No. 22.

SIOUX AGENCY, September 21, 1855.

Sir: I have the honor to forward my accustomed annual report.

Notwithstanding the appearance of the smallpox among the Indians here about the time of the last payment, the speedy and general application of vaccination prevented the spread of the disease, and the usual remedies were successful in preventing much mortality. Probably twenty deaths occurred among the Medawakantone and Wahpekuti.

With this exception the general health of the Indians has been as good as their habits of life would warrant us to anticipate.

Diseases introduced by the whites are producing distressing results. Transmitted as they are to their progeny, weak and sickly children, unable to withstand disease and the hardships of Indian life, are propagated, either to meet an early death or perpetuate a feeble race of men.

I would recommend, for obvious reasons, that a small appropriation be made to furnish necessary hospital stores for the sick, and for the erection of a small building for the accommodation of those suffering from infectious diseases, and those whose age and maladies preclude the possibility of their being judiciously and successfully treated in cold, damp, and ill ventilated lodges.

I have the honor to be, sir, yours, very respectfully,

A. W. DANIELS.

Major R. G. MURPHY,
United States Indian Agent.

No. 23.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Central Superintendency, St. Louis, October 19, 1855.

Sir: In compliance with your special instructions of the 12th instant, enjoining upon me, in the absence of Superintendent Cumming, to furnish the annual report of the affairs of this superintendency, required by the regulations of the department, I have the honor to submit the following as such:

From the reports of the agents lately transmitted, it would appear that the condition of the Indians—especially our border tribes—if no better, is not worse than it was a year ago; and I incline to the opinion expressed by many, that a slow, but very perceptible, improvement is gradually manifesting itself among them. Many of the tribes, notwithstanding an adverse season, have raised fair average crops, sufficient, it is believed, to save them from want during the coming winter and spring. They have generally, too, enjoyed good health during the past year, with the exception of the Kansas Indians,
who suffered severely from smallpox, and the Kickapoos, who had some few deaths by cholera.

The present year does not afford a safe criterion whereby to judge of the future of our frontier tribes; it has been with many of them a year of transition. Under the treaties made last year, nearly all the tribes parties thereto have been removed to their respective reservations, and, as a matter of course, had to encounter the inconveniences incident to new settlers; these inconveniences are fast disappearing, and it is believed that the next year's reports will exhibit them in a greatly improved condition, both morally and physically. To effect this, however, it is necessary that the agents should have suitable buildings erected for their residences on the reserves, and as near the tribes as practicable. A few practical farmers might be employed with great advantage to teach the Indians the proper method of putting in, tending and harvesting their crops. The presence of the agent, his occasional advice, and the example of the farmers could hardly fail in time to exercise a favorable influence over these poor people. If to these means be added good missionary and manual labor schools, where the youth may be early trained to habits of morality, industry and self-reliance for their support, we shall have all the elements necessary to render them comfortable. A few such schools are at present in successful operation among the Shawnees, Pottawatomies, Weas, Piankeshaws, &c., Ioways and Sac's of Missouri. The residence of the agent near the tribes, and the influence he could acquire by a kind, conciliatory course with the chiefs and principal men, would enable him in a great degree to repress intoxication, by concerted measures with the chiefs to prevent the introduction of spirituous liquors.

The provision inserted in the treaties of last year, which empowers the President to apply the annuities of the tribes in such manner as will best promote their interests, will, no doubt, be found hereafter to work beneficially. The large money annuities that several of the tribes receive under former treaties, instead of advancing them in civilization actually retard their progress; whereas those with small annuities, having to rely more upon their own exertions, greatly surpass the former in all the comforts of life. The plan adopted this year, of dividing the large annuities, so as to have a fall and spring payment, is but a return to the former practice of the department in this superintendency; and however repugnant it may be to a few of the tribes—operated upon, it is feared, by interested individuals—must, in the opinion of every disinterested, right thinking man, in the least acquainted with Indian improvidence, be viewed as a measure necessary and important for those tribes; and I am gratified to find, by a recent report forwarded to your office, that it meets the approval of one of the oldest and most experienced of the agents.

You are aware, from the reports forwarded by the agent through this office, that the Omahas, after having removed to the reserve selected for them, near the "Blackbird Hills," (a place having for them many traditional recollections, in consequence of being the burial place of their great chief "Waw-zin-ga-subi," or "Blackbird,"') fled from thence in a panic, occasioned by a band of marauding Sioux,
and the murder of their principal chief, "Fontenelle." By the latest accounts they were encamped on the Platte river, about fifteen miles from Bellevue. It is hoped that the exertions of their agent, and the knowledge that a large military force is now traversing the plains, will reassure, and induce them to return. The Otosees and Missourias, when last heard from, remained undisturbed on their reserve, and it is believed will so continue. The Pawnees, alarmed by the frequent attacks of their numerous enemies, anxiously desire to exchange the lands assigned to them, on the north side of the Platte, for a location south of that river, so as to place it as a barrier between them and their assailants. The condition of these three last named tribes, harrassed as they have been by the incursions of hostile bands of Sioux, Cheyennes, &c., will, it is feared, be one of great destitution this coming winter and spring. Your instructions, in anticipation of such a result, have been communicated to their agent, and will, doubtless, receive his prompt attention.

As heretofore reported, the annuity goods for the Comanches, Kioways, and Apaches, and for the tribes parties to the treaty of Fort Laramie, within the Upper Arkansas and Upper Platte agencies, were forwarded from this place to Kansas city, Missouri, on the 24th and 28th of May last; they were taken in charge of the land transportation trains in the month of June, and safely conveyed to their respective destinations. The report of the Arkansas agent will show how those of his agency were disposed of. No report having yet been received from the Upper Platte agent, it is not known here how far he has succeeded in making the distribution to the Indians of his agency.

The annuity goods for the Upper Missouri agency, together with the goods and provisions intended for the Blackfeet council, were forwarded on the 6th of June last, per steamboat "St. Mary." Superintendent Cumming and his party left here on the same boat on his way to Fort Benton, the rendezvous designated for himself, Governor Stevens, and Superintendent Palmer, the commissioners appointed to hold the council and, if expedient, make treaties with the Blackfeet and other mountain tribes. The boat arrived at Fort Union, near the mouth of the Yellow Stone river, on the 11th of July following.

The report of the Upper Missouri agent, forwarded yesterday, will inform you of his success in distributing the annuities. With the exception of a few bands of disaffected Sioux, he reports the tribes of his agency to be generally friendly and well disposed towards the government, and that several of them have scrupulously observed the stipulations of the treaty made with them at Fort Laramie; his expectations of being able to induce the refractory bands to resume their friendly relations with the whites will, it is apprehended, be frustrated by the recent military demonstration against the Brulé Sioux on the plains.

