

## REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office Indian Affairs, November 30, 1857.*

SIR: The accompanying reports and statements from the several superintendents, agents and teachers furnish valuable and interesting information in regard to the condition and prospects of our various Indian tribes, and exhibit in detail the operations of this branch of the public service during the past year.

The New York Indians continue gradually to improve; they have generally adopted agricultural and mechanical pursuits, and, to a considerable extent, the habits and customs of their white brethren. A treaty recently entered into with the Tonawanda band of Senecas, should it receive the favorable consideration of the Senate, will, it is hoped, terminate the complicated and embarrassing difficulties which for some years have materially interfered with their happiness and welfare.

The treaties of July 31, and August 2, 1855, with the several bands of Indians in Michigan, provided for a material change in their condition and relations. They were relieved from the obligation to remove west of the Mississippi river; secured limited but sufficient quantities of land, to be held in severalty, and were provided with ample means for educational purposes. Under the liberal legislation of the State they can attain to citizenship, and it is hoped that, by a discreet and judicious supervision of their affairs on the part of the general government, and such co-operation as may be requisite by the authorities of the State, aided by the kindness and benevolence of her citizens, they may soon be prepared for the enjoyment of that high privilege.

The treaty of 1854 with the Menomonees, and that of 1856 with the Stockbridges of Wisconsin, released those tribes from their engagements to emigrate west of the Mississippi, to which they were opposed, and located them in other positions within the State, where, it is hoped, they will improve and eventually become fitted for and invested with citizenship.

The small band of Oneidas, formerly of New York, remain in the vicinity of Green Bay, where they were placed by the treaty of 1837. They are advanced in civilization, and there is no good reason why they should not thrive and prosper, if the State authorities would rigidly prohibit the traffic with them in ardent spirits.

By the treaties of September 30, 1854, and February 22, 1855, the great Chippewa tribe, residing in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the northern peninsula of Michigan, ceded nearly the whole of the lands owned by them to the government; there being set apart for the dif-

ferent bands, however, a suitable number of reservations, limited in extent, where it should be the policy to concentrate and confine them, and every exertion used to induce them to adopt the habits and pursuits of civilized life.

As stated in the last annual report of my predecessor, we have no treaty arrangements with the Red Lake Chippewas and a few other scattered bands of Indians next to the British possessions, and in the valley of the Red River of the North. They are poor and need assistance, and it would be good policy to extinguish their title to lands in that region, and to locate them on a small reservation where they could be suitably and humanely provided for.

The other Indians in Minnesota consist of the various bands of the Dacotahs, or Sioux, and the Winnebagoes; the latter located in the southern portion of the Territory, and reported to be doing well. The agent is, however, of the opinion that their reservation is too large, and that it would contribute materially to their advancement to reduce it, and to assign them a limited quantity of land in severalty, so as to give them an idea of individual property, and a greater incentive to personal exertion and industry. The principal body of the Sioux consist of the four bands of Med-a-wah-kan-toans and Wah-pah-coo-tahs, known as the lower or Mississippi Sioux, and the Wah-pay-toans and Se-see-toans, or upper Sioux. These are located on two reservations set apart for them by the treaties of July and August, 1851, where strenuous efforts are being made to induce them to improve their habits and condition.

It was a small outlawed and reckless band of these Indians that committed the murders and outrages at the white settlement at Spirit Lake in March last, but who, on the requirement of the department, have since been severely punished by their brethren for their lawless and atrocious conduct; this having been determined to be a better course than to cause the chastisement to be inflicted by our troops.

A portion of the Indians embraced within the two agencies for the tribes on and in the vicinity of the upper and headwaters of the Missouri river have, within the past year, been severely scourged by the smallpox; as many as two thousand of them having, it is estimated, been carried off by that disease. Otherwise nothing of an unusual character has taken place among them. These Indians comprise eight different bands of restless and wandering Sioux, with the Arickarees, Gros Ventres, Mandans, Assinaboines, and Crows, all within the lower, and the Blackfeet who are within the upper agency. But small portions of the country occupied by them are suited for agricultural pursuits; and so long as the buffalo and other game within their reach afford them subsistence, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to break them of their wandering and unsettled habits. The agent reports that the Sioux to whom General Harney promised presents of clothing for their soldiers are very much dissatisfied with the non-compliance with that promise, and he recommends that Congress make provision for its fulfilment. An estimate for \$200,000, to be placed at the disposal of the department for that purpose, was presented by your predecessor to Congress at the last session of that body, but no appropriation was made. Concurring in the propriety and import-

ance of the measure, I respectfully recommend that the amount necessary to carry it out be appropriated.

Pursuant to the act of March 3, 1853, providing for negotiations with the Indians west of Missouri and Iowa, for the purpose of procuring their assent to the settlement of citizens of the United States on their lands, and of extinguishing their title thereto, in whole or in part, treaties were made during the preceding administration with the Ottos and Missouriias, Omahas, Delawares, Shawnees, Ioways, Sacs and Foxes of the Missouri, Kickapoos, Miamies, and the united tribes of the Kaskaskias, Peorias, Weas and Piankeshaws. The title of these Indians was thus extinguished to all the lands owned and claimed by them, except such portions as were reserved for their future homes; the lands so acquired for occupancy by our citizens in Kansas and Nebraska amounting to about 13,658,000 acres, and the lands retained for the use of the Indians to about 1,342,000 acres.

