

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, November 26, 1853.

SIR: I have the honor to submit a general view of the present condition of our Indian relations, and statement of the operations of this branch of the public service during the past year.

Referring to the accompanying reports of the different superintendents, agents, and other persons employed for the benefit of the Indians, for more detailed and specific information in regard to their present condition and prospects, I would remark, that peace and tranquillity have prevailed generally among the emigrated and other tribes along the extensive inner frontiers, from Lake Superior and our northern boundary to Texas, with whom we have conventional relations and intercourse of long standing. In regard to those more remote, and more recently brought under the supervision of the department, fewer occurrences of a painful nature have been reported than might have been anticipated.

The whole number of Indians within our limits is estimated at 400,000. About 18,000 yet linger in some of the States east of the Mississippi river—principally in New York, Michigan, and Wisconsin; the remainder, consisting of Cherokees, Choctaws, and Seminoles, being in North Carolina, Mississippi, and Florida.

The number in Minnesota, and along the frontiers of the western States to Texas, comprising mainly emigrated tribes, is estimated at 110,000; those of the plains and Rocky mountains, and not within any of our organized territories, at 63,000; those in Texas at 29,000; those in New Mexico at 45,000; those in California at 100,000; those in Utah at 12,000; and those in the Territories of Oregon and Washington at 23,000.

The unfortunate and distracting controversy for some time existing among the Seneca Indians of New York, in regard to their form of government, seems happily to have terminated; the republican system, adopted by the majority in 1848, being apparently now acquiesced in by the remainder, by whom it was long and strenuously opposed.

The dictates of humanity and good policy alike require the early and effective interposition of the government in respect to the Indians of Michigan. These Indians, some seven thousand in number, are represented to be divided into more than sixty separate communities; and are to be found in nearly every county of the State. Many of them, being without any settled places of habitation, and gradually imbibing the worst vices of civilization, are becoming vitiated and degraded, a pest and a nuisance to the neighborhoods where they resort. In this unsettled, dispersed, and otherwise unfavorable condition, nothing can be done to reclaim and improve them. Those of their more fortunate brethren, who have enjoyed the advantages of fixed locations, present

a much more favorable aspect. Most of them have comfortable homes, and, under the influence of the devoted efforts of several Christian denominations, are gradually improving and acquiring the habits and tastes of civilized life. By a provision of the State constitution, they are entitled to citizenship on becoming qualified therefor by intelligence and good character, and abandoning their tribal connection; and numbers have manifested a proper appreciation of this high privilege, and a laudable ambition to fit themselves for it.

By treaty, these Indians have the right to a home west of the Mississippi should they desire to emigrate; but there is no prospect of their ever being willing to do so, and the citizens of Michigan, it is understood, entertain no desire to have them expelled from the country and home of their forefathers. Suitable locations, it is understood, can be found for them in the State, where they can be concentrated under circumstances favorable to their comfort and improvement, without detriment to State or individual interests, and early measures for that purpose should be adopted.

A portion of the united tribes of Stockbridges and Munsees, of Wisconsin, are under treaty obligations to emigrate west of the Mississippi river, but their removal has necessarily been delayed, from want of adequate means to defray the expense thereof, and of their year's subsistence. A further appropriation will therefore be requisite. These Indians are few in number and should not be disunited. As soon as it can be done, an effort should be made to place them and those of their brethren now west of the Mississippi river all comfortably together.

In 1848 the Menomonnees ceded their entire country in Wisconsin, and agreed to remove to another stipulated to be given them in Minnesota west of the Mississippi. From this obligation they were exempted by the late President of the United States, on the ground of the unsuitability of the new country intended for them; and, with the approbation of the proper authorities of Wisconsin, they were assigned and removed to a remote portion of the extensive tract which they had ceded, embracing about 345,600 acres. The information in possession of the department leads to the conclusion that this location is, in all respects, suitable for them; and that they can probably remain there for many years without interference with the advancement or interests of the white population. If, however, this arrangement is to be of a permanent character, a new convention with them will be necessary for their relinquishment of the country given to them by the treaty of 1848, and that the various beneficial provisions of that treaty may be made operative and applicable to them where they are.

The Oneidas, of Wisconsin, have a permanent location near Green Bay, where they will probably remain and eventually become citizens, as the tribe of Brothertowns has done. The only other Indians in the State consist of a few bands of those known as the Chippewas of Lake Superior, still living on lands heretofore ceded to the United States, but where it has been thus far deemed proper to permit them to remain, for reasons materially affecting their preservation and welfare.

Should it be deemed necessary to continue the superintendency created by the act of 27th of February, 1851, heretofore confined to the

Indians in Wisconsin, it should be made to embrace also those in Michigan, and a different location assigned to the superintendent.

The large and populous tribe of Chippewas, the great body of whom are in Minnesota, still own an extensive tract of country east of the Mississippi, of which, on account of its great mineral wealth, it will become necessary to obtain possession at an early day. Their lands west of the Mississippi are sufficiently ample for the whole tribe, and their concentration there would be an arrangement advantageous both to them and the government.

The country assigned to the Winnebagoes by the treaty of 1846, in the region of the headwaters of the Mississippi, proved to be not altogether suitable. So great has been the dissatisfaction, that it has been impossible to keep a majority of them upon it. Under these circumstances, and because of their pressing and constant solicitations, and of promises given last year, arrangements were made, the past summer, to assign them another and more satisfactory home. The new location fixed upon, which is further south than their present country, is objected to, it is understood, on the ground of its bringing them too near the white settlements; and its close proximity to the Mississippi river is believed to be prejudicial to the interests of the Indians. The department has not yet determined whether these objections are sufficiently well founded to justify the rejection of this arrangement.

The present situation of that portion of the Sioux Indians, parties to the treaties of July 23d and August 5, 1851, is peculiar, unfortunate, and to them must ultimately prove extremely injurious. By these treaties they reluctantly parted with a very large extent of valuable country, which it was of the greatest importance to the government to acquire. An insignificant portion of it near its western boundary, not deemed necessary or desirable for a white population for many years, if at all, was agreed to be reserved and assigned to them for their future residence. The Senate amended the treaties, striking out this provision, allowing ten cents per acre in lieu of the reservations, and requiring the President, with the assent of the Indians, if they agreed to the amendments, to assign them such tracts of country beyond the limits of that ceded as might be satisfactory for their future home. To the amendments was appended a proviso, "that the President may, by the consent of the Indians, vary the conditions aforesaid, if deemed expedient." The Indians were induced to agree to the amendments, "confiding in the justice, liberality, and humanity of the President and the Congress of the United States, that such tracts of country will be set apart for their future occupancy and home as will be to them acceptable and satisfactory." Thus, not only was the assent of the Indians made necessary to a country being assigned to them without the limits of that ceded, but, by the authority given to the President to vary the conditions of the amendments to the treaties, he was empowered, with the consent of the Indians, to place them upon the designated reservations, or upon any other portion of the ceded territory, "if deemed expedient."

To avoid collisions and difficulties between the Indians and the white population, which rapidly commenced pouring into the ceded country, it became necessary that the former should vacate at least a large por-

tion of it without delay; whilst there was neither the time nor the means to make the requisite explorations, to find a suitable location for them beyond the limits of the cession.