Superintendent Cumming, as I have had the honor to inform you in another communication of this date, started with a small party from Fort Union for Fort Benton overland, and arrived there in safety, where he met Governor Stevens and upwards of two thousand moun-
tain Indians who accompanied him to partake in the council. The Blackfeet it appears, were absent, being scattered in various directions in quest of buffalo. Mr. Alexander Culbertson, a trader, long resident in the country, and well acquainted with the Blackfeet language and manners, being one of Superintendent Cumming's party, will, it is supposed, be able, from his great influence with the Blackfeet, to induce them to meet the commissioners and the mountain tribes in an amicable manner. The results of the expedition will in due time be reported by Superintendent Cumming on his return.

It will be seen by the cash accounts of the superintendent, forwarded to your office on the 3d inst., that the instructions from your office in regard to the time when the annuities should be in the hands of the respective agents have been rigidly complied with, all having been turned over between the 8th and 20th ultimo.

With great respect, I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN HAVERY,
Clerk to Superintendent Indian Affairs.

HON. GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner Indian Affairs.

No. 24.

FORT CLARK, September 12, 1855.

SIR: In compliance with my duty, as well as common usage, I have the honor to present the following as my annual report, showing the affairs and condition of the Indian tribes in the Upper Missouri agency.

I left St. Louis June 6th, on board P. Chouteau, jr., and Co.'s steamer "St. Mary's," and arrived at the principal village of the Yancton band of Sioux Indians June 22d, at a place called and known as "Handy's Point," thirty miles above "L'eau qui Court," on the northeast side of the Missouri river. These Indians have made this point their permanent summer residence, and are raising corn, beans, pumpkins, &c., and, when I passed, had the prospect of an abundant crop.

This band evince a strong desire for improvement, and are on the most friendly terms with the whites, and have lately conformed strictly to their treaty stipulations. Last fall they surrendered to me eight horses and mules, which some of their young men had stolen from emigrants on the Platte. They were in very poor condition when delivered to me, having received very hard usage. Three of them died in a few days after; the rest I had well fed and guarded, and afterwards I sold them to the best advantage. After paying for their feeding I expended the balance in breaking the soil for their use. This band expressed to me their mortification and distress at the reckless course pursued by several bands of their tribe, and seem much gratified that their "Great Father" has sent his soldiers here, and hope that their presence will have the effect of bringing those
bands to their senses and restoring peace and safety to all whites travelling in their country, and better conduct towards the traders.

On the 26th June we arrived at Fort Pierre, where I expected to have found the larger portion of the different bands of Sioux; but, to my disappointment and regret, found but one band, the "Two Kettles," and a small portion of one band of the Upper Yanconnais, say twenty-seven lodges.

I first gave the Two Kettles band their portion of the annuities, on the prairie west of the fort, but they did not receive them with any demonstration of gratitude; on the contrary, they seemed dissatisfied and evinced a disposition to complain; they, however, said nothing. As this band has always been considered one of the most friendly disposed towards the whites, I cannot account for their conduct in any other way than as the troops were to take possession of Fort Pierre they would be deprived of a place at which they loafed and begged the greater part of the year, only going out to hunt when actual necessity drove them. They have made several attempts to raise corn, to accomplish which I have rendered them every assistance in my power, and their failure to do so can only be attributed to their indolence and want of energy; and never, in my opinion, until their band is greatly reduced by starvation, can they be made to look to the soil for subsistence.

I afterwards distributed to the small band of Yanconnais a portion of the presents for the band; but, like the others, they received them coldly and with evident signs of dissatisfaction.

About 100 miles above Fort Pierre I found erected twelve lodges of the Yanconnais, built with dirt, after the manner of the Arickarees and Mandans, and they are tilling the soil in the same manner of those bands. I am sorry to say that the great drought in that region of their country was such that all kinds of vegetation presented but a very languishing appearance. This is the first attempt of this band to form a permanent village and cultivate the soil; and if success attend their efforts it will, no doubt, induce many of their band to follow their example. I distributed to them a portion of their presents, which they received with evident indication of satisfaction.

On the 5th of July we arrived at Fort Clark, where the village of the Arickarees is built. They were all assembled on the bank of the river and greeted the arrival of the steamer with firing of guns and shouts. As soon as the boat landed I met the chiefs and principal men, and after the usual salutations, shaking hands, &c., I invited them all on the boat to a feast, which had been prepared in anticipation. Then a long talk ensued, principally relating to the depredations and murders on their people by the Sioux bands, their inability to cope with them in numbers, as well as their destitute condition of the munitions of war to defend themselves. They rejoiced when they heard that their Great Father had sent soldiers in the country to chastise those who had violated their treaty stipulations, and protect those who have and are disposed to observe them. The manner in which I was received by this tribe, and their general talk and deportment, gave me great satisfaction. They are in a prosperous condition, generally raising a superabundance of corn and vegetables, the
large surplus of which they dispose of to the neighboring tribes and traders. This year, however, the continued drought, and the very severe frost early in August, will curtail their crop about two-thirds; still they have an abundance for their own consumption. I turned them over their portion of the presents, which they received with satisfaction and thankfulness.

The Arickarees live in dirt lodges; they have 60 lodges, number 14 to a lodge—making the aggregate of about 840. The country in the vicinity of their village is entirely valueless, there being no timber or soil, but on coming to their village fine spots of corn met our view, waving in the breeze in the bottoms, and at the foot of the bluffs wherever there was a fertile spot.

On the evening of the same day I distributed to the Mandans their portion of the presents; though their portion was small, and their wants many, not a word of complaint was heard from them; on the contrary, every indication of gratitude was evinced. This small remnant of this tribe is increasing in numbers, raising a sufficiency of corn and vegetables for their consumption, and in favorable seasons considerable to spare, which they also trade to neighboring tribes and traders for other necessaries of life. They now number 21 lodges, built after the manner of the Arickarees; number 12 to a lodge—making an aggregate of 252 souls. There are various opinions relative to the origin and peculiarities of these people, owing, I presume, in a measure to the diversity of their complexion of skin, eyes, and the great length of their hair. But it is my opinion, derived from a somewhat careful comparison, that there is no ground for considering their origin different from other tribes around them. They are truly a domestic people, remain at their home, and till the ground with success.