The lands ceded by the Delawares, except the strip known as the outlet, for which they were allowed a stipulated amount, and those acquired from the Ioways and the united tribes of Kaskaskias, Peorias, Weas and Piankeshaws, were to be, and have been, sold for their benefit. The amount realized for those of the Delawares is \$1,054,943 71; for those of the Ioways, \$184,437 85; and for those of the four united tribes, \$335,350. From these amounts is to be deducted the cost of surveying and selling the lands, and the remainder in each case is required to be invested in safe and profitable stocks, except so much as the President may deem proper to be applied to relieve the temporary necessities of the Indians during the time of their becoming settled and established on their reservations. The interest derived from the investments is to be annually paid over to them, or judiciously applied for their benefit.

The treaty of January 31, 1855, with the Wyandott Indians residing at the junction of the Missouri and Kansas rivers, provided for their investment with citizenship, and a division of their tribal lands among them. This division, it is understood, has been made, and resulted in giving to each soul about forty acres. This measure, the agent reports, has been attended with good results, a spirit of improvement having manifested itself beyond anything of the kind previously known among the Wyandotts. My personal observation enables me to concur in the report of the agent.

During the past summer an important and necessary treaty was also made with the Pawnees, through the operation of which, should it be approved by the Senate, the department hopes to be able to place these restless and lawless Indians in a settled location, to control them there, and to adopt effective measures for securing their material improvement. There is the like necessity for a similar treaty with the Poncas, who inhabit and claim a region of country on the Missouri and L'eau qui Court or Running Water rivers.

No conventional arrangements have been entered into since the act of March 3, 1853, with the following tribes residing in Kansas, viz: the Pottawatomies, the Kansas or Kaws, the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi, and the Osages. The policy of that act and the welfare,

if not the very existence of these Indians, require that new and different arrangements be made with them as soon as possible.

I concur tully with those of my predecessors who have stated that there have been too great and radical mistakes in our system of Indian policy—the assignment of an entirely too large body of land in common to the different tribes which have been relocated, and the payment of large money annuities for the cessions made by them; the first tending directly to prevent the Indians from acquiring settled habits and an idea of personal property and rights, which lie at the very foundation of all civilization; the second causing and fostering a feeling of dependence and habits of idleness, so fatally adverse to anything like physical and moral improvement. With regard to the Indians in Nebraska and Kansas especially, it is all important that these mistakes shall not be perpetuated or repeated. They are in a critical position. They have been saved as long as possible from the contact and pressure of white population, which has generally heretofore been regarded as fatal to the Indian. They are now becoming rapidly surrounded by such a population, full of enterprise and energy, and by which all the surplus lands, as far west as any of the border tribes reside, will necessarily soon be required for settlement. There is no place left where it is practicable to place these tribes separate and apart by themselves. Their destiny must be determined and worked out where they are. There they must advance and improve, and become fitted to take an active part in the ennobling struggles of civilization; or, remaining ignorant, imbecile and helpless, and acquiring only the fatal vices of civilized life, they must sink and perish, like thousands of their race before them. A solemn duty rests upon the government to do all in its power to save them from the latter fate, and there is no time to be lost in adopting all necessary measures to preserve, elevate, and advance them.

With large reservations of fertile and desirable land, entirely disproportioned to their wants for occupancy and support, it will be impossible, when surrounded by a dense white population, to protect them from constant disturbance, intrusion and spoliation by those on whom the obligations of law and justice rest but lightly; while their large annuities will subject them to the wiles and machinations of the inhuman trafficker in ardent spirits, the unprincipled gambler, and the greedy and avaricious trader and speculator. Their reservations should be restricted so as to contain only sufficient land to afford them a comfortable support by actual cultivation, and should be properly divided and assigned to them, with the obligation to remain upon and cultivate the same. The title should remain in the tribe, with the power reserved to the government, when any of them become sufficiently intelligent, sober and industrious, to grant them patents for the lands so assigned to them, but leaseable or alienable only to members of the tribe, until they become so far advanced as to be fitted for the enjoyment of all the rights and privileges of citizens of the United States. Their annuities should be taken and used for the erection of comfortable residences and requisite out-buildings, and otherwise in gradually improving their farms. Manual labor schools should be established, where they could learn how to conduct properly their agri-

cultural pursuits, and especially where the boys could be educated as farmers, and the girls in housewifery and the dairy; and where also there could be imparted to both the rudiments of a plain and useful education. Mechanics' shops should also be established where necessary, and where as many of the boys as possible should be placed and trained to a knowledge of the mechanic arts suited to the condition and wants of their people. It is, if possible, more important that the Indian should be taught to till the soil, and to labor in the mechanical shops, than to have even a common school education.

The adult Indians should be encouraged to cultivate the lands assigned to them, each to have the exclusive control, under the tribal right of his own possessions, and of the products of his own labor; and to encourage them to part with their children willingly to be instructed at the manual labor schools and in the mechanical shops, the surplus productions of the one or profits of the other should be divided among the parents of the children who aided to produce them. All these arrangements should be under the exclusive control of the department, as well as the annuities, so far as they can be withdrawn from that of the tribe, and applied to accomplish the objects mentioned.