Under these pressing and embarrassing circumstances, the late President determined to permit them to remain five years on the designated reservations, if they were willing to accept this alternative. They assented, and many of them have already been removed. However unavoidable this arrangement, it is a most unfortunate one. The Indians are fully aware of its temporary character, and of the uncertainty as to their future position, and will consequently be disinclined and deterred from any efforts to make themselves comfortable and improve their condition. The inevitable result must be, that at the end of the time limited they will be in a far worse condition than now; and the efforts and expenditures of years to infuse into them a spirit of improvement, will all have been in vain.

The large investments in mills, farms, mechanic shops and other improvements, required by the treaties to be made for their benefit, will be entirely wasted if the Indians are to remain on these reservations only during the prescribed five years. At the very period when they would begin to reap the full advantage of these beneficial provisions, they would have to remove. Another unfortunate feature of this arrangement, if temporary, is, that the Indians will have expended the considerable sums set apart in the treaties for the expenses of their removal to a permanent home, and for subsistence until they could otherwise provide it; leaving nothing for these important and necessary purposes, in the event of another emigration. In view of these facts and considerations, no time should be lost in determining upon some final and permanent arrangement in regard to them.

The tribes of the Upper Missouri agency, with the exception of the Blackfeet, are represented as generally quiet and peaceable. Such of them as are parties to the treaty of Fort Laramie have maintained, with but one single exception, friendly relations among themselves, and manifested an increasing confidence in and kindness towards the whites. Some of the Indians in this agency raise corn, beans, pumpkins, &c., to a limited extent, but rely principally on the hunt for their support. The amendments of the Senate of the 24th of May, 1852, to the 7th article of the treaty of Fort Laramie, were promptly assented to by such of the tribes as the agent had conferred with, and there is no doubt but that the others will readily do so when he has an opportunity of seeing them, they being absent at the time of his arrival in their country on their usual hunts.

The general condition of the Indians within the limits of the Council Bluff agency is not encouraging. The Omahas are represented as having raised enough corn to last them through the winter; and by a judicious application of the money paid them by government this season, it is thought they may to a great extent be saved from suffering.

The Ottocoes and Missourias, a confederate tribe, are in a state of abject poverty. Reduced by a combination of causes, and perhaps some neglect on the part of the government, they are indeed objects of pity.

The Pawnees are also in a destitute condition. Their number now

does not exceed one-half of what it did four years ago. They formerly resided on the north side of the Platte river, and on the west side of the Loup fork of that stream. A few years ago they were represented to be in a flourishing condition; but the Sioux came down upon and murdered many of them, burned their houses, stole their horses and other stock, and the survivors were compelled to retreat to the south side of the Platte, and have thenceforward been unwilling to return to their former homes. The Indians of this agency, like all others, indulge in the use of intoxicating liquor when they can obtain it; and unfortunately the two tribes first named are, from the location of their villages, never free from the temptation.

The Half-breeds, located between the Great and Little Nemaha rivers, and numbering, including their families, about sixty souls, have made some considerable advance in civilization.

The Ioways have many advantages, but they have not profitably availed themselves of them. *Indolence and vice predominate.* This tribe numbered at their last payment, according to the pay roll, four hundred and ninety-seven; by the census recently taken, they number only four hundred and thirty-seven. Their location has no doubt a very unfavorable influence on them, and although they promise a reformation in their habits, a change of residence is perhaps indispensable.

The Sacs and Foxes of Missouri reside upon the same tract of land with the Ioways. Their condition, however, is rather better; but the remarks in relation to the Ioways are, to a considerable extent, applicable to the Sacs and Foxes.

The Kickapoos are more advanced than any other tribe in the Great Nemaha agency. They are represented as making some progress in agriculture. A few have comfortable houses, with domestic animals about them.

The Wyandotts, Shawnees, and Delawares are embraced in the Kansas agency. A number in each of these tribes are educated, intelligent men, having good dwellings, and surrounded with the usual comforts and conveniences of civilized life. Various religious denominations have missions in this agency, and some of the Indians are professors of the Christian religion; but many of them are habitual drunkards. The Wyandotts have in operation a system of common schools and a code of laws for their own government.

The Pottawatomie Indians are not, as a general thing, improving. They have a large money annuity, the corrupting effects of which are clearly visible. The government has provided no habitation for an agent in their country; and left to themselves without the necessary oversight, with many avenues by which whisky can be, and constantly is, introduced among them, they indulge in the free use of it. Dissipation prevails, and many of the principal men are, it is believed, destitute of integrity, and are used to subserve the purposes of the avaricious, designing and heartless, who seek, and but too often obtain, the control of them for the promotion of their own sinister views. A few of the bands are to a considerable extent cultivating the soil; and there are some good men in the nation who appear to have availed themselves of the benefits of the missionary efforts among the Pottawatomies.

The Kansas Indians with the Pottawatomies constitute one agency.

There is no agency-house in the Kansas country, and from the remote location of the Indians they cannot often be visited by their agent. These people are not inclined to till the soil. The males will not work. The females make some patches of corn with the hoe; but these Indians rely principally on their annuities, the chase, and theft, for support. They are adepts in the art of stealing, and their location is such, being on the leading Santa Fé road, that they annoy the trains which pass that way. Complaints are loud against these Indians, not only from the white people who pass through their country, but from all the neighboring tribes. A change of their location and residence is demanded by every consideration connected with their advancement, and is due to the vast number of our citizens who suffer from their depredations.

The tribes embraced in the Sac and Fox agency are the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi, the small band of Chippewas, of Swan Creek and Black river, and the Ottowas, of Roche de Bouf and Blanchard's fork. The Sacs and Foxes are a wild, roving race, depending almost entirely on the chase for subsistence. They have heretofore strongly resisted the introduction of schools or missionaries among them, and have made a steady and powerful effort to maintain all the manners, customs, and traditions of their fathers. Recently a portion of them have expressed a desire to attempt to cultivate the soil, and entertained conversations in relation to the employment of teachers and missionaries; they have also promised their agent to refrain from the use of ardent spirits, in which they have, to their great injury, freely indulged.

The Chippewas and Ottowas depend for subsistence on the cultivation of the soil, and are comparatively in an advanced state of civilization. It is the opinion of their agent that they will this year have a surplus of agricultural productions. The Ottowas have adopted a simple code of laws for their government.

The Weas and Piankeshaws, Kaskaskias and Peorias, and the Miamies, constitute the tribes of the Osage River agency. No official report has been received from the agent in charge of these Indians. In the month of September, while on his way to the Sac and Fox agency, that officer met with an accident, which caused his absence from his agency at the period of the year when these annual reports are made up. The Weas and Piankeshaws, Kaskaskias and Peorias, are known to be doing reasonably well. They depend principally on agriculture for their support. The Miamies are not doing well. Their village is so convenient to the white settlements that they have at all times the opportunity to gratify their appetite for ardent spirits, and they may be said to indulge habitually and very freely in its use.

The Chippewas, Ottowas, Weas and Piankeshaws, Kaskaskias and Peorias, and the Miamies, all complain of the depredations of the Sac and Fox Indians, and express the hope that they may be removed far away from them. There is no doubt but the complaints of these small tribes are, to a considerable extent, well founded, and that the location of the Sacs and Foxes in their vicinity has been injurious to their interests.