July 7.—We arrived at Fort Berthold, the village of the Gros Ventres of the Missouri. This tribe of Indians were formerly a part of the Crow nation, which separated from them many years ago, speaking a dialect of that language; they met us promptly on the bank of the river with their usual friendly demonstrations. They were all well pleased on receiving their presents, and expressed their satisfaction and a willingness to listen and obey the instructions of their Great Father. The friendship of this tribe to the whites is well known, and they have strictly regarded their treaty stipulations. The large fields of corn and vegetables which covered the bottom lands of these people showed their industry and great desire to obtain the means of improving their condition. Their complaints against the Sioux for stealing their horses and murdering their people were anything but pleasant. It pleased them much to hear that soldiers had arrived in the country, and consoled themselves that soon a better state of things would be made to exist. They number 40 lodges, averaging 19 to a lodge—making in the aggregate 760 souls.

We arrived at Fort Union on the 11th July, thirty-five days out from St. Louis, notwithstanding the river was lower than ever has been known before by the oldest settler in the country. I found but few of the Assinaboins at the fort, but two days after 350 lodges arrived, and pitched their tents on the level prairie west of the fort.
Having heard that the remaining part of this tribe was four days' travel distant, I immediately dispatched a messenger to them, and in the meantime had several talks with the principal men in company with our energetic and efficient superintendent, Colonel A. Cumming, whose presence among the various tribes we met with made a favorable impression, and whose counselling will result in future good. These lodges had plenty of provisions, and having a heavy trade to make, remained quietly until the remainder of their tribe arrived. The day after their arrival I had them all assembled together, gave them a long talk, which they received with great satisfaction; after which I distributed their presents, for which they expressed their grateful thanks, and acknowledged many obligations they were under to their Great Father for the deep interest he manifested for their welfare and happiness. I feel no hesitation in saying that since the Laramie treaty these Assinaboons are the best Indians on the continent. It was truly gratifying for me to learn from the lips of the principal of this tribe that not a single instance of murder, robbery, or other depredation has been committed by them, either on the neighboring tribes or on the whites. This is the more remarkable, as before the treaty, as I have before stated, they were foremost in the van of thieves and robbers, always at war, pillaging from whomsoever they met, and were very annoying to all trading posts.

There has been but little sickness in this tribe during the past season, some few cases of whooping cough and measles, which, owing to their constant exposed condition, proved fatal to some of their children. I am happy to say they are prosperous and happy, always cheerful, for they have plenty to subsist on, as game of all kinds is still abundant in their country. They number 420 lodges, averaging eight to a lodge, making in the aggregate 3,360 souls.

I was disappointed in not being able to visit the Crow Indians and deliver them their annuities, in consequence of the great risk and danger from the numerous war parties of the Sioux on the Yellow Stone river; it being currently reported that they had assembled there with a view of stopping and robbing the boat as it passed up with the annuities and goods of Messrs. P. Chouteau, jr., & Co., intended for trade with the Crow bands. I was unable to effect a contract for the transportation of the annuities, as you will see by the accompanying letter of Messrs. P. Chouteau, jr., & Co.

On the 3d of May last, seven men, in the employ of the above company, started from Fort Union for the Crow post. On their way thither they were attacked by a war party of Sioux, (Onk-pa-pas and Blackfeet,) two men were seriously wounded, and the whole party stripped of their arms, ammunition, and clothing, and left to wend their way to their destination, 150 miles. They reached the Crow pass on the 19th of May, suffering greatly from starvation and the effects of the weather in their naked and destitute situation.

On the 23d of August, a Mackinaw boat was started from Fort Union with the usual outfit of trade for the ensuing season at the Crow post. It had only proceeded a short distance up the Yellow Stone river when the hunters for the boat, who were out in quest of game, (in company with seven Crow Indians, who had come to accom-
pany me with their annuities,) were driven back to the fort by a war party of Sioux Indians, having had a miraculous escape with their lives. The boat immediately returned to the fort, and the trip to the Crows abandoned for the present season.

A few days previous to this, some Indians (no doubt of the same party) stole from Fort Union eight horses, and from Fort William five; at the same time, near the latter fort, they fell in with two men who were butchering some buffalo they had killed; they took from them their meat, horses, guns, and clothing, and they told me personally that they considered themselves fortunate in getting off alive. Shortly after the boat returned, fifteen Indians appeared on the hills in sight of the fort; ascertaining them to be Sioux I sent my interpreter to them, he returned bringing them with him to the fort, where I held a talk with them; they were of the Sans Arc and Minneconzas bands; stated that there were in the party two hundred and twenty warriors, and that they were hunting for the Assiniboins; they also stated that just before they left their villages a war party of Minneconzas had returned from an excursion to the Platte, with 100 head of mules and horses, the property of the government, which they had stolen from the vicinity of Fort Laramie. After giving them a good lecture about their conduct in violating their treaty stipulations in being at war, they left me promising to return to their people without committing any more depredations.

Thus you see that these war parties of Sioux have not only prevented the government from being able to deliver the Crow Indians their annuities, but have also prevented them from the usual facilities derived from their licensed traders.

It is my intention to write to the commanding officer at Fort Pierre, and give him a statement of the conduct of the Sioux Indians, their location, &c., for I firmly believe that if 600 of the troops would only show themselves at the villages of these refractory bands, it would so intimidate them they would forthwith come on such terms as would be dictated to them, and their war excursions would be brought to a close.

Of the Brulé bands of Missouri Indians nothing certain has been ascertained, either as regards their movements or location, it is, however, the general supposition that they are hovering somewhere in the vicinity of the Platte, and in case of any engagement of the troops and the Indians there, they will join issue with those bands; the same may be said of the Sans Arc and Minneconza bands.

The express you started from Fort Pierre to the Onk-pa-pas and Blackfeet bands, with the expectation that they would bring those Indians to this place by the time of your arrival in the steamer, arrived here eight days after our departure with 54 of the principal chiefs and braves. The express would promptly have met you here had not these Indians held them prisoners for 12 days, at the expiration of that time the party as above concluded to come here with them. Of this party some were for receiving the annuities and some were not; the principal chief stated that it was his wish to take the goods and do as his Great Father wished him, but those who were on his side were but few, consequently he was completely overpowered by
those of the other party; and were his party to receive any portion of the government presents, on their return to the village, in all probability, themselves and horses would all be killed. After remaining here five days they started back to their villages, saying that they would do all in their power to induce at least one half of their people to accept the annuities, and as soon as they heard of my return would come and see me. From all I can learn their efforts to effect a change in their people have been successful. These two bands are now encamped about 100 miles, or two days' travel, from this fort; I have sent an express to them to come in immediately, and have no doubt they will arrive in four or five days. I feel confident that after holding council with them I shall be able to make a radical change in their deportment for the future.

