fully attended, nor the school buildings, agency houses, and other improvements, as rapidly constructed as they might otherwise have been. Trespasses and depredations of every conceivable kind have been committed on the Indians. They have been personally maltreated, their property stolen, their timber destroyed, their possession encroached upon, and divers other wrongs and injuries done them. Notwithstanding all which they have afforded a praiseworthy example of good conduct, under the most trying circumstances. They have at no time, that I am aware of, attempted to redress their own wrongs, but have patiently submitted to injury, relying on the good faith and justice of the government to indemnify them. In the din and strife between the anti-slavery and pro-slavery parties with reference to the condition of the African race there, and in which the rights and interests of the red man have been completely overlooked and disregarded, the good conduct and patient submission of the latter contrasts favorably with the disorderly and lawless conduct of many of their white brethren, who, while they have quarrelled about the African, have united upon the soil of Kansas in wrong doing toward the Indian!

In relation to the emigrated and partially civilized tribes in Kansas, the circumstances under which they were transplanted to that country,

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and the pledges of this government that it should be to them and their posterity a permanent home forever; the distrust and doubt under which they assented to the sale of a portion of their respective tracts to the United States for the use and occupation of our own population, I have in former reports treated fully; and have likewise endeavored to impress upon the minds of all persons that the small tracts which these tribes have reserved in Kansas as their permanent homes must be so regarded. They cannot again be removed. They must meet their fate upon their present reservations in that Territory, and there be made a civilized people, or crushed and blotted out. Their condition is critical, simply because their rights and interests seem thus far to have been entirely lost sight of and disregarded by their new neighbors. They may be preserved and civilized, and will be if the guarantees and stipulations of their treaties are faithfully fulfilled and enforced, and the federal government discharges its obligations and redeems its pledged faith towards them. As peace and order seem now to be restored to the Territories, it is to be hoped that the good citizens thereof will make haste to repair the wrong and injury which the red men of Kansas have suffered by the acts of their white neighbors, and that hereafter they will not only treat the Indians fairly, but that all good citizens will set their faces against the conduct of any lawless men who may attempt to trespass upon the rights of, or otherwise injure, the Indian population there.

In reviewing the events of the past year with reference to the improvement of our Indian population, there appears within the reserves of several tribes such unmistakable manifestations of progress as to excite and stimulate our lawgivers and the benevolent and philanthropic of the land to a more lively and active interest in the present condition and future prospects of the race, and to invite an increased effort and energy in the cause of Indian civilization. That the red man can be transformed in his habits, domesticated, and civilized, and made a useful element in society, there is abundant evidence. With reference to his true character, erroneous opinions very generally prevail. He is, indeed, the victim of prejudice. He is only regarded as the irreclaimable, terrible savage, who in war spares neither age nor sex, but with heartless and cruel barbarity subjects the innocent and defenceless to inhuman tortures, committing with exultant delight the most horrible massacres. These are chronicled from year to year, and are, indeed, sad chapters in our annals. But the history of the sufferings of the Indian has never been written; the story of his wrongs never been told. Of these there is not, and never can be, an earthly record.

As a man he has his joys and his sorrows. His love for his offspring is intense. In his friendships he is steadfast and true, and will never be the first to break faith. His courage is undoubted, his perception quick, and his memory of the highest order. His judgment is defective, but by proper training and discipline his intellectual powers are susceptible of culture and can be elevated to a fair standard. He can be taught the arts of peace, and is by no means inapt in learning to handle agricultural and mechanical implements and applying them to their appropriate uses. With these qualities, although the



weaker, he is eminently entitled to the kind consideration of the stronger race.

The wonderful emigration to our newly acquired States and Territories, and its effect upon the wild tribes inhabiting them and the plains and prairies, is well calculated at the present period to attract special attention. Not only are our settlements rapidly advancing westward from the Mississippi river towards the Pacific ocean, and from the shores of the Pacific eastward towards the Mississippi river, but large settlements have been made in Utah and New Mexico between the two. Already the settlements of Texas are extending up to El Paso and spreading into the Gadsden purchase, and those of California have reached into the great valley of the Colorado, whilst the settlers of Minnesota are building cities at the very head of Lake Superior and villages in the remote valley of the Red river of the north, on their way to Puget Sound. Railroads built and building, from the Atlantic and Gulf cities, not only reach the Mississippi river at about twenty different points, but are extending west across Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Iowa. Roads of that character have also been commenced in Texas, looking to El Paso, and in Iowa, looking for the great bend of the Minnesota river for a present and for Pembina for a future terminus. The railroad companies of Missouri and Iowa are even now seeking aid from Congress to enable them to extend their roads to New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, and Utah, and thence to California, Oregon, and Washington. California has actually commenced the construction of a railroad leading up the Sacramento valley toward Utah.

It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that in a few years, in a very few, the railroads of the east, from New Orleans to the extreme west end of Lake Superior, will be extended westwardly up towards the Rocky mountains, at least as far as good lands can be found, and that roads from the Pacific coast will be built as far east as good lands extend; and that in both cases an active population will keep up with the advance of the railroads—a population that will open farms, erect workshops, and build villages and cities.

When that time arrives, and it is at our very doors, ten years, if our country is favored with peace and prosperity, will witness the most of it; where will be the habitation and what the condition of the rapidly wasting Indian tribes of the plains, the prairies, and of our new States and Territories?

As sure as these great physical changes are impending, so sure will these poor denizens of the forest be blotted out of existence, and their dust be trampled under the foot of rapidly advancing civilization, unless our great nation shall generously determine that the necessary provision shall at once be made, and appropriate steps be taken to designate suitable tracts or reservations of land, in proper localities, for permanent homes for, and provide the means to colonize, them thereon. Such reservations should be selected with great care, and when determined upon and designated the assurances by which they are guarantied to the Indians should be irrevocable, and of such a character as to effectually protect them from encroachments of every kind.