By a provision contained in an act of Congress, approved the 3d of

March last, the President was authorized to enter into negotiations with the Indian tribes west of the States of Missouri and Iowa, for the purpose of procuring their assent to the settlement of our citizens upon the lands claimed by them, and of extinguishing their title, in whole or in part, to those lands. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs was designated by the President as the officer of the Indian department to conduct the necessary negotiations, and that duty was undertaken by him at the earliest period consistent with his other official engagements. A preliminary visit to the Indian country, with a view to explore it, and to obtain such information as would be useful and necessary in preparing full and detailed instructions as to the terms and conditions of the treaties to be negotiated, was deemed necessary, and was made by that officer in obedience to his instructions. While thus engaged, he visited the Omahas, Ottoes and Missouriis, Ioways, Sacs and Foxes of Missouri, Kickapoos, Delawares, Shawnees, Wyandotts, Pottawatomies, Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi, Chippewas of Swan creek and Black river, Ottowas of Roche de Bœuf and Blanchard's fork, Weas and Piankeshaws, Kaskaskias and Peorias and Miamies. These embrace all the tribes located immediately west of Missouri and Iowa, except the bands of Quapaws, Senecas and Shawnees, and Senecas, who have small tracts adjacent to the southwest corner of the State of Missouri, and who, for want of time, the commissioner was unable to visit. The same cause operated to prevent his seeing the Pawnees, Kansas, and Osage Indians, with whom, although their lands are not contiguous to the boundaries of either of these States, it is desirable that treaties also be made, should a civil government be established and the country opened for settlement.

The commissioner held councils with every tribe whom he visited, and disclosed to them the object of his journey to their country. He found the Indian mind in an unfavorable condition to receive and calmly consider his message. For some time previous to his arrival in the Indian country, individuals from the States had been exploring portions of it, with the intention, as was understood, of attempting to make locations and settlements. The discussion of the subject, and the exploration of the country by citizens of the States, alarmed and excited the Indians. Some of them were proposing a grand council, at which it was designed to light up the old Indian fires, and confederate for defence against the white people, who they believed were coming in force to drive them from their country, and to occupy it without their consent and without consideration. Under such circumstances it was very difficult to quiet the Indians, or divest their minds of an impression that the commissioner's visit was not in some way or other intended to aid the whites in a forcible occupation of the country. As he progressed in his journey, and conferred with the tribes, the difficulty was gradually removed.

With but few exceptions, the Indians were opposed to selling any part of their lands, as announced in their replies to the speeches of the commissioner. Finally, however, many tribes expressed their willingness to sell, but on the condition that they could retain tribal reservations on their present tracts of land. This policy was deemed objectionable, and not to be adopted if it could be avoided; and with such

tribes the time of treating was deferred until next spring, with the hope that the Indians by that time might see that their permanent interests required an entire transfer of all their lands and their removal to a new home. Some tribes declined to dispose of any portion; and all, with the exception of the Wyandotts and Ottowas, who expressed an opinion on the subject of an organization of a civil government in that territory, were opposed to the measure. They have, with but few exceptions, a very crude and unintelligible idea of the "white man's laws," deeming them engines of tyranny and oppression, and they dread as well as fear them. Before the commissioner left the country quite a change was perceptible among the Indians; and it is believed that, with but few exceptions, the tribes will next spring enter into treaties and dispose of large portions of their country, and some of them will sell the whole of their land. The idea of retaining reservations, which seemed to be generally entertained, is not deemed to be consistent with their true interests, and every good influence ought to be exercised to enlighten them on the subject. If they dispose of their lands, no reservations should, if it can be avoided, be granted or allowed. There are some Indians in various tribes who are occupying farms, comfortably situated, and who are in such an advanced state of civilization, that if they desired to remain, the privilege might well, and ought perhaps to be granted, and their farms in each case reserved for their homes. Such Indians would be qualified to enjoy the privileges of citizenship. But to make reservations for an entire tribe on the tract which it now owns, would, it is believed, be injurious to the future peace, prosperity, and advancement of these people. The commissioner, as far as he judged it prudent, endeavored to enlighten them on this point, and labored to convince them that it was not consistent with the true interest of themselves and their posterity that they should have tribal reservations within their present limits.

The condition of the Indians located west of Missouri and Iowa is not as prosperous, or their advance in civilization as rapid, as the official reports annually received from that part of the country would authorize us to expect. In several tribes are to be found some educated, intelligent men; and many are able, by the cultivation of the earth, to subsist themselves. Among these classes there are some sincere professors of religion; but the mass of the Indians are indolent and intemperate, and many of them are degraded and debased.

The transplanting of these Indians, and the dedication of their present country to their use, and for their future home, was an emanation of the purest benevolence and the dictate of humanity. Vast sums of money have been expended by the government for the sustenance, comfort and civilization of these unfortunate people, and the missionary has occupied that field of labor long and faithfully; but notwithstanding all that has been done by the government and good men, the experiment has measurably failed. Located generally on large tracts of land, separated into small and distinct bands, roaming at will and wandering in idleness, the mass of these tribes are in a degraded state, with no hope of a considerable degree of reformation, (even with such improvements as are practicable in their present management,) without a change of residence. Their opinions, habits, customs and pursuits

which present an almost insurmountable obstacle to their change from a primitive state, find now but little resistance; while the advice of the agent, and the efforts of the teacher and divine, are counteracted, to a very great extent, by influences of an adverse character, and which it is presumed will predominate so long as these Indians are permitted to remain where they now reside.

The acquisition of Texas, New Mexico, and our Pacific possessions, and the vast annual emigration which passes through the Indian country and over the Indian reservations, on its journey thither, and which was not anticipated at the time the Indians were located there, render it absolutely necessary that they be placed out of the paths of the emigrants as far as practicable. The interests of both require it. In the present condition of the Indian, no good results to him from his contact with the emigrant; while the latter is always embarrassed on his journey and frequently injured by the presence of the former.

Except the Wyandotts and Ottowas, who have a few simple laws, all the Indian tribes north of the Cherokee line are without any prescribed form of government. The Intercourse act, it is believed, extends no protection to the emigrants; and this adventurous and valuable class of our people is therefore unprotected while in the Indian country. This state of things ought not to exist. The Intercourse act, if amended, and its provisions extended to them, would still be inefficient, if not a dead letter, by reason of the great distance of the United States officers in the States from the Indian country. In my judgment, the interests of the Indians require that a civil government be immediately organized in the territory. The executive of the territory discharging, by virtue of his office, the duties of superintendent of Indian affairs, and having a direct oversight of the Indian service there, would exercise a happy influence, not only on the border tribes, but in a brief space of time on the Indians of the plains.

In the annual report of the 30th November, 1848, the then Commissioner of Indian Affairs suggested the policy of procuring and keeping open portions of the lands west of Missouri and Iowa, for the egress and expansion of our own population; and the same measure has been urged in several successive annual reports. The necessity of opening an ample western outlet for our rapidly-increasing population, seems to have been clearly foreseen by this department. The negotiations with the Indians who will have to be disturbed, and the arrangements necessary for their peaceful and comfortable re-location, requiring time and deliberation, it is to be regretted that the authority and means for the accomplishment of the object were not given more in advance of the exigency which has occurred, and which appears to require proceedings of a more precipitate character than should have been permitted to become necessary.