One hundred lodges of the Upper Yanconais band are encamped within four days' march of this; I have sent an express to them to come in. Some of the principal men had been here previous to my arrival, and I learn that they are extremely anxious to get their portion of the annuities, and say that they will strictly adhere to the advice and counsel I will give them.

In the foregoing I have embraced everything that has come under my observation and knowledge of the different tribes in my agency, many of the circumstances you are already aware of, having witnessed the same. I have, however, learned that the appearance of the troops at Fort Pierre has wrought a very great change in the conduct of the Onk-pa-pas and Blackfeet bands, also the Yanconais; and I must again repeat that as the troops are now in the country, if a formidable number would show themselves at the villages of these Indians, murders, robberies, and horse stealing would no longer be heard of. I give this with all due deference as my opinion, and shall be glad to hear that you and the department take the same view of it. An excursion of this kind in the prairies would give the officers a knowledge of the country, which would be advantageous to the government.

Respecting the resources and future settlement of this country, I have expressed an opinion in a former report, and after still further investigation I have no cause to change it.

If the value of a portion of the country depends in any respect on the value of the whole, then this country for a white man is worthless. It is true a few fertile spots are seen in the bottoms, but they are so subject to be overflowed by the rise in the river as renders their occupation very precarious. The fertile spots in this country are like the oases in the desert, around is desolation and gloom. I am well aware that most new countries have been evilly reported upon from the time of Moses, when he sent the twelve messengers to spy out the promised land. They returned, ten of the twelve gave an evil report of the country; for which, we are told, they were punished by detention in the wilderness for forty years, they having reported there was no soil, no timber, no water. This country fully answers their report. And, in fact, it will apply to the greater part of the Upper Missouri, or that portion of it inhabited by the eight bands of Sioux embraced in this report, numbering (16,000) sixteen thousand souls, which number I am satisfied is correct; for my information is
derived from the principal chiefs in the different councils I have held with them. In that part of their country in which these Indians generally roam but little game is to be found, and their sufferings from starvation during the last two years have come under my immediate observation. In the spring of the year they subsist solely on the carcasses of drowned buffalo, which they find on the banks and sand-bars of the river; in the summer and fall upon roots and fruits; of the latter they have several kinds, the bullberry or mountain-thorn, wild cherries, several varieties of plums, gooseberries, and currants.

Generally speaking, the traders, like the game, have abandoned the Sioux country and moved to this point, having for the past two years sustained heavy losses in keeping trading establishments lower down. Starvation must be the ultimate fate of most of the Sioux bands, and they plainly see it. Every inducement has been offered them to cultivate the soil, but to no effect. When I have spoken to many of them on the subject, their reply was, "we have been created for the chase, and will not degrade ourselves by work;" and I am convinced that many of their murders and depredations are acts of desperation, caused by their extreme destitute situation.

I have selected the mouth of the Yellow Stone river as a place to establish an agency and warehouse, considering it the most central point for an agent, who would have the control of the Gros Ventres of the Missouri, Assinaboin, Crow, and Cree tribes of Indians. I have sent the specifications of the buildings to be erected to the two trading companies to receive their proposals for building the same. I would again most respectfully state that this agency, as it now exists, is entirely too large for one agent, and propose that another agency be established at this place, which would embrace the Poncas, Sioux, Arickarees, and Mandans.

I found it impossible to do without hiring an interpreter by the year, as there is no person who understands and speaks the Sioux language sufficiently well in this part of the country to act as interpreter for the government. I have, therefore, engaged Mr. Z. Rencontre, whose contract will be found herewith. Getting an interpreter at every point where I meet the Indians I know, from experience, creates much difficulty and dissatisfaction.

Last winter a half-breed boy of the Sioux tribe was brought to me, whose father had been killed, and shortly afterwards his mother died. He had been left in the prairie naked to starve. I took charge of, clothed, and fed him. In the spring, when I went down, I took him with me, intending to place him at some missionary establishment. On my arrival at St. Mary's Mr. P. A. Larpy saw him with me, and after relating to him the manner I came by him, requested that I would leave him in his charge, stating he would raise him with care, and give him a good education; when he had completed which, he would furnish him means for a start in the world. This is a praiseworthy act on the part of Mr. Larpy, who I am convinced will fulfill his promise.

Since my arrival here a party of the Gros Ventres of the Missouri have visited me. They brought me five horses which some of their
young men, when out on a buffalo hunt, had taken from the Sioux. The chief requested I would return them to those Indians, which I immediately did; at the same time stating that the band of Onk-pa-pas, who would visit me shortly, had five horses belonging to his Indians, which he wished me to obtain for him. This I shall certainly do. This act fully shows you the disposition of those Indians to fulfill treaty stipulations.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALFRED J. VAUGHAN,
Indian Agent.

Colonel Alfred Cuming,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri.

No. 25.

FORT LARAMIE, August 20, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to report to the department, that since my communication of the 13th instant I have met, in council, the Cheyenne band of Indians of the South Platte, and also the band of Sioux called Brulé, of the North Platte. These bands, from all the information I can collect from every source, have continued firm friends of the whites during the Sioux troubles. These bands desire that they may have established among them a farmer and a blacksmith. I shall meet the chiefs of the Arapahoes of the South Platte, and the Ogallalah band of Sioux of the North Platte, as early as the 22d instant. These bands have also been friendly and peaceable during all of the Sioux troubles. The band which murdered the mail party is called the Wasagahas, and was the Bear's band before his death. His brothers and relatives were engaged in that affair. I cannot ascertain where this band is at present hunting; I expect, however, that my runners will soon bring me news of them. These five bands are all that belong to the agency of the Upper Platte. All of them are at peace among themselves, and with the whites, except the Wasagahas, and beg earnestly that the trade in the Indian country may be restored, for they are suffering—starving.

I cannot ascertain from any reliable source that there are any hostile Indians within this agency. There are certainly none at the Bridge, west, nor are there any assembled among the Black Hills, nor on L'Eau qui Court. If that were the case, or if it were true that at any point within this agency fifteen hostile Indians were assembled for war, my runners would have informed me.

I would respectfully recommend to the department that a blacksmith and a farmer be engaged for the Arapahoes and Cheyennés on the South Platte, and also the same for the bands of Sioux on the North Platte; and that the usual estimates for objects of this nature be asked of Congress.