No white person should be permitted to obtain any kind of possession or foothold within the limits of the reservations, nor even to enter them, except in the employ or by permission of the government, and none should be employed except such as would be actually necessary for the instruction of the Indians. Power should be conferred on the agents to eject summarily all intruders from the reservations. They should also be clothed with executive and judicial authority in matters pertaining to their agencies, and appeals from their decision be allowed to the superintendents, and thence to the department. But to carry out the system successfully, it would be necessary to relieve the Indians from the example of the worthless idlers and vagrants of the tribe, as well as those whose wild habits and roving dispositions would preclude them from settling down quietly and orderly. All such should be colonized by themselves in such positions as not to admit of much, if any, communication or intercourse with the settled portions of their tribes. For such colonies, places could be found somewhere about Bent's Fort and the heads of the Arkansas and Platte rivers.

This plan is applicable at present only to such Indians as those located in Nebraska and Kansas. The wilder tribes could not be brought at once within the entire system, as they could not at first brook the restraint and confinement. They must undergo a preliminary training, being gradually induced to abandon their nomadic and wandering habits and to settle down on larger reservations, where for a time they would have to be sustained until they could be influenced to make the necessary exertions to support themselves by cultivating the soil.

The settlement of the questions arising under various treaties in which reservations have been granted in severalty to Indians in Kansas and Nebraska presents many difficulties which I know of no way of overcoming, except by Congress authorizing the department to sell the lands and to control the proceeds thereof in such manner as to render them effective for the assistance and benefit of the reservees.



The reports in regard to the four great southwestern tribes, the Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws and Chickasaws, are very favorable. Their regularly organized and stable governments and laws well suited to their condition and circumstances, their general devotion to industrial pursuits, and their comparative national and industrial prosperity, evince a most creditable and gratifying degree of advancement in the fundamental elements of civilization. Some, if not all of them, appear to be expecting and preparing for an important change in their political and municipal relations with the United States, and there is no doubt that suitably organized territorial governments may, with great propriety and advantage, be extended to them at an early day. Until such a change shall become expedient, it is recommended that there shall be United States courts established at suitable points within the territory of these Indians, for the trial of cases arising there under our laws. The embarrassments and expense to which they are subjected in being compelled to attend the federal court in Arkansas, and the difficulty in securing the attendance of witnesses, give rise to cases of great hardship, amounting to a denial of justice.

I submit herewith a copy of the late annual message of John Ross, principal chief of the Cherokees, to their national council, which is worthy of special attention, as presenting, doubtless, a correct view of the general condition of the tribe, as well as important questions for the consideration of the authorities of the United States.

For several successive years the tribes in the southern superintendency suffered extremely from drought. During the present season, however, they have had timely and abundant rains, have consequently raised fine crops, and are amply supplied with all the necessaries of life.

It is expected the Seminoles will soon remove and settle within the district of country provided for them by the treaty with them and the Creeks of August, 1856; and that, having a separate country, and enjoying the right of self-government, with ample means for the improvement and support of the whole tribe, their brethren in Florida can be induced peaceably to emigrate and join them. Both the Creeks and western Seminoles have manifested an entire readiness to comply with their obligations under the treaty of co-operating with the department in its efforts to effect the peaceful removal of the Florida Seminoles, and large delegations of both tribes, in charge of the superintendent for that district, will soon be on their way to the scene of operations for the purpose of endeavoring to accomplish that object. This movement has been somewhat delayed in consequence of the superintendent having been charged with the disbursement of the moneys payable to the several tribes within his superintendency. This service was imposed upon him, in conformity with the regulation adopted by the President in March last, to carry out an apparent wish of Congress as, evinced by a proviso in the act making appropriations for the Indian department, passed at the last session, that the moneys due to Indians should be paid by the superintendents instead of the agents, as heretofore. The proviso, not being obligatory, was not necessary, as the President had already the power to require the superintendents to make such payments whenever he deemed it proper,

and as had been repeatedly done. The President having directed the change, it has been tried, but found to be impracticable, without great injustice to the Indians and injury to the public service. It devolves an undue amount of labor and responsibility upon the superintendents, while it leaves comparatively none to the agents, and destroys all their influence for good with the Indians. One tribe has to wait till another is paid, which causes jealousy and ill feeling, and it requires so much time to pay them in succession that those last reached receive their money long after it should have been paid to them. It necessarily runs the later payments into midwinter, when the Indians cannot be assembled without subjecting them to great exposure, hardships, and certain danger of fatal diseases. It is also attended with much greater expense, in consequence of the guards and assistants which the superintendent is compelled to employ for the safety of the moneys while travelling about with them in the Indian country from tribe to tribe, or in providing for those which he has to leave behind. I therefore recommend that the system be abandoned, and that the duty be reimposed upon the agents, with such checks and guards as may be requisite to secure its proper and faithful performance. It being necessary that the southern superintendent should proceed to Florida on the duty referred to before completing the payments in his district, he was, with the sanction of the President, directed to turn over the unpaid moneys in his hands to the agents for the tribes to whom they belong for payment.