Objections may be urged to the organization of a civil government in the Indian country; but those that cannot be overcome are not to be compared to the advantages which will flow to the Indians from such a measure, with treaties to conform to the new order of things, and suitable laws for their protection.

In addition to this, the preparation of a large district of that country for settlement, by the removal of the Indians, would open up, in a most

desirable locality, homes for the enterprising and hardy pioneers who are ready to occupy it, and by their energies speedily found a State, the beneficial influences of which, from its position, would be of incalculable advantage to the Indian, as well as the government and people of the United States:

It is respectfully suggested that the sum of money appropriated by Congress at the last session is not deemed adequate, in view of the extent and magnitude of the objects contemplated; and it is recommended that a further appropriation be made early in the next session for the purpose of treating with the tribes indicated by the law of the last session, and an extension of that authority, so that treaties, if deemed necessary, either to supply the emigrated tribes with new homes, or otherwise, may be made with the other Indians in what is known as Nebraska. These treaties can, it is believed, all be made in the months of April and May next, and submitted to the Senate in ample time for Congress to establish a civil government at its next session.

As stated in the last annual report, the negotiations with the Comanches, Kioways, and other Indians on the Arkansas river, contemplated by an act passed at the preceding session of Congress, had necessarily to be postponed till the present season. At a suitable period last spring they were confided to the agent in that quarter. He was also charged with the duty of procuring, from such of the Indians of his agency as were parties to the treaty of Fort Laramie, their assent to the amendment made to that treaty by the Senate; whereby the supplies of goods, provisions and other articles of necessity, originally agreed to be furnished them annually for a period of fifty, were limited to the shorter term of ten years. The act of the 3d of March last, making the appropriation for the second of these instalments, provided that the same should not be paid to the Indians until they had assented to the Senate's amendment; and the agent was instructed accordingly. The report of this officer, herewith transmitted, evidences the satisfactory manner in which he has discharged the important duties confided to him in this connection, and as containing highly valuable information touching our relations with the prairie and mountain tribes, and grave suggestions relative to our future policy in reference to them, commends itself to the attention and consideration of all who may take an interest in the future of this unfortunate class of our Indian population.

There is but a single agent for all the Indians of the Upper Arkansas and Platte rivers, and the immense region lying between them and between our frontier tribes and the Rocky mountains. From the great extent of this agency, the numerous Indians within it, and the extreme distance between the larger bodies of them, it is wholly beyond the power of one person to manage, whatever may be his qualifications. The Indians of the Arkansas, consisting of the northern Comanches, Kioways, and others, are numerous, mischievously inclined, and infest the direct route to Santa Fé. Their intercourse with the Indians of New Mexico is of decidedly evil tendency; and they either take part in the annual predatory expeditions into the frontier provinces of the Mexican republic, or are, to a considerable extent, the agents and

instruments through which those engaged in these lawless forays dispose of their ill-gotten plunder. For the purpose of exercising some degree of influence over, and as far as possible controlling them, a separate agent, located in their vicinity, is indispensably necessary. For like reasons, and for the better protection of our overland emigrants to California and Oregon, a separate agent is likewise required for the Indians on the upper waters of the Platte river. I therefore respectfully renew the recommendation of a former Commissioner of Indian Affairs, that this agency be divided and another agent appointed.

Several topics of interest connected with the semi-civilized tribes of the southern superintendency are deserving of special notice. During the past summer several of them, but more particularly the Cherokees and Creeks, sent delegates to attend a general council, concerted among themselves, to be held with the Comanches and other wild tribes of the prairies; the object of which was to compromise apprehended difficulties likely to arise out of depredations and other outrages committed by the latter, and to come to some agreement for the establishment of peaceful relations between them in future. It was the intention of the more enlightened tribes to seize this opportunity of endeavoring to make a salutary impression upon their wilder brethren, by fully representing to them their relations to the United States, our power to chastise and punish them for their aggressions, and the consequent necessity of their remaining peaceable and friendly, as well with our citizens as with other tribes. High waters and other unfavorable circumstances preventing a full attendance from the various tribes expected to be represented, the meeting proved too insignificant to justify an expectation of any very flattering results; yet the excellent motive by which our border tribes were actuated that participated in this movement entitles them to the commendation of the government. A general council of this kind, and for like objects, under the immediate auspices and patronage of the government, is highly desirable, and I respectfully recommend an application to Congress for a small appropriation for the purpose.

The Cherokees, desirous of multiplying their already numerous schools, and thus to diffuse more widely and more rapidly the blessings of education, and anxious to discharge themselves of an onerous public debt—in part contracted, it is believed, for the above object—manifested a desire, in order to obtain means for those commendable purposes, to retrocede to the government the tract of eight hundred thousand acres of land, added to their former possessions by the treaty of New Echota; but the delegation from the tribe, after several interviews with the department last spring, withdrew the proposition. It is supposed, however, that it will be renewed during the approaching winter. This tract, which projects north along the western boundary of Missouri, lies detached from their country, and has not been settled by them. It is not probable that they will ever have use for it; their other lands being ample for all their purposes.

Intelligence has recently been received of a most dastardly and inhuman outrage perpetrated in the Cherokee nation; Andrew and Washington Adair, peaceable and unoffending citizens of the nation, having

been deliberately and brutally murdered in cold blood by an armed mob of Cherokees, about one hundred in number. It having been reported that these lawless persons, reinforced by others, meditated still further acts of violence and bloodshed, which it was feared the authorities of the nation, unaided, could not prevent, there appeared to be imminent danger of a state of "domestic strife," requiring the interposition of the strong arm of the government, in conformity with the provisions of the 6th article of the treaty of 1835-'36 with the tribe. As a measure of precaution it was therefore deemed proper to request that the military force on that frontier be placed subject to the requisition of the superintendent of Indian affairs there, to be employed if requisite in protecting the lives and property of Cherokees that might be in danger, and preventing the further effusion of blood. There being, however, no disposition of interference, unnecessarily, in the domestic affairs of the Cherokees, it is hoped there will be no occasion for such a proceeding; and that the authorities of the tribe will be able to prevent further outrage, and to bring those concerned in that committed to a just punishment.

I deem it incumbent upon me to call particular attention to that portion of the interesting report of Superintendent Drew referring to the question of the amenability of Indians to the penalties of the law prohibiting the introduction or sale of ardent spirits in the Indian country; a question which has recently caused great excitement among the Creeks, and may lead to serious difficulty. This, and the other semi-civilized tribes on that frontier within his superintendency, have adopted stringent laws upon the subject, which are regularly and rigidly enforced against their own people guilty of the offence; while, according to judicial interpretation in that quarter, they are also amenable under our law. Thus, an Indian, though he may have been severely punished by his tribe for introducing or disposing of liquor, is liable to arrest and punishment a second time for the same offence; a result certainly contrary to the spirit of our institutions, and as repugnant to the Indian as it would be to ourselves. It is one to which the Creeks appear determined not to submit. Individuals of their nation, seized by the United States marshal last summer, were rescued by them; and a second effort of that officer to arrest these persons has led to great excitement. A considerable number have banded together and armed themselves to resist the attempt at all hazards; and in case of failure, they threaten the lives of those of their chiefs who have been instrumental and active in the adoption and enforcement of their own law. The Superintendent, deeming it prudent to interpose for the stay of further proceedings until the views of the department could be obtained, the subject was recently submitted for your consideration.