I forward directly to the department, in consequence of the absence from St. Louis of Colonel Cuming, on the Upper Missouri, and I feel that it is important that the department should have all the infor-
mation that I am in possession of. In conclusion, I beg to say that the Sioux difficulties have been magnified by false and malicious reports. There is not, as I can find, within this agency, a single hostile Indian; on the contrary, all are friendly. As to the Wasagahas band, if I should demand the murderers of the mail party, I have no doubt they would be delivered up to me. In consequence of news from the frontier, stating that the "Sioux expedition," under General Harney, was approaching the Upper Platte, I have assembled all of the Indians known to be friendly, and about which there was no doubt, on the South Platte and its tributaries, and on the Laramie river. The hostile Sioux of the Missouri will not approach the locality of these friendly bands, and by having them near me I can prevent the young men going out on the war path.

Respectfully submitted.

THOMAS S. TWISS,
Indian Agent.

Hon. The Secretary of the Interior.

No. 26.

FORT LARAMIE, September 3, 1855.

SIR: Since my communication to the department, on the 20th ultimo, in which I stated that I was gathering the friendly bands of Sioux on the South Platte and Laramie rivers, I have held a council with the chiefs and principal men of the Ogalallah band of Sioux, who came in from the head waters of L'Eau qui Court. I explained to them the reason why I could not deliver to them their annuity goods at present, and advised them to keep from the war path. They replied that they had always been friends of the whites, and had not broken the treaty of 1851, nor stolen horses from the white man on the emigrant trail.

I had received previously, from the commanding officer of this post, favorable reports of the friendly disposition of this band, and of the efforts that the chiefs were constantly making to preserve peace with the whites, by returning stolen horses, recaptured from the marauding parties of the Minne Conjoux Sioux from the Missouri river, and by restraining and preventing their young men from joining hostile bands in that direction.

I shall forward to the department by the next mail, of the 15th instant, all of the information which I can obtain during the councils, to be held within the next ten days with the various bands of Sioux of this agency.

I have just received regulations for schedules of Indian goods, dated June 14, too late to forward to the department and arrive before the 15th September.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS S. TWISS,
Indian Agent.

Hon. Col. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner Indian Affairs.
No. 27.

INDIAN AGENCY, FORT LARAMIE,
October 1, 1855.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit a report, in full, of the measures I adopted in reference to the Sioux bands of this agency, and of which I gave but an outline in my dispatches of 20th August and 3d September last.

Immediately after my arrival at this post, on the 10th August last, I began to collect information from all reliable sources, and to question the whites, Indians, traders, and others, who had been in the Indian country the last year, and during all of the late difficulties with the Sioux.

It was soon made clear to my mind that some portions of the Sioux bands, the Brulés and Ogallallahs, had no share or part in the murders and robberies which had been committed during the last twelve months, and were really desirous and anxious to preserve and continue their friendly and peaceful relations with the United States, and were resolved not to be forced into war measures by the hostile party of their own bands.

Under these circumstances, and with the conviction that I must act promptly or not at all, I declared the North Platte the boundary between the hostile and friendly Sioux, and dispatched runners to the chief "Big Partisan," of the Brulés, and to the chief "The-Man-Who-Is-Afraid-Of-His-Horses," of the Ogallallahs, the former to meet me at Bordeaux trading house, eight miles below the fort, and the latter at Ward and Guerrier's, eight miles above, on the North Platte, and bring to the council the principal men of these bands.

I met the chief Big Partisan, and the principal men of the Brulés, on the 19th August, and stated that they must prove to me by their acts and peaceful conduct that they were true friends; that my Sioux interpreter, who had traded with them for several winters, knew all of those who were engaged in the murder of the mail party in November last, and those also of the Brulé band who had committed depredations on the whites. I forbid these murderers and robbers from crossing to the south side of the Platte, and required the friendly Brulés to drive away from amongst them all hostile Indians, on pain of being declared enemies if I should find one of these outlaws in their village.

I placed this Brulé village of 70 lodges on Cherry creek, 10 miles south of this post. The Sioux band of Ogallallahs crossed the North Platte, between the 20th and 28th August, in small parties, at the trading house of Ward & Guerrier. I held a council with the chiefs and principal men on the 29th, and gave them the same advice and admonition as I had previously given to the Brulé band, and formed their camp on the Laramie river, 25 miles above the fort.

On the 30th August a small band (40 lodges) of Brulés, called Wagasahas, came in. I ascertained from my Sioux interpreter that the old chief (Stalber) and the headmen of this part of the band were always opposed to the Big Bear chief during his lifetime; that since his death they had driven away from their village the relations and friends of
the old chief; and after the murder of the mail party had separated themselves entirely from the Wasagahas. Under these circumstances, I took these old men with their 40 lodges under my protection. Between the 1st and 5th September I collected all of these portions of the Sioux bands in one village on the Laramie river, 35 miles above this post, and found I had 400 lodges, or about 4,000 souls.

On the 7th September I received news by express of the battle between General Harney's command and Little Thunder, chief of a part of the Brule band of Sioux, which took place on the Little Blue Water on the 3d September. I assembled immediately the chiefs and principal men of the friendly Sioux village and gave them all the particulars of the battle, and the loss sustained by Little Thunder's band in killed, wounded and prisoners. They replied that "General Harney had done right; Little Thunder had been told by me, through friendly runners sent by them, to keep off from the emigrant trail, and to come over to the south side and take me by the hand, if he was friendly to the United States. By remaining on the north side of the Platte he showed himself an enemy to the whites."

I transmitted to General Harney on the 20th August official notice of the measures I had adopted and proposed to follow strictly, both in respect to the friendly and hostile Sioux, and also the boundary which I had designated as separating the neutral from the hostile country. I had not, however, received any intimation or assurance that he would sanction those measures or respect that line previous to his arrival at this post on the 15th September.

In an official interview with the general on the 17th, I gave him a brief history of my operations, and requested him to take these friendly Sioux which I had collected together under his safeguard and protection; that I would pledge my head as security for their good conduct and fidelity.

I am happy to report that the general approved of my conduct in regard to the Sioux; and I am also pleased to state that the best understanding existed between us in all matters relating to Indian affairs and the Sioux difficulties during the short time the general remained at this post.

In conclusion, I trust my conduct and the manner in which I have discharged my duties will be approved by the honorable the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS S. TWISS,
Indian Agent, Upper Platte.

Hon. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

No. 28.