While on the subject of payments to Indians, I beg leave to call attention to the evil effects of *per capita* payments, which system has been in force for some years. The great body of the Indians can be managed only through the chiefs. The *per capita* system breaks down the latter, reduces them to the level of the common Indians, and destroys all their influence. It thus disorganizes and leaves them practically without a domestic government; lessens their respect for authority, and blunts their perceptions of the necessity and advantages of any proper and effective system of governmental organization; turning them backward, instead of leading them forward, in the scale of advancement. With the diminished control and influence of the chiefs, there is increased lawlessness on the part of the members; and hence the greater number of outrages on the persons and property of other Indians and our citizens. Nor is the *per capita* payment system of any protection or advantage to the individual Indians. His share of the annuity is known beforehand, and it is an easy matter to induce him in advance to gamble it off, or pledge it for whiskey or articles of no material use to him, and at or after the payment to take or collect the amount from him. The distribution of the money should be left to the chiefs, so far at least as to enable them to punish the lawless and unruly by withholding it from them, and giving it to the more orderly and meritorious. They should be allowed to report on the conduct of the individuals of the tribe, being as far as possible held responsible therefor, and the agents to pay the money according to a graduated scale, having reference to the industrious habits and good conduct of individuals as he should find to be just, reserving to him the right to inquire into the action of the

chiefs whenever complaint shall be made, and to change or modify such action whenever he may discover that they have dealt unjustly with any member of their tribe.

It is respectfully suggested that some definite action should be had upon the treaties heretofore made with the Quapaws, the Senecas, and the Senecas and Shawnees, residing adjacent to the southwestern corner of Missouri, which were submitted for the consideration of the Senate at the session of 1854-'55. If not such as should be ratified, others of a proper character should be negotiated, this being necessary for the welfare of the Indians and to carry out the objects of the act of 1853. A treaty should likewise be entered into with the Cherokees to acquire from them the 800,000 acres of land in the same locality, known as the "neutral ground," on which settlements are already being made, contrary to our obligations to the Cherokees, and which tract they are willing to dispose of in order to obtain the means of liquidating their considerable national debt, and to augment their insufficient school and orphan funds.

A large tract of land in Kansas was years ago set apart for the New York Indians, who were then expected to remove there, but subsequent arrangements have settled the great body of them on reservations in the State. Such of them as have removed should be assigned the three hundred and twenty acres promised to them, and the remainder of the lands be brought into market for the benefit of our citizens who are so rapidly filling up the Territory.

Preliminary measures have been adopted for colonizing as soon as possible, on the tract of country leased from the Choctaws and Chickasaws for the purpose, the Wichita and other Indians intended to be located there.

The colonization of the Indians of Texas on the reservations set apart by the State for that purpose is progressing favorably and as rapidly as the difficulties and obstacles incident to such a measure will permit.

The supervising agent represents with much confidence that the several colonies will soon be in a condition to support themselves. In the meantime there will be a gradual and material decrease of expense. The amount requisite for next year is \$91,707 50. The same officer estimates that that for the succeeding year will not be so great by about \$30,000.

This is the only practicable system for redeeming the wild, lawless, and roaming tribes within our borders. It is expensive at first, because the Indians have to be subsisted and otherwise provided for and made comfortable until they gradually settle down and commence to work for their own support, which experience has demonstrated they can be induced to do. In the end it is the most economical course; but however great the expense, it is one which both humanity and good policy require should be incurred. The resources of these Indians from the chase are rapidly failing them, caused in no slight degree by the extension of our settlements and their country being traversed in every direction by our people. Many of them are compelled to live by plunder, and hence the frequent outrages against other Indians and the whites. In their dispersed condition, the numerous



military posts that have to be kept up, and the costly expeditions that have frequently to be undertaken to hold them in check, together with the sums which the government is bound to pay for losses sustained from their depredations, probably involve and amount to an expense far greater than would be necessary to collect and colonize them.

The Indians of New Mexico are beginning to have some understanding and appreciation of our power and resources, and the necessity of their preserving peace with one another and with the whites. They are generally willing to be settled on reservations, which is essential to their preservation and welfare as well as for the interests and security of our frontier citizens. A favorable commencement has been made, and liberal appropriations by Congress are necessary to carry out the policy in regard to them.

The Pueblo Indians hold the tracts which they occupy and cultivate by grants from the Spanish or Mexican governments, and immediate steps should be taken to have them surveyed and set apart from the surrounding lands. This has become the more necessary, in the case of the Pimos and Maricopas Indians, since the establishment of mail routes through their country, which will induce and increase white settlements that may conflict with their right and incite them to hostility. For a brief description of the character and situation of these peculiar and interesting people, and the views of this office as to the importance of protecting them from such encroachments, I respectfully refer to the accompanying copy of my report of 28th May last.

Under an act approved March 3, 1857, an agent was appointed for the Indians in the territory purchased from Mexico by the last treaty with that government, but from circumstances beyond his control he has not yet been able to furnish the department with much information in relation to them. To supply this deficiency, I submit an interesting communication upon the subject from Lieutenant S. Mowry, of the army, who has for some time been stationed in the country, and appears to be well informed in regard to the character and disposition of the Indians inhabiting it.