The enforcement against Indians, by criminal prosecution, of the law to prohibit the introduction or sale of liquor in the Indian country, is believed to be contrary, not only to the intention of the framers of that law, but also to the principle, uniformly acted on in respect to all of the tribes, of as little direct interference as possible in their internal and domestic affairs. Hence offences, and other matters of even greater concern, are left to be settled entirely by themselves.

By the second and third articles of the treaty with the Creek Indians

of November 23d, 1838, the sum of four hundred thousand dollars was stipulated to be allowed for property abandoned and lost by individuals of the tribe, in consequence of their forced and compulsory removal west of the Mississippi river. Fifty thousand dollars of the amount was to be furnished in stock animals, to be distributed in proportion to the loss in each case, as set forth in a schedule which accompanied the treaty. The remaining three hundred and fifty thousand dollars were to be invested "for the benefit of the individuals of the Creek nation referred to in the preceding article," so as to secure them five per cent. annually. By the fourth article, however, this fund, at the end of twenty-five years from the date of the treaty, is to be wrested from the individuals to whom it really belongs, and given to the nation at large. This feature of the treaty has long excited feelings of discontent and dissatisfaction, which continue to increase with the approach of the period when the change is to take place. Those of the chiefs living who signed the treaty assert that they did not understand this provision as it is, and deny that they ever assented to any such arrangement; while the individuals directly interested aver that they will never yield their right to the fund. It has been, and continues to be, regarded as theirs by the whole tribe; but it is feared such will not be the feeling when the time arrives for all to participate in it. To avoid serious difficulty that may then arise, the chiefs representing the claimants and the entire tribe have made a strong appeal to have the whole amount paid over to the individuals to whom it belongs; and it is highly desirable that this be done, especially as the interest—amounting, in many cases, to but a few cents—is to the great majority of them of no benefit whatever.

The political connexion between the Choctaws and Chickasaws, established through the agency of the government, by the convention of 1837, under which the Chickasaws form a component part of the Choctaw nation, and are subject to its laws, still continues, notwithstanding the earnest and persevering efforts of the Chickasaws to induce the Choctaws to consent to a dissolution thereof. The interests of the Chickasaws, particularly of a pecuniary character, are materially variant from those of the other tribe, and they are naturally anxious to enjoy the satisfaction and advantages of a separate government of their own. The consummation of this reasonable desire would, without doubt, have a decided tendency to promote their advancement and permanent prosperity. It is much to be regretted, however, that the Choctaws, to whom the union is of no advantage whatever, still continue indisposed to yield to the natural and reasonable wishes of their brethren, and those of the government, on this subject.

The earnest efforts of the department to effect the emigration of the Seminole Indians still remaining in Florida, under arrangements heretofore fully reported, having failed of complete success, they have again been placed in charge of the military branch of the service. The number detached from Florida and removed to their country west of the Mississippi, during the short period they were under the jurisdiction of this office, was thirty-six.

The three small tribes of Senecas, Senecas and Shawnees, and Quapaws, are extending their agricultural improvements. Members of

all these tribes apply themselves to cultivating the soil, but the Senecas and Senecas and Shawnees are the most thrifty. They will realize from their crops of the past year of grain, vegetables, &c., a sufficiency for their own consumption during this winter and some for sale. Most of them have large stocks of cattle, horses, and hogs, for which a ready market is found within their nation. The Quapaws are a harmless, inoffensive people, but, with few exceptions, indolent. Those who are industrious and labor on the farm reap a rich harvest for their toil, and are thus enabled to aid their indolent brethren. The Senecas and Senecas and Shawnees are opposed to the establishment of schools in their country. The Quapaws' school fund has been transferred to the Osage manual labor school, where the children of the Quapaws are educated. The Osages—those who are adults—are reported by their agent as wild and untamable, and that it is impossible to induce them to change their habits of living. They go twice a year out on the grand prairies, some six or eight hundred miles, in the pursuit of buffalo, deer, and antelope, and trade with the wild Indians of the north and northwest.

As a measure of economy and greater convenience, the headquarters of the superintendent for this district have been removed from Van Buren to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where, by the order of the Secretary of War, accommodations for his office will be afforded in one of the public buildings connected with the military post at that place, and where, also, adequate protection for the large amounts of public money, at times in the custody of the superintendent, may be had from the military. The clerkship of this, as well as that of the northern superintendency, has been discontinued.

The removal from Texas of the various bands of Indians belonging to tribes on the frontiers of our western States, who, contrary to their treaty obligations, have for some time been settled in different localities in that State, has been nearly, if not entirely, consummated, as provided by the act of August, 1852, appropriating \$25,000 for the purpose. It will for some time, however, require constant watchfulness on the part of the agents of their respective tribes, as well as of the military at the posts in their vicinity and in Texas, to prevent their return.

In regard to the Indians properly belonging to this State, and those generally within our newly-acquired and remote possessions, there is, in my judgment, but one plan by which they can be saved from dire calamities, if not entire extermination, and that is, to colonize them in suitable locations, limited in extent, and distant as possible from the white settlements, and to teach and aid them to devote themselves to the cultivation of the soil and the raising of stock. This plan would be attended with considerable cost in the outset, as will any other that can be suggested for their safety and permanent welfare; but the expenses would diminish from year to year, and in the end it would, I am confident, be much the most economical that can be devised. Thus far we have adopted no particular or systematic course of policy in regard to any of these Indians except those in California. They have been left to roam over immense districts of country, frequently coming into hostile collision with our citizens, and committing depredations and outrages upon them, as well as upon those of a neighboring

republic. The pursuits of the chase no longer affording them an adequate subsistence, in consequence of the increasing scarcity of the game, necessity alone must often force them into these aggressions upon the whites for the mere purpose of obtaining necessary food. Failing to restrain and control them, we are obligated and bound, by every principle of right and justice, to indemnify those who suffer from their depredations. The present condition of things continuing, there can be no doubt that the amounts which will be required to pay for such depredations, added to the cost of maintaining, at great expense, an otherwise unnecessarily large military force in the distant territories occupied by these Indians, would far more than suffice, even for the first few and most expensive years of the system, for the whole cost of concentrating and sustaining the Indians in the manner suggested. As the only apparent practicable and humane arrangement, calculated to remedy existing evils and to prevent future calamity to these people, I feel constrained to give it my earnest recommendation. It has already been in part sanctioned in regard to the Indians in California, and during the present year it has been tried with a portion of those in New Mexico, with an encouraging degree of success. Indeed, the history and condition of the Pueblo Indians amply attest its entire practicability. It is strongly recommended for the Indians in Texas by our experienced and efficient principal agent there, who states that he has consulted them upon the subject; that some are anxious for the adoption of such a system; and that all would gladly yield and submit to it. He indicates particular districts of country as suitable for fixed locations for them, and furnishes an estimate of the cost of concentrating and maintaining them for the first year, as follows:

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| 1st. Southern Comanches: for subsistence, agricultural implements, seeds, wagons and oxen, stock cattle, blacksmith work, and contingent expenses..... | \$28,810 |
| 2d. Ionics, Ana-dali-kas, Wacoos, Tah-wah-carros, and Wichita, the same..... | 28,810 |
| 3d. Ton-ka-luces, Lipans, and Musaleros, the same..... | 28,810 |
| In all..... | <u>\$86,430</u> |

The districts designated by the agent are within the boundaries of Texas, but remote from any of the settlements, and presenting but little inducement for a white population. It would be essential to the success of the plan, however, that the United States be invested with exclusive jurisdiction and supreme control over the reservations, in order effectually to protect the Indians from unlawful intrusions, to guard against improper intercourse between them and the whites, and, especially, to prevent the introduction into their midst of that curse of their race, ardent spirits.