INDIAN AGENCY, FORT LARAMIE, October 10, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to state that my annual report of Indian affairs of the Upper Platte agency has been delayed beyond the time
designated by the Hon. the Commissioner of Indian affairs, in consequence of the Sioux difficulties.

On my arrival at this post, on the 10th August last, I found the whole Indian country in a state of feverish excitement and alarm, caused by the near approach of the Sioux expedition under the command of General Harney, and the uncertainty existing as to his instructions, or the measures that would be adopted in order to obtain a solution of the Sioux difficulties.

To all inquiries addressed to me I gave but this one answer, "There is a Sioux war."

It was difficult and almost impossible for me to obtain any information or facts that gave the true state of affairs, or the disposition and feelings of the Sioux Indians on the question of war or peace, either from the few whites, residents and traders, or from the Indians themselves. I was fortunate in securing for my Sioux interpreter the services of Antoine Jannis, who had been a trader with the Ogalallah and Brulé bands of Sioux for twelve years, had resided in their villages, and was personally acquainted with the principal men of both bands.

From him I obtained important information as to what had been the true state of the Indian feeling and conduct, in relation to the unfortunate affairs of last year, resulting in the massacre of Lieutenant Grattan and his detachment of United States troops, and the murder of the mail party. From the evidence before me, it was plain that a great proportion of the two bands of Sioux, the Ogalallas and Brulés, disavowed these acts, and were not parties that had any share in them, and had separated themselves from the guilty parties of those two bands, and were anxious to remain at peace with the United States. I immediately adopted measures as to war and peace parties, and carried them into effect, as stated in my dispatch of the 1st instant.

The Indian annuity goods have not been distributed either to the Sioux bands or to the Arapahoes. The greater part of the Cheyenne band were near this post on my arrival, and as there were no complaints made against them as being concerned in acts of hostility, or of depredations on property of whites, I gave them their goods.

There are heavy charges against the Arapahoes for killing cattle and sheep during the present year. The owners of this stock have not yet proved their claims before me, except one, for 48 head of cattle. The whole amount claimed will be nearly $15,000, and will stop the annuity of this band for some years. The Arapahoes, in council with me, admitted that they were greatly in fault, but excused themselves by saying they were starving; that the smallpox was raging in their lodges, and prevented them from going out to hunt the buffalo. They said they were willing to have their annuity stopped until the owners of this stock were fully paid.

The Arapahoes and Cheyennes have applied to me to be supplied with a farmer and blacksmith. I would recommend to the department that this request be granted, and that Saint Vrain's fort, on the South Platte, be selected as the most suitable point for a farm and an agency for the Arapahoes and Cheyennes of the South Platte and
Arkansas. There is not, in the whole Indian country, a more favorable location for a farm for grazing stock and for game than the South Platte. In a very short period of time the Arapahoes and Cheyennes would become fixed and settled, and a part of each tribe, the old men and women, would become agriculturists, rude it is true, yet sufficiently skillful to raise corn, potatoes, and beans, and dwell in cabins or fixed habitations.

The Sioux bands have also made a similar application; but as only a part of these was represented, I deem it proper to postpone recommending any action until after a peace with the whole Sioux nation.

It is evident to me, from my short experience, that the bands of Indians on the plains suffer greatly, at particular seasons, by cold and hunger. The buffalo is becoming scarce, and it is more difficult from year to year for the Indians to kill a sufficient number to supply them with food and clothing. The old and the very young Indians are the greatest sufferers, for they are less able to bear the intense cold of winter and privation of food. Thousands die annually from these causes alone; and the certain gradual disappearance of the buffalo is followed by the rapid, quick disappearance of the Indians. I would recommend to the department an increase, if possible, of the annuity to the tribes of this agency for the next year. There will be a greater degree of suffering than at any former period.

The Indian trade is entirely stopped, and has been for some time past, consequently the Indian is deprived of all supplies from Indian traders. He will not make robes, waiting for a market; as a matter of course, it will be some time after peace is restored, and the trade re-opened, before the Indians will have any article for trade or barter. It is, therefore, a matter of great moment that there should be some source of supply to the Indians. I am not prepared to propose any better plan than the one above named; that is, to increase the annuity, and apply this additional amount to the purchase of corn and provisions.

In recommending an agency for the Arapahoes and Cheyennes on the South Platte, and one for the Sioux of the North Platte on the L'Eau qui Court, or at some point at a distance from this post, it should not be inferred that I propose to divide the agency. I simply propose to consolidate the tribes of the Arapahoes and Cheyennes into one family, and the Sioux by themselves separately. At the present time these bands are scattered over a great extent of country. They are found all along the trail from the head of Sweet Water, in the Crow country, in the Utah country, among the Comanches and Kioways, and even as far east as the Pawnees, against whom they send war parties, and also against the Utahs. Their habits are roving, and, consequently, predatory; and the sooner the government shall take steps to break these habits the better will it be for the Indians.

It will be observed that I recommended the farms and the agency be established far distant from any military post. I would protest, in the strongest terms, against the practice, but too common in the conduct of our Indian affairs, of permitting large bands of Indians, or even small parties, to come into our military posts or encamping near them, to transact business with the Indian agents, or for any other
purpose whatsoever. The whole plan is wrong and fraught with evil. It is the remote cause of all the present Sioux difficulties, and to guard against a recurrence of these troubles, these bitter and angry feelings between the Indians and the whites, I will not permit, during my term of office, an Indian to visit a military post nor approach near one, unless I am present.

To overawe the tribes, to make them know and dread our power, to make them fear and respect us, it is as clear and apparent, to my mind, as the noonday sun, that the best and only proper method of conducting our Indian relations is to establish military posts in the heart of the Indian country. There should be many more than at present established. There are strategetical points that should be occupied forthwith; points where a handful of men would do more efficient service than large armies in the field during a campaign, or several campaigns.

It does not fall appropriately within the sphere of my duties further than to name those points, and bring them to the notice of the department, viz:

1st. The Big Timber, on the Arkansas river.
2d. The bridge across the North Platte, 120 miles westnorthwest of this post.
3d. On White river, near Cache Butte, Fort Pierre trail.
4th. On the north fork of the Cheyenne river, near Bear Butte.
5th. Fort Benton, on the Upper Missouri river, near the Rocky mountains, and on the northern trail to the Territory of Washington.