Before bringing this annual report to a conclusion, I desire to repeat the statement made in the first one which I had the honor to submit, that: "There is no absolute necessity for the employment by Indian

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tribes of attorneys or agents to attend to their business at the seat of government," and to urge, in the most solemn manner, that "it is the duty of the government as their guardians to cause all matters of a business character with them to be so conducted as to preclude the necessity of the intervention of this class of persons." This recommendation was repeated in my second and third annual reports, and is again urged as the result of convictions strengthened by experience. I also desire again to urge all that I have presented in former reports, as well as in this one, with reference to the obnoxious and fatal policy of removing Indian tribes, and the absolute necessity of fixed habitations and permanent homes as indispensable to their preservation, domestication and civilization. To preserve the small reservations already made, and hereafter to be made, by tribes who have or may resolve to settle down and till the land, and to preserve to all Indians their annuities, I again urgently recommend such penal and other legislation as may be required to effect these objects. But any measure of protection short of this will fail to guard the Indians against the artful schemes of those bad men who, under more or less specious pretences, desire to obtain either their lands or their money, or both. Upon such protection depends the question of their future existence, for when stripped of their property alms would only rapidly sink, not permanently elevate and preserve them. Humanity, Christianity, national honor, unite in demanding the enactment of such laws as will not only protect the Indians, but as shall effectually put it out of the power of any public officer to allow these poor creatures to be despoiled of their lands and annuities by a swarm of hungry and audacious speculators, attorneys, and others, their instruments and coadjutors. And no officer should, for the want of such legislation, be compelled, during his whole official existence, either to allow the Indians to be plundered or else have to devote his whole energies to the maintenance of a conflict to sustain their rights against combinations of men whose chief and first efforts are always directed towards obtaining influence with the press, and with those supposed to be high in the confidence of the executive and legislative departments of the government. It is asking too much of a subordinate officer. It exposes him to unnecessary danger and unnecessary temptation; and it is grossly unjust to the Indians thus to expose him to such a danger and to such a temptation. The security of their rights should be made as little dependent upon the virtue of a public officer as possible.

To preserve their property and to give them the blessings of education and Christianity is indispensable to their continuing "long in the land" which God gave to their fathers and to them, I sincerely hope that our government will have the aid of all its good citizens in faithfully executing its high trust and discharging its obligations to the remnants of the Indian tribes now left to its oversight and guardianship, so that they shall be intelligently and generously protected and cared for in all that makes life useful and happy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

*List of documents accompanying the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the year 1856.*

- No. 1.—Report of Marcus H. Johnson, agent for Indians in New York.  
No. 2.—Copy of report read before the yearly meeting of Friends, in the city of Baltimore, in October, 1856, by their committee on Indian concerns.  
No. 3.—Report of Henry C. Gilbert, agent for Indians in Michigan.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 4.—Report of Superintendent Francis Huebschmann.  
No. 5.—Report of Benjamin Hunkins, agent for the Indians in the vicinity of Green Bay.  
No. 6.—Report of the Rev. C. G. Lathrop, missionary to the Orchard party of Oneida Indians.  
No. 7.—Report of Rosalie Dousman, teacher to the Menomonees.  
No. 8.—Report of Jane Dousman, teacher to the Menomonees.  
No. 9.—Report of John Wiley, teacher to the Menomonees.  
No. 10.—Report of Frederick Haas, farmer to the Menomonees.  
No. 11.—Report of David B. Herriman, agent for the Chippewas of the Mississippi.  
No. 12.—Report of J. Lloyd Breck, teacher of the Chippewa manual labor school.  
No. 13.—Report of the Rev. J. P. Bardwell, teacher of the mission school at Red lake.  
No. 14.—Report of Jonathan E. Fletcher, agent for the Winnebagoes.  
No. 15.—Report of R. G. Murphy, agent for the Sioux in Minnesota.  
No. 16.—Report of P. Prescott, superintendent of farming for the Sioux.  
No. 17.—Letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Superintendent Huebschmann, relative to Prescott's report.  
No. 18.—Report of A. Robertson, farmer for the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux.  
No. 19.—Report of the Rev. Thomas S. Williamson, missionary to the Sioux.  
No. 20.—Report of S. R. Riggs, of the Sioux Hazlewood school.

CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 21.—Report of Superintendent Alfred Cumming.  
No. 22.—Report of Edwin A. C. Hatch, agent for the Blackfeet, and other neighboring tribes.  
No. 23.—Report of Alfred J. Vaughan, agent for the Indians within the Upper Missouri agency.  
No. 24.—Report of Thomas S. Twiss, agent for the Indians of the Upper Platte.  
No. 25.—Supplemental report of Thomas S. Twiss, agent.

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- No. 26.—Letter of Thomas S. Twiss, agent, relative to the massacre near Fort Kearny.
- No. 27.—Letter of Thomas S. Twiss, agent, relative to the massacre near Fort Kearny.
- No. 28.—Report of John B. Robertson, agent for Indians of the Omaha agency.
- No. 29.—Report of Samuel Allis, interpreter for the Pawnees.
- No. 30.—Report of Daniel Vanderslice, agent for the Iowas, and Sacs and Foxes of the Missouri.
- No. 31.—Report of S. M. Irvin, teacher to the Iowas, Sacs and Foxes.
- No. 32.—Report of Thomas J. Vanderslice, farmer and miller for the Sacs and Foxes.
- No. 33.—Report of Royal Baldwin, agent for the Kickapoos.
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- No. 39.—Report of Burton A. James, agent for the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi.
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