But few outrages of an aggravated character have been reported as having occurred among the Indians in New Mexico since the last annual report. In the early part of the present season, the late governor and superintendent of Indian affairs there formed the project of removing all the Indians that were within that part of the territory extending

from its southern and eastern boundary to the Arkansas on the north, and the Rio Grande on the west, and colonizing them, in suitable locations, on the west side of the last named river. Such of them as were consulted upon the subject readily assented to the proposition, and a small portion were removed accordingly, and arrangements made for furnishing them with a limited supply of subsistence, until the crops which were planted for their benefit could mature. They remained quiet and peaceable, and manifested a proper disposition to aid and assist in the agricultural labor. But no such enterprise having been sanctioned by Congress or the Executive, and the very limited means provided for the Indian service in the territory being entirely inadequate, this office felt constrained to order a suspension of further proceedings until the whole subject could be fully considered, the best course of permanent policy determined, and the means necessary to carry it out provided. The present governor and superintendent suggests and recommends a different arrangement—that cessions be obtained from all the Indians in the territory of their lands in the vicinity of the white settlements, and annuities in money allowed them therefor, out of which payment shall regularly be made for all the depredations which the Indians may commit. He thinks that this plan would be the most economical, and that the constant liability to this tax upon their annuities would restrain the Indians from the perpetration of their usual outrages upon our citizens. To such an arrangement, however there are grave objections.

Paying for depredations committed by Indians out of their annuities, instead of operating as a check upon them, serves, with the viciously inclined, rather as an incentive to the practice. The criminal alone is not made to pay the penalty, as, in all cases of any consequence, his proportion of the annuity is wholly inadequate for that purpose. The loss falls upon the whole tribe in common—the innocent and well-disposed being made to suffer equally with the guilty; the latter reaps all the advantage of his crime, and pays only an inconsiderable pro-rata part of the compensation made. Nor do the Indians feel the effect of the penalty at the time of the perpetration of the offence, when, if at all, it would be best calculated to make a salutary impression. The payment is made by the government for the depreciation out of their annuities, but they do not realize the fact until their funds are distributed—months, probably, after the offence—which being then forgotten or but little thought of, the deduction from their funds is regarded as an act of hardship and injustice.

At the last session of Congress an appropriation of \$250,000 was made to defray the expenses of removing the Indians in California to "five military reservations," of not more than twenty-five thousand acres each, and subsisting them there, should the President of the United States approve this plan of operations. It having received his sanction, suitable instructions for carrying it into effect were promptly issued to the superintendent of Indian affairs for that State, then in this city; but in consequence of the length of time unfortunately consumed in his overland journey, the requisite initiatory measures for that purpose have been somewhat delayed. Reports upon the subject have only been recently received from him, copies of which are appended. 1

regret to say that these reports make known a state of things much less favorable, with respect to the practicability, expense, and probable success of this plan of operations, than was anticipated from the information possessed when it was authorized by Congress and sanctioned by the President. It appears that suitable locations cannot be found or cannot properly be made in North California for the Indians in that quarter. Their removal and colonization will, therefore, it is apprehended, be attended with greater difficulty and expense than was expected. And instead of there being ample territory for the purpose belonging to the United States, as was supposed, it also seems that, in the only sections of country proper for the location of the Indians, we may be compelled, in order to obtain the necessary reservations, to incur considerable expense in making extensive purchases of existing claims to the lands, founded upon pre-emption rights and Spanish and Mexican grants. Considering the difficulty now encountered in finding suitable locations, the wonderful growth of the State, and the consequent rapidly-increasing necessity for agricultural lands, I am impressed with the painful apprehension that long before the Indians can be domesticated and fitted to become a constituent part of the permanent population of the State, they must necessarily again be encroached upon and ousted from their reservations. The superintendent reports, that under the counsel and advice of the congressional representatives of the State he shall proceed to purchase the individual rights to lands embraced in the reservations, subject to ratification by Congress; and it also appears that, in addition to subsistence, he is making arrangements to supply the Indians with stock, agricultural implements, seeds, and other means of self-support and improvement. These proceedings are not warranted either by the law or his instructions, but are in contravention of both, though there can be no doubt that the plan, in being restricted by the law to the mere removal and subsistence of the Indians, is radically defective. Considerations of economy and philanthropy—the interests of the government, as well as the permanent welfare of the Indians—equally and alike require that the plan be so enlarged as to provide all the essential means and instrumentalities of improving, civilizing, and making them a self-sustaining people.

In conformity with a proviso in the law, the three agencies in California have been abolished, leaving the superintendent only to manage and control the hundred thousand Indians in that State. However active and energetic he may be, the utter impracticability of his being able, unaided and alone, to discharge even a material part of the numerous and complex duties towards the Indians and the government, necessarily incident to the new system of operations, must be too manifest to need the least argument.

It is understood that an important feature of the plan, as originally projected, was the substitution for the three principal agents, who have been discharged, of five sub or minor agents—one for each reservation; and the superintendent reports that it is essential to the success of the scheme that they be provided.

As in Texas and New Mexico, our relations with the Indians in Utah and Oregon remain in a very unsettled and precarious condition, arising out of the constant and unavoidable encroachments upon their ter-

ritories by the whites, and no provision being made for indemnifying and placing them beyond the reach of the injuries thus inflicted. Already have difficulties of a serious character, resulting in bloodshed and loss of the lives of valuable citizens, taken place. Indeed, hostilities with the Indians in all these sections of country may be said to be constantly impending, the occurrence of which in either would, in all probability, involve an amount of expense far exceeding the cost of arrangements that would secure peace and tranquillity with the various tribes, and at the same time tend to promote their domestication and permanent welfare.

In view, however, of the uncertainty necessarily attending all speculations upon the question of the proper course of policy to be pursued towards the Indians in our remote territories, and the impossibility of forming conclusions of a reliable character from the diverse, varying, and often contradictory suggestions and recommendations of the different agents and others, it is respectfully suggested, as a wise and prudent precaution, that commissioners—able, impartial, upright, and practical men—be appointed, as soon as possible, to proceed to Texas, California, and the Territories of New Mexico, Utah, Oregon, and Washington, for the purpose of investigating the whole subject of our Indian relations there, and of negotiating and recommending such conventional and other arrangements as may be required to place them upon a safe, stable, and satisfactory footing.