These nomadic tribes of the prairies would then know the strength of the government; now they cannot be made to understand nor comprehend it by description. When it is told to them by the whites that such is the truth, they will ask, where is this power or strength of the whites? We do not see it—we do not feel it—we see only a few whites—they are very weak and feeble—why do not your whites come and fight us, if you are as strong as you say you are? Such is the language and belief of the Indians of the prairies. It seems hardly necessary to say that the points above named being occupied with a strong force, would tend to break the Indians' power, from New Mexico to the 49th parallel of latitude, and from the frontier of the States to the Rocky mountains. It is obviously the duty of the government to occupy the Indian country in such force as to overawe the tribes; to observe in our intercourse with them a character of firmness and decision; and in our treaty stipulations to be most liberal and generous—to give, in presents, much more than they ask for, or have any reason to expect. They are only the wards of a great and powerful nation—poor, helpless, ignorant children—and will always remain such. It therefore becomes the duty and true policy of a generous people to destroy at once the power of these tribes to do mischief, and then to feed and clothe them for the short remnant of their days, and to adopt such other measures to ameliorate their condition as may be deemed proper. Let us civilize first, or make the attempt to lead them into habits of agriculture, and of having fixed habitations. Missions and schools will then soon follow as a matter of course.
I beg leave, also, to recommend to the immediate attention and prompt action of the department the appointment of commissioners to make treaties with the Sioux and neighboring tribes. It is, in my opinion, desirable that these commissioners should be sent out with as little delay as possible. There will be no difficulty in convening all of the bands of this agency in a great council, for the purpose of forming a general treaty, the advantages of which may be made apparent and clear to all of them.

The Sioux war is near its termination. If I am not totally mistaken in my judgment, all of the Sioux bands to the north will submit to General Harney, and sue for peace; they have no desire nor wish to fight or prolong the war. The affair on the Little Blue Water, on the 3d of September, was a thunder clap to them, and has opened their ears, and given them to understand truths which they did not believe before that chastisement.

I propose to remain for the present near this post, and not leave the Indian country without orders from the department. I shall communicate promptly any intelligence or facts that come to my knowledge that may be important, or require the action of the government in settling the Sioux difficulties.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. TWISS,
Indian Agent.

Colonel Cumming,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

No. 29.

COUNCIL BLUFFS AGENCY,
November 1, 1855.

Sir: In conformity with the requirements of the Indian Department, I have the honor of submitting this my first annual report, and which, owing to the unsettled condition of the different tribes within this agency, I hoped to have been permitted to omit.

The three tribes under my care, to wit, the Pawnees, Omahas, and Otoes and Missourias, have been blessed with good health during the time I have been with them. They all have plenty to eat and wear, the two latter tribes being furnished by government with flour, beef, bacon, sugar, and coffee. The Pawnees have to depend on their own resources; they raise corn, pumpkins, squashes, melons, &c., but to no great extent. Should they be successful on their winter's hunt in killing buffalo, they will have plenty; but should the Sioux come in contact with them, prove an overmatch and drive them from the plains, they will return without meat to eat, or robes to exchange for blankets and ammunition, in which event they will be compelled to live on corn; furthermore, it must be understood by the department, that when these Indians leave for their winter's hunt everything is taken with them, big, little, old and young, squaws and all go.
Their corn, &c., they cache by digging a hole in the ground in the shape of a tunnel, little end up, in which they store hundreds of bushels; but during their absence straggling bands of other tribes sometimes find the caches and rob them, taking the whole contents; this, however, seldom occurs, for these holes of deposit are extremely difficult to discover. Should the Pawnees be driven from the plains, killing no buffalo, and on returning find their corn stolen, much suffering will ensue by way of hunger. They number about four thousand and have three villages on the Platte river, on government land. Sometimes they meet with loss on the plains during battle, by way of the enemy taking their ponies; this, however, can easily be repaired, for it is no trick for fifteen or twenty Pawnees to go and steal more of the Camanches or any other tribe, say five hundred or more miles distant. In fact, I am inclined to the opinion that they get all their horses in this way. They do not steal much from the whites because of fear; they are lewd and dirty, yet disposed to be industrious and obedient to the will of the government—could be induced, perhaps, to give some attention to education and learn to work, with less trouble than the other tribes of this agency. Government should purchase their lands, at least see that they have a good reserve or home some place, and give them a fair trial.

The Sioux have only twice this season undertaken to exterminate the Pawnees, at both times it was a drawn battle, perhaps not more than ten or twelve killed on each side. On the last occasion the Sioux killed twenty or thirty Pawnee horses.

This tribe has no means of sending their children to school and which I hope shortly to see provided for, government doing nothing more than furnishing them with a smith shop and blacksmith.

The Otoe and Missouria tribe of Indians are living on their reserve on the Big Blue river, near the line dividing Kansas and Nebraska Territories; they raised but a small portion of corn during the last summer, are now on their winter's hunt, and will, in all probability, not kill much game, soon return, and depend on government to furnish them with provisions. They, the men, seem to have great aversion to labor, will drink liquor when it can be had, and make fair promises of what they are going to do on their farm next season. As yet we have been able to do but little in the way of farming for this tribe, owing to the time they were removed, which was in July last; but one hundred acres of prairie are yet broken, one dwelling-house and smith shop erected, and one hundred tons of hay well put up. They number about six hundred, in my opinion, though the pay-roll shows more. It is extremely difficult to get the true number—council and turn out one at a time is the only chance. This tribe by nature seems to be more intelligent than the others of this agency, and in practice most insolent, but less disposed to labor and to favor education.

The Omaha tribe of Indians, since the death of their principal chief, Logan Fontenelle, in July last, who was killed and scalped on the Loup Fork, seem to be frantic with fear; they are afraid to do anything. They are now on a little tour hunting; will remain near the mouth of the Horn during the winter; number about eight hundred;
raised no corn last season; notwithstanding one hundred and thirty odd acres were ploughed, and potatoes, turnips, corn, and buckwheat, put in the ground for them, they abandoned all, went hunting; met with their troubles on the plains, and so far it seems impossible to have them return. They are doing nothing for themselves in the way of improvement, either for mind or body, and before they will all fear must be banished. This tribe merits something for abandoning the use of ardent spirits. As a tribe they have used but little for the last twelve months, and, considering their proximity to it, I conclude the chiefs and many of the headmen are disposed to forsake the practice, so fatal to them, of drinking.

But little is doing within this agency in the way of education, and until the Indian throws off his blanket and goes to work, as well as to school, he will be an Indian still.

Respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE HEPNER, Indian Agent.

Col. A. CUMMING, Esq.,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Mo.

No. 30.

GREAT NEMEHA AGENCY, September 30, 1855.