The Indians of the plains within the Upper Arkansas and Upper Platte agencies, and embracing the Apaches, Arapahoes, Comanches, Cheyennes, and Kioways, have, with the exception of the two latter, been quiet and peacefully disposed during the year. The Cheyennes have been in open hostility, and committed many outrages; and, though they were chastised during the summer by a body of troops under the command of Colonel Sumner, of the army, it is feared that they are not yet sufficiently subdued to expect that they will abstain from further lawless acts when opportunities offer of indulging their feelings of hostility. In consequence of their bad conduct, their proportion of the annuity presents, sent out for them and the other Indians of the Upper Arkansas agency, was not delivered to them. Nor should the Kioways, who have also manifested a decidedly hostile disposition, have received their share; but the agent was compelled to let them have it to prevent their taking it by force. To keep the tribes inhabiting and roaming through the country in the Upper Arkansas under proper subjection, and to protect our communication with New

Mexico, it would seem to be essential that there should be a military post established at some proper point in that region.

The scanty information we have in regard to the Indians of Utah is not reliable or satisfactory. It is much to be feared that they have been tampered with, and their feelings towards the United States alienated to such an extent by the Mormons, that in any difficulties with the latter a large portion of them may be found on the side of those enemies of our government and law. Such a state of things has been apprehended by this office for some time, as will be seen from the accompanying copies of reports upon the subject from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs to your predecessor in 1855.

The superintendent for California reports that universal peace prevails among the tribes throughout the State; "that not a hostile sentiment is entertained by the Indians in any portion of the State, and a general feeling of security pervades the entire white population." He further states that "the progress of the reservations is attended with as great a degree of success as could be expected or desired by the most sanguine friends of that system;" that "the Indians perform with entire willingness all the labor required;" and that "the progress they have made in acquiring a knowledge of the pursuits of industry is remarkable, and in the highest degree encouraging to the friends of the system of subsisting Indians by their own labor." Among other interesting evidences of this good result, he cites the fact that, at the Nome-Lackee reservation, the wheat crop of this year, consisting of over ten thousand bushels, was entirely harvested, threshed, sacked and hauled to the storehouse by the Indians, attended only by two white men as overseers.

An extreme drought has cut off the crops on the reservations in the southern part of the State, and additional expense may have to be incurred to save the Indians from suffering from that cause, which every effort is being made to prevent.

Five reservations in all have been established, viz: Sebastian or Tejon, Klamath, Nome-Lackee, Mendocino, and Fresno farm, on which about 11,239 Indians have been colonized, and are in course of being successfully trained to habits of industry. From the representations of the superintendent, there must be a marked difference in the habits and condition of those who have settled in the reservations and those who have not yet submitted themselves to this beneficent plan for their preservation and improvement.

A most reprehensible practice has prevailed to some extent in California of kidnapping Indian children and selling them for servants. This practice has been confined to a few persons, and I am happy to say that it has been condemned and discountenanced by the great mass of the people. There have, however, been some difficulties growing out of it; but energetic measures having been adopted by the government to suppress it, and some of the parties engaged in it having been convicted and sent to the penitentiary, it is believed that there will not be a renewal of these troubles.

A large number of claims have been presented for payment for supplies furnished the Indian service in California during the years 1851 and 1852, which have not been paid for want of appropriations, but

which have been constantly pressed on this office. Attention was called to this matter by Commissioner Lea, on the 7th April, 1852, in a communication to the Secretary of the Interior, in which he recommended that an appropriation should be made to enable the department to investigate the claims.

On the 13th of the same month, in response to a resolution of the Senate, he renewed the recommendation; but no action was taken by Congress in reference to it until 1854, when, by the act of 29th July of that year, a special appropriation of \$183,825, "with interest thereon from the first day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, at the rate of ten per centum per annum," was made to pay John Charles Frémont, who was one of the claimants. Congress having thus acknowledged the validity of these claims, I beg leave to renew the recommendation of Commissioner Lea, that they should be investigated with a view to their final settlement. As the matter stands at present, some of the commissioners are charged with large sums of money; and as they allege that they were surrounded with such a state of affairs as to make these expenditures necessary in order to avert an Indian war, and that their action did have that effect, it is proper that their conduct should be investigated, and if found justifiable, that they should be relieved from such heavy liabilities, and have their accounts adjusted with the government.

I would invite special attention to the report of the superintendent for Oregon and Washington, from which it appears to be manifest that our relations with the Indians in those Territories are in a very critical condition, and that under the existing state of things there is a constant liability to a general outbreak on their part from any disturbing cause, which must involve the expenditure of millions to subdue them, as well as the most lamentable loss of life and property by the insufficiently protected white inhabitants. The non-ratification of the treaties heretofore made to extinguish their title to the lands necessary for the occupancy and use of our citizens seems to have produced no little disappointment, and the continued extension of our settlements into their territory, without any compensation being made to them, is a constant source of dissatisfaction and hostile feeling. They are represented as being willing to dispose of their lands to the government, and I know of no alternative to the present unsatisfactory and dangerous state of things but the adoption of early measures for the extinguishment of their title, and their colonization on properly-located reservations, using and applying the consideration agreed to be allowed to them for their lands to subsist and clothe them until they can be taught and influenced to support and sustain themselves. The losses and damage to the government and to the citizens resulting from another general outbreak on the part of these Indians would probably fully equal, if not exceed, in amount what would be necessary to buy out and colonize them, so that they could be effectually controlled, if not improved and civilized.