The numerous claims for Indian depredations from nearly all sections of the country where there is intercourse and proximity between the whites and Indians, are a source of great perplexity and embarrassment. The act of June 30, 1834, "to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes and to preserve peace on the frontiers," guarantees indemnity for such depredations upon the property of our citizens committed by tribes in amity with the United States; and provides that they shall be paid for out of the annuities of the Indians, if they receive any, otherwise out of the treasury. The requisite authority to adjudicate and pay the latter class of claims, in like manner with other recognised obligations, has never been given; while, in respect to the former, the power to pay them out of the annuities is virtually abrogated by provisions contained in acts making appropriations for the Indian department, passed at the last two sessions of Congress; requiring, as they do, all annuities and other Indian moneys to be paid directly to the Indian or Indians to whom they are due *per capita*, and without deduction for any purpose whatever, "unless the imperious interest of the Indian or Indians, or some treaty stipulation, shall require the payment to be made otherwise, under the special direction of the President." Compensation for depredations not being required by treaty stipulation, nor by any imperious interest of the Indians, payment of this latter class of claims must, therefore, also fall upon the treasury; and appropriations should be made by Congress to enable the department to fulfil these just and recognised obligations towards our frontier citizens, who are so liable to suffer from such depredations.

The results of long and ample experience conclusively prove that the money-annuity system has done as much, if not more, to cripple and thwart the efforts of the government to domesticate and civilize our

Indian tribes, than any other of the many serious obstacles with which we have had to contend. As a principle, applicable with but occasional exceptions so long as an Indian remains in expectation of money from the government, it is next to impossible to induce him to take the first step towards civilization, which step is to settle himself in a fixed habitation and commence the cultivation of the soil. However inadequate the pittance he may be entitled to receive, he continues to look forward to it in the vague expectation of its sufficiency; and lives on from year to year an idle and dependent being, and dies miserably as he had lived. Whatever may be the extent of consideration allowed for lands hereafter ceded to the government by an undomesticated tribe, it should consist chiefly of goods, subsistence, agricultural implements, and assistance, stock animals, and the means of mental, moral, and industrial education and training. Let this principle be adopted with all the tribes, wherever located, to whom we have not set the pernicious precedent of payments in money, and thus freed from the injurious effects of money annuities, they will present a more favorable field for the efforts of the philanthropist and Christian.

The present license system, by which, under the Intercourse act, trade is regulated among the Indian tribes, is defective; and, as administered for many years, it has become an evil of magnitude. The whole trade of the Indian tribes is thrown into a few hands—a monopoly is built up, and an interest fostered, which from the very nature of things becomes formidable, and is liable to be wielded against the views and wishes of the government, and the true interest of the Indians.

The conversion of the debts due by individual Indians to their traders into what is known or denominated as "National Debts," and the appropriation of the annuities for their payment, is unjust to all the Indians who pay their obligations, and who are endeavoring by their own application and labor to sustain themselves, and is the fruitful source of corruption and fraud, and should meet with no favor from the officers of the government.

There is no absolute necessity for the employment by Indian tribes of attorneys or agents to attend to their business at the seat of government. In the dependent condition of the Indians, it is the duty of the government, as their guardian, 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.

The act, approved June 30, 1834, "to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontier," requires important modification to make its provisions applicable to the existing condition of Indian relations. Nearly twenty years have elapsed since its adoption, and the consequent natural changes within this period render it necessary that additional legislation should be had to conform to the present and anticipated state of our Indian affairs. Defects are found to exist in several sections of the act which would render them inoperative in cases where the law is violated. A new code of regulations is greatly needed for this branch of the public service. That now in force was adopted many years since, and, in many particulars, has become obsolete or inapplicable, especially in our new and distant territories. The regulations now existing are based upon laws in force

respecting Indian affairs, and the President has authority, under the act of June 30, 1834, providing for the organization of the department of Indian Affairs, to prescribe such rules as he may think fit for carrying into effect its provisions.

The appropriations for the current expenses of our remote Indian service, for the present year, being far short of the sums estimated therefor, and entirely inadequate, deficiencies, probably to fill the amount of the reductions made in the estimates by Congress, will have to be provided for at the next session of that body.

The traffic in ardent spirits with the Indians, to whom it is so demoralizing and ruinous, still actively and extensively prevails; less however within the confines of the Indian country, it is believed, than along its borders, where there is no law, and no power on the part of the general government to restrain it. This traffic is here carried on with impunity by a set of lawless harpies, as reckless as they are merciless in pursuit of the ill-gotten gains to be thereby acquired. Some years since a strong appeal was made by the head of this department to the authorities of several of the frontier States, for the purpose of endeavoring to procure such legislation on the part of those States as would tend to uproot this widespread evil, but without success. Hence it still flourishes in violation of all law, human and divine; the fruitful source of crime and untold misery, and the frequent cause of serious brawls and disturbances upon the frontiers, as well as within the Indian country. It having been found that the Indians, on the faith of their annuities, frequently obtain liquor on credit, from the class of persons referred to, and that they collect these "whisky debts" at the annuity payments, to the prejudice of the licensed and legitimate traders among the Indians, it is intended hereafter, as far as possible, to keep such persons out of the Indian country entirely, and especially at the time of the payments.

As among the best of the many recommendations made of late years for the correction of evils connected with our Indian system, I would call attention to that contained in the annual report of last year, in favor of the substitution of new treaties for the heterogeneous mass now existing, and which, in many respects, are found to be crude, inharmonious, and often contradictory. This measure might be made the means of simplifying our relations with the various tribes with which we have treaty stipulations; of insuring a more judicious and beneficial application of their funds, and of promoting economy in the administration of our Indian affairs.

The preparation of the fourth volume of the work on the history, condition, and prospects of the Indian tribes of the United States, is nearly completed, and it will be published with as little delay as practicable.

The whole amount payable and to be expended for and on account of the Indian service, the present fiscal year, is \$1,015,735 50.

Of which \$532,907 81 is for money annuities;

136,676 50 for goods and provisions;

61,961 89 for educational purposes;

94,318 80 for agricultural and mechanical assistance; and

189,870 50 for other miscellaneous purposes for the benefit of the Indians.

In the annual report of last year the fact was referred to that stipulations in various Indian treaties requiring large amounts to be invested in safe and profitable stocks, for the benefit of the Indians, have never been carried out; the United States having retained the principal and paid the interest thereon from the treasury from year to year. The obligation and the advantage to the United States of making these investments, as provided for by the several treaties, were fully set forth, and appropriations for that purpose recommended. It was also suggested, for reasons cogently stated, as being advisable to invest in like manner the considerable amounts funded, or "held in trust" for Indians by the United States, and on which an annual interest is paid from the treasury; as well as such sums as would produce the amounts of the "permanent annuities" and other permanent annual dues paid to and expended for various tribes. The several amounts to be thus invested, should the suggestion be approved, are as follows, viz:

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| 1st. Amount required by treaty stipulations to be invested in stocks, but which has not been..... | \$2,396,600 00 |
| 2d. Amount funded or "held in trust," and interest paid thereon by the United States..... | 4,344,000 00 |
| 3d. Principal at 5 per cent. of "permanent annuities" and other permanent dues paid to and expended annually for various tribes..... | 2,825,000 00 |
| | \$9,565,600 00 |

The judicious investment of this large sum, while in no case prejudicial to the interests of the Indians concerned, and capable of being made, to some extent, beneficial to them, would be attended with advantage to the United States—first, in absorbing a considerable portion of the present large and useless surplus of funds accumulated in the treasury; and, second, in relieving the government from the payment of the immense sums which the annual interest and payments on the above-stated principals must eventually amount to—the interest equaling the principal every twenty years. Nor would this measure be without advantage to the States whose stocks might be selected, and to the community generally, diffusing, as it would, a considerable sum throughout the country, and keeping at home valuable means of investment, as well as the interest thereon, which might otherwise have to be sent abroad.