Sir: I have the honor to report that the Sac and Fox and Iowa tribes of Indians belonging to this agency have enjoyed an unusual degree of good health throughout the past year; and, notwithstanding the scarcity and high price of subsistence, there has been no material suffering on this account. There has been less drunkenness than heretofore among them, and some have exerted themselves in trying to suppress the traffic in ardent spirits. On one occasion they destroyed two barrels of whiskey on the line of the reserve of the Sacs and Foxes, and at another time one on the half-breed lands, by knocking out their heads and emptying their contents on the ground. I regret that a few of the individuals thus engaged could not withstand the temptation, and partook of it before it was all thrown away; and when I talked to them about it, their only reply was, "Father, we could not help it; we did not like to see so much good firewater wasted without saving a little of it."

The Sacs and Foxes of Missouri have a fine fertile country, well watered and timbered, and the "white man" is already making inquiries as to the probable time when they can occupy it, notwithstanding the large quantity of unoccupied land, much of which was recently ceded by Indians in these territories. I, however, hope, as some of these Indians are disposed to improve their condition by tilling the soil, that they will not be disturbed, at least until the experiment has been fairly tried.

The Iowas have been quite successful this year in raising corn and vegetables. Some of them took special pains to cultivate the seeds sent them by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs from Washington
city. This tribe has prepared a large quantity of "sweet corn" for future use.

The Ioway blacksmith finds full employment; he not only works at his forge, but repairs the wood work of their ploughs and wagons.

For the operations of the Sac and Fox farm, I refer you to the report of the farmer and Miller herewith.

The school, under the charge of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, has been conducted, as usual, under the official superintendence of the Rev. Samuel Irwin. The whole number of pupils is 51; of these 29 are males and 22 females, who belong to the following tribes, viz: Ioways, 8; Sacs and Foxes, 4; Pawnees, 9; Sioux, 7; Blackfeet, 7; Ottes, 6, and Cheyenue, 1. It is a source of extreme regret that the Indians are so obstinately averse to entrusting their children to this or any other beneficial institution. They well know that they are comfortably clothed, fed and cared for, and yet they prefer having them with themselves, to be reared in idleness, half naked, and frequently suffering for mere subsistence. They seem to believe that if they become educated and industrious, possessing the ability and means to procure a decent and comfortable livelihood, that they are lost to them and their tribe. This can only be accounted for by their own ignorance and degraded condition. I shall not cease to urge upon them the importance and actual necessity of teaching their children so as to fit them to compete in the great struggle of life with the white man.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

D. VANDERSLICE,
Indian Agent.

Col. A. CUMMING,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

No. 31.

IOWA AND SAC MISSION,
September 29, 1855.

DEAR SIR: The statement furnished you this morning will show the number of scholars in school, the tribes from which they are gathered, as well as an outline of their progress in study. At present we are in want of a male teacher. On the first of the month Mr. McCain, who has been teaching for some time, closed his services in that capacity, and we have only Mrs. Fullerton, who is a good teacher, to carry on the school for the present. It is, however, far from the intention of the board to be without a male teacher, and one will be secured as soon as possible.

We have not been sparing in our efforts to cultivate habits of industry and labor among the children, both on the farm and in the house, and we think it has not been altogether a failure. The boys work well and regular on the farm, while the girls are equally industrious in the house. With some the question may arise whether they
do not work too much; but when we see that their habits of industry and economy are all to be formed here, and that until these habits are formed letters can be of but little use to them, there seems little danger of carrying this essential part of their education too far. We have always observed that the more uniform and strict they are kept at business the more amiable and contented they seem to be.

There still seems to be a lingering disposition among the relatives and professed friends of some of the children to persuade and entice them off to their new settlements. They come with friendly pretensions, eat and lodge at the mission, and e'er we are aware some of the scholars are missing. And when once away it is exceedingly hard for us to recover them; no one seems to know where they are. Sympathy seems to run in favor of the relative, and sport and ridicule is sometimes the reward for a toilsome trip to find the little runaway. Still we can well sympathise with the kind hearted relative, who thinks he seeks the good of the child. Their attachments are not tempered with knowledge; they cannot value an education, because they know not what it is; and when they hear of their children being at work, a thing not most congenial to themselves, or of their being chastised in school, it is not strange that they should feel desirous of having them with themselves.

But we are happy to say that these cases of stealthful departure from school, through the influence of relatives, are growing less frequent; and we trust that with the aid which, under the new regulations, you will be able to give they will soon be unknown.

The only hope now for the remaining fragments of these dying tribes is a thorough training, both in letters and manual labor; and we look with interest to the new contracts between the government and the mission board for the more full and decided fulfilment of these desirable objects. We are well prepared with clothing, rooms, provisions, &c., for the fulfilment of the board’s contract; and we are ready and anxious to render all the aid in our power to collect the full number of scholars from all those tribes when contracts have been made.

I should like to say something with regard to the religious and moral condition of the children and school, but these lines having been put off now to the latest hour, on account of sickness, and having nothing that would be striking or decidedly interesting on this point, I must close.

With best wishes, I am, dear sir, your friend and obedient servant,

S. M. IRWIN.

Col. D. VANDERSLICE.

No. 32.

FARM OF SACS AND FOXES OF MISSOURI,

September 30, 1855.

SIR: In obedience to your notice of the 27th instant, I report that the operations of the farm of the Sacs and Foxes of Missouri have been but partially successful. I had twenty-five acres of wheat well
put in, the ground twice ploughed, twice harrowed, and rolled with a heavy roller; it looked well, but the prospect for a good crop was blasted by much of it being frozen out, there being no snow retained upon it; the fields being the highest ground on the farm, the winds swept off all the snow that fell. Notwithstanding, a part of it did tolerably well. But the long and continued rains destroyed most of it after it was harvested. The oat crop, about fifteen acres, produced well, and the most of it was saved uninjured, being housed in the barn; three stacks were much injured by the rain, which was driven into them by the strong winds; also some seven or eight tons of hay were totally destroyed. Indeed, the crops of wheat, oats, and early cut hay, throughout this region and in Missouri, were much damaged, and in some instances whole crops were lost.

The same cause which injured the crops referred to has assisted materially in bringing out the later crops of corn, potatoes, and pumpkins.

From an estimate just made, there will be about 3,000 bushels of corn, 700 bushels of potatoes, and an abundance of pumpkins, to distribute among the Indians, after retaining a sufficiency for the stock belonging to the farm. In addition, we have put up, and in good order, about sixteen tons of hay.

Having understood from you that the Indians desired one more crop off this farm, I presume it is intended, as soon as possible, to wind up the farming operations immediately thereafter