Our settlements, as well as the friendly Indians along Puget's Sound and the waters of Admiralty inlet, suffer materially from the predatory incursions of the Indians from Vancouver's island, and the other adjacent British and Russian possessions. They are an enterprising,

warlike race, and generally make their expeditions by water in large boats or canoes, some of them large enough to carry a hundred men, which they propel with much swiftness. To afford the necessary protection to our people from their frequent depredations, the employment of a light draught armed steamer in those waters, to intercept and chastise them, is essential.

Referring to the report of the superintendent for the southern superintendency, who has elaborately and ably discussed the subject, in its application to the Indians of his district, I urgently repeat the recommendation of my immediate predecessor, that there be an early and complete revision and codification of all the laws relating to Indian affairs, which, from lapse of time and material changes in the location, condition, and circumstances of the most of the tribes, have become so insufficient and unsuitable as to occasion the greatest embarrassment and difficulty in conducting the business of this branch of the public service.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

J. W. DENVER,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. J. THOMPSON,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

*List of documents accompanying the report of the Commissioner of  
Indian Affairs for the year 1857.*

NEW YORK AGENCY.

- No. 1.—Report of Marcus H. Johnson, agent for the Indians in the State of New York.
- No. 2.—Letter from Philip E. Thomas respecting the Seneca Indians.
- No. 3.—Copy of report by N. H. Parker, interpreter, as to the condition of the Senecas at Cattaraugus.
- No. 4.—Copy of extracts from a report made to the "Society of Friends," by a committee of said society, respecting the Indians of New York.

MACKINAC AGENCY.

- No. 5.—Report of A. M. Fitch, agent for the Indians in the State of Michigan.
- No. 6.—Report of N. F. Murray, teacher at Sheboygan.
- No. 7.—Report of Timothy Hegney, teacher at Grand Portage.
- No. 8.—Report of Stephen D. Caley, teacher at L'Anse.
- No. 9.—Report of William O'Donovan, teacher at Garden island.
- No. 10.—Report of John B. Weikamp, teacher at Cross Village.

AGENCY FOR THE INDIANS IN THE VICINITY OF GREEN BAY.

- No. 11.—Report of Frederick Moscowitt, agent for the Indians in that vicinity.
- No. 12.—Report of Joseph M. Ostroph, teacher of music to the Menomonees.
- No. 13.—Report of Jane Dousman, teacher to the Menomonees.
- No. 14.—Report of Rosalie Dousman, teacher to the Menomonees.
- No. 15.—Report of Frederick Haas, farmer to the Menomonees.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 16.—Report of William J. Cullen, superintendent.
- No. 17.—Report of David B. Herriman, agent for the Chippewas of the Mississippi.
- No. 18.—Report of Charles E. Flandrau, agent for the Sioux.
- No. 19.—Report of James Magner, farmer to the Lower Sioux.
- No. 20\*.—Copy of report by Captain Bernard E. Bee, United States army.
- No. 21.—Telegraphic despatch from Superintendent Huebschmann.
- No. 22.—Report from Superintendent Huebschmann.
- No. 23.—Copy of letter from Agent Flandrau to newspaper "Pioneer and Democrat."

---

\* Note.—Papers from No. 20 to No. 52, inclusive, relate to the massacre at Spirit Lake by a party of Sioux.



- No. 24.—Letter from Agent Flandrau to Superintendent Huebschmann.
- No. 25.—Copy of letter from Superintendent Huebschmann to Governor Medary.
- No. 26.—Copy of letter from Superintendent Huebschmann to Colonel Alexander, United States army.
- No. 27.—Telegraphic despatch from Agent Flandrau.
- No. 28.—Letter from Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Superintendent Cullen.
- No. 29.—Telegraphic despatch from Superintendent Cullen to Commissioner of Indian Affairs
- No. 30.—Telegraphic despatch from Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Superintendent Cullen.
- No. 31.—Telegraphic despatch from Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Agent Flandrau.
- No. 32.—Letter from Commissioner of Indian Affairs to K. Pritchette, appointing him special agent.
- No. 33.—Report of Superintendent Cullen.
- No. 34.—Letter from Special Agent Pritchette.
- No. 35.—Letter from Special Agent Pritchette.
- No. 36.—Letter from Special Agent Pritchette.
- No. 37.—Letter from Special Agent Pritchette.
- No. 38.—Report of A. J. Campbell, interpreter.
- No. 39.—Narrative given by individual Indians.
- No. 40.—Minutes of examination of Ta-te-yoh-he.
- No. 41.—Statement of Se-see-toan and Wah-pay-toan warriors.
- No. 42.—Telegraphic despatch from Superintendent Cullen.
- No. 43.—Telegraphic despatch in reply to Superintendent Cullen.
- No. 44.—Report of Special Agent Pritchette.
- No. 45.—Telegraphic despatch to Special Agent Pritchette.
- No. 46.—Telegraphic despatch to Superintendent Cullen.
- No. 47.—Report of Special Agent Pritchette.
- No. 48.—Report of Superintendent Cullen.
- No. 49.—Report of Special Agent Pritchette.
- No. 50.—Proceedings of first council held with Sioux.
- No. 51.—Proceedings of second council held with Sioux.
- No. 52.—Proceedings of third council held with Sioux.
- No. 53.—Report of Jonathan E. Fletcher, agent for the Winnebagoes.

CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 54.—Report of Alfred Cumming, superintendent.
- No. 55.—Report of Alfred J. Vaughan, agent for the Blackfeet Indians.
- No. 56.—Report of A. H. Redfield, agent for the Indians of the Upper Missouri.
- No. 57.—Copy of statement by Malcom Clarke relative to certain conduct of a party of Assinaboines.
- No. 58.—Copy of speech of "Long Hair," chief of the Gros Ventres.
- No. 59.—Report of Thomas S. Twiss, agent for the Indians of the Upper Platte.

- No. 60.—Report of Robert C. Miller, agent for the Indians on the Arkansas.
- No. 61.—Copy of letter from Colonel Sumner, United States army, to Agent Miller.
- No. 62.—Report of John B. Robertson, agent for the Omahas.
- No. 63.—Report of Charles Sturgiss, superintendent of Omaha school.
- No. 64.—Report of William W. Dennison, agent for the Ottoes and Missourias and Pawnees.
- No. 65.—Report of D. A. Murdock, superintendent of the Ottoo and Missouri school.
- No. 66.—Report of John Lorton, farmer to the Ottoes and Missourias.
- No. 67.—Report of Daniel Vanderslice, agent for the Ioways and the Sacs and Foxes of the Missouri.
- No. 68.—Report of S. M. Irvin, superintendent of the Ioway and Sac and Fox mission.
- No. 69.—Report of Royal Baldwin, agent for the Kickapoos.
- No. 70.—Report of E. M. Hubbard, superintendent of the Kickapoo mission.
- No. 71.—Report of B. F. Robinson, agent for the Delawares.
- No. 72.—Report of John G. Pratt, superintendent of the Delaware school.
- No. 73.—Report of A. Arnold, agent for the Shawnees and Wyandotts.
- No. 74.—Report of Simon D. Harvey, superintendent of "Friends'" mission to the Shawnees.
- No. 75.—Report of Thomas Johnson, superintendent of the Shawnee Methodist school.
- No. 76.—Report of William E. Murphy, agent for the Pottawatomies.
- No. 77.—Report of J. B. Duerinck, superintendent of the St. Mary's Pottawatomie manual labor school.
- No. 78.—Report of John Jackson, superintendent of the Baptist Pottawatomie manual labor school.
- No. 79.—Report of Burton A. James, agent for the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi.
- No. 80.—Report of John Montgomery, agent for the "Kaws," or Kansas Indians.
- No. 81.—Report of Maxwell McCaslin, agent for the Weas and Piankeshaws, Kaskaskias and Peorias, and Miamies.

SOUTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 82.—Report of Elias Rector, superintendent.
- No. 83.—Report of Andrew J. Dorn, agent for the Osages, Quapaws, Senecas and Shawnees, and Senecas.
- No. 84.—Report of John Shoemakers, superintendent of the Osage manual labor school.
- No. 85.—Report of J. L. French, farmer for the Quapaws.
- No. 86.—Report of George Butler, agent for the Cherokees.
- No. 87.—Report of D. D. Hitchcock, marshal of Cherokee temperance society.
- No. 88.—Report of S. A. Worcester, missionary to the Cherokees.

- No. 89.—Report of W. A. Duncan, superintendent of Cherokee public schools.
- No. 90.—Copy of message of John Ross, principal chief of the Cherokees, to the national council.
- No. 91.—Report of William H. Garrett, agent for the Creeks.
- No. 92.—Report of Josiah W. Washbourne, agent for the Seminoles.
- No. 93.—Report of John Lilley, superintendent of the Seminole mission.
- No. 94.—Report of Douglas H. Cooper, agent for the Choctaws and Chickasaws.
- No. 95.—Report of Cyrus Byington, missionary to the Choctaws at Stockbridge.
- No. 96.—Report of O. P. Stark, missionary to the Choctaws at Good Land station.
- No. 97.—Report of C. C. Copeland, missionary to the Choctaws at Bennington station.
- No. 98.—Report of William and Lewis Cass and Simon Hancock, native Baptist preachers.
- No. 99.—Report of J. D. Chamberlain, superintendent of Iyanubi female seminary.
- No. 100.—Report of H. Balentine, superintendent of Koonsa female academy.
- No. 101.—Report of C. Kingsbury, superintendent of the Chuahla female seminary.
- No. 102.—Report of T. W. Mitchell, superintendent of Fort Coffee and New Hope academies.
- No. 103.—Report of Ebenezer Hotchkin, missionary, and principal of the Living Land school.
- No. 104.—Report of John Edwards, superintendent of Wheelock female seminary.
- No. 105.—Report of Gaylord L. More, superintendent of Spencer academy.
- No. 106.—Report of W. R. Baker, superintendent of Armstrong academy.
- No. 107.—Report of J. H. Carr, superintendent of Bloomfield Chickasaw academy.
- No. 108.—Report of J. C. Robinson, superintendent of Chickasaw manual labor academy.
- No. 109.—Report of F. M. Paine, teacher in Chickasaw manual labor school.
- No. 110.—Report of E. Canch, superintendent of the Colbert institute.
- No. 111.—Report of A. H. McKissick, agent for the Wichitas and other wild tribes.

TEXAS AGENCY.