I deem it proper to call your attention to the fact, that "the act to establish the Territorial government of Washington," approved March 2, 1853, makes no provision for the appointment of Indian agents within that territory. It is very desirable that the omission should be supplied by Congress as early as practicable during the next session.

The governor and *ex-officio* superintendent of Indian affairs for this Territory having been charged by the Secretary of War with the exploration and survey of a northern route for the proposed railroad to the Pacific, was directed to avail himself of the opportunities thus af-

forded to acquaint the department, as fully as possible, with the condition of Indian affairs in that quarter. To his letters, which have been written from time to time while en route, you are respectfully referred, as not only affording important information, but as containing many valuable suggestions and recommendations with regard to the future policy of the government relative to those Indian tribes with whom he has had communication.

On the important and deeply interesting subject of the civilization and improvement of our Indians, I have but little to say; less, doubtless, than may be expected, considering the flattering accounts of the "rapid improvement" and "rapid advancement in civilization" of the various frontier tribes generally, contained in the reports on the subject of their condition and prospects. Judging from these in past years, most of the tribes that have been under our immediate supervision, for considerable periods, should by this time have attained to an advanced state of civilization and improvement; but, unhappily, this is not the case with any; yet, that many have made an encouraging degree of progress, in acquiring the elements of a rude civilization, cannot be denied. The circumstance of their having abandoned the hunter state, with most of its wild habits and characteristics, and adopted the more peaceful and profitable pursuit of agriculture, is, of itself, a great and important step in the tedious process of their civilization. And, to the full extent of the resources available for that purpose, every favorable opportunity has been seized upon by the government, and by most of the Christian denominations throughout the land, to introduce and multiply amongst them the means and instrumentalities of education and moral and social elevation.

Much has certainly been effected, but far more remains yet to be done, to secure and accomplish the full and complete regeneration of this singular but interesting race within our borders; but the object is a noble one, and in all respects deserving of the attention and energies of the government and of a great Christian people.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,

Commissioner.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,
Secretary of the Interior.

Reports of Superintendents of Indian Affairs, Agents, Superintendents and Teachers of Schools in the Indian country, &c., accompanying the annual report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for the year 1853.

- No. 1.—Instructions from the Secretary of the Interior to Commissioner George W. Manypenny.
- No. 2.—Report of Commissioner G. W. Manypenny.
- No. 3.—Report of Marcus H. Johnson, sub-agent for New York Indians.
- No. 4.—Report of Henry C. Gilbert, agent for Indians in Michigan.
- No. 5.—Mission report of Rev. James Shaw.
- No. 6.—Mission report of Rev. A. Bingham.
- No. 7.—Mission report of Rev. George Smith.
- No. 8.—School report of Right Rev. P. P. Lefevre.
- No. 9.—School report of A. Lacoste.
- No. 10.—Mission report of Rev. F. H. Cumming.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 11.—Report of superintendent Francis Huebschmann.
- No. 12.—Report of sub-agent John V. Suydam.
- No. 13.—Abstract of school reports, by John V. Suydam.
- No. 14.—School report of Jeremiah Slingerland.

MINNESOTA SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 15.—Report of Gov. Willis A. Gorman, superintendent *ex officio*.
- No. 16.—Report of agent D. B. Herriman.
- No. 17.—School report of James Loyd Breck.
- No. 18.—School report of Sherman Hall.
- No. 19.—Report of agent J. E. Fletcher.
- No. 20.—School report of Francis D. Vivaldi.
- No. 21.—Report of agent R. G. Murphy.
- No. 22.—Mission report of Rev. Thomas J. Williamson.
- No. 23.—Mission report of Rev. S. R. Riggs.
- No. 24.—Farm report of P. Prescott.

CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 25.—Report of superintendent A. Cumming.
- No. 26.—Report of agent John W. Whitfield.
- No. 27.—School report of D. Lykins.
- No. 28.—School report of J. B. Duerink.
- No. 29.—Report of agent D. Vanderslice.
- No. 30.—School report of Sarah Rea.
- No. 31.—School report of S. M. Irwin.
- No. 32.—School report of James Williams.
- No. 33.—Farm report of Harvey W. Forman.
- No. 34.—Report of agent B. F. Robinson.
- No. 35.—School report of "Friends."

- No. 36.—School report of E. S. Morse and J. G. Pratt.
- No. 37.—School report of Francis Barker.
- No. 38.—School report of Thomas Johnson.
- No. 39.—Report of agent B. A. James.
- No. 40.—Mission report of Rev. Jotham Meeker.
- No. 41.—Report of agent James M. Gatewood.
- No. 42.—School report of William Hamilton.
- No. 43.—Report of agent Alfred J. Vaughn.
- No. 44.—Report of agent Thomas Fitzpatrick.

SOUTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 45.—Report of superintendent Thomas S. Drew.
- No. 46.—Report of agent A. J. Dorn.
- No. 47.—School report of John Schoenmaker.
- No. 48.—Report of agent George Butler.
- No. 49.—Mission and school report of Rev. S. A. Worcester.
- No. 50.—School report of H. D. Reese.
- No. 51.—School report of D. B. Cummings.
- No. 52.—Report of agent W. H. Garrett.
- No. 53.—School report of D. P. Aspberry.
- No. 54.—School report of E. Stidham.
- No. 55.—School report of Mary Lewis.
- No. 56.—School report of Thomas B. Ruble.
- No. 57.—Mission report of Rev. E. B. Duncan.
- No. 58.—School report of Thomas C. Carr.
- No. 59.—School report of R. M. Loughbridge.
- No. 60.—School report of William H. Templeton.
- No. 61.—School report of D. G. Watson.
- No. 62.—School report of A. L. Hay.
- No. 63.—Report of sub-agent B. H. Smithson.
- No. 64.—Report of agent A. J. Smith.
- No. 65.—School report of J. C. Robinson.
- No. 66.—Report of agent D. H. Cooper.
- No. 67.—School report of Jason D. Chamberlain.
- No. 68.—School report of Edwin Lathrop.
- No. 69.—School report of H. B. Wright.
- No. 70.—School report of C. Kingsbury.
- No. 71.—School report of R. D. Potts.
- No. 72.—School report of Alexander Reid.
- No. 73.—School report of E. Hotchkins.
- No. 74.—School report of Cyrus Byington.
- No. 75.—School report of John Harrell.
- No. 76.—School report of W. L. McAlister.
- No. 77.—School report of N. M. Talbott.

TEXAS.

- No. 78.—Report of principal special agent R. S. Neighbors

NEW MEXICO.

- No. 79.—Report of Governor D. Meriwether, superintendent *ex officio*.
 No. 80.—Report of agent E. A. Graves.

UTAH.

- No. 80½.—Report of Gov. Brigham Young, superintendent *ex officio*.
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