- No. 112.—Report of Robert S. Neighbors, supervising agent for the Indians in Texas.
- No. 113.—Copy of letter of Supervising Agent Neighbors to Major General Twiggs.

- No. 114.—Report of M. Leeper, agent for the Indians of the Comanche agency.  
No. 115.—Report of S. P. Ross, agent for the Indians of the Brazos agency.  
No. 116.—Report of Samuel Church, farmer at the Brazos agency.  
No. 117.—Report of Jonathan Murray, farmer at the Brazos agency.  
No. 118.—Report of James M. Taylor, blacksmith at the Brazos agency.

NEW MEXICO SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 119.—Report of J. L. Collins, superintendent.  
No. 120.—Report of Christopher Carson, agent for the Mohuache Utahs.  
No. 121.—Report of Samuel M. Yost, agent for the Pueblos.  
No. 122.—Report of Diego Archuleta, agent for the Utahs, Capotes, and Apache Jicarillas.  
No. 123.—Report of M. Steck, agent for the Indians within the Apache agency.  
No. 124.—Letter of Superintendent Collins, transmitting copies of letters from Agent Steck and Colonel R. C. Bonneville, United States army.  
No. 125.—Copy of letter from Agent Steck, relative to an interview held with a deputation of Coyetero Apaches.  
No. 126.—Copy of letter from Colonel Bonneville, describing the region watered by the Gila river.  
No. 127.—Report of Lieutenant Sylvester Mowry, describing the Territory of Arizona, or the "Gadsden Purchase," and the tribes inhabiting the same.

UTAH SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 128.—Letter from Agent Garland Hurt, relative to Mormon missionaries.  
No. 129.—Communication from Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of the Interior upon the subject of these missionaries.  
No. 130.—Memoranda upon same subject made by the Acting Commissioner for consideration by the Secretary.  
No. 131.—Report of George W. Armstrong, agent for the Indians in Utah.  
No. 132.—Letter from Brigham Young, governor, to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.  
No. 133.—Reply of Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Governor Young.

OREGON AND WASHINGTON SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 134.—Report of J. W. Nesmith, superintendent.  
No. 135.—Report of E. C. Fitzhugh, special agent for the Neuk-sack, Samish, and Lummi tribes.

- No. 136.—Report of G. A. Paige, local agent at the Fort Kitsah reservation.
- No. 137.—Report of M. T. Simmons, agent for the Indians of Puget's Sound district.
- No. 138.—Report of R. C. Fay, local agent at Penn's Cove.
- No. 139.—Report of Thomas S. Hanna, special agent for the Indians on Puget's Sound.
- No. 140.—Report of W. B. Gosnell, agent for the Nisqually, Puyallup, and other Indians.
- No. 141.—Report of Sidney S. Ford, sr., special agent for the Indians in the western district of Washington Territory.
- No. 142.—Report of J. Cain, agent for the Indians on the Columbia river, from its mouth to the Dalles.
- No. 143.—Report of A. Townsend, local agent at White Salmon reservation.
- No. 144.—Report of A. H. Robie, special agent for the Indians between the Columbia river and the Cascade mountains.
- No. 145.—Report of William Craig, sub-agent for the Cayuses and Nez Percés.
- No. 146.—Report of W. W. Raymond, sub-agent for the Indians within the Astoria district.
- No. 147.—Report of R. B. Metcalf, agent for the Indians within the Siletza agency.
- No. 148.—Report of E. P. Drew, sub-agent for the Indians within the Umpqua sub-agency.
- No. 149.—Report of John F. Miller, agent for the Willamette tribes.
- No. 150.—Report of John Ostrander, teacher of the Rogue River and Umpqua school.
- No. 151.—Report of Mary C. Ostrander, teacher of Willamette school.
- No. 152.—Report of Amasa Howe, superintendent of farming for Willamette tribes.
- No. 153.—Report of A. P. Dennison, agent for the Indians of the northeastern district of Oregon.
- No. 154.—Report of R. H. Lansdale, agent for the Flat Head district.
- No. 155.—Copy of a letter from William Tichnor to Superintendent Nesmith.
- No. 156.—Copy of reply of Superintendent Nesmith to William Tichnor.
- No. 157.—Copy of a letter from Brigadier General Clarke to Superintendent Nesmith.
- No. 158.—Copy of reply of Superintendent Nesmith to Brigadier General Clarke.
- No. 159.—Copy of a letter of Assistant Adjutant General Mackall to Superintendent Nesmith.
- No. 160.—Copy of order of Assistant Adjutant General Mackall to Major Garnett.

CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENCY.

- No. 161.—Report of Thomas J. Henley, superintendent.



SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

307

- No. 162.—Report of H. P. Heintzelman, sub-agent for the Klamath reservation.
- No. 163.—Report of Vincent E. Geiger, agent for the Nome-Lackee reservation.
- No. 164.—Report of H. L. Ford, sub-agent for the Mendocino reservation.
- No. 165.—Report of M. B. Lewis, sub-agent for the Fresno farm.
- No. 166.—Report of J. R. Vineyard, agent for the Indians of Tejon.
- No. 167.—Copy of report of a reconnoissance through the country around Cape Mendocino, by James Tobin.
- No. 168.—Letter of Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Superintendent Henley, relative to the concentration of the Indians upon the reservations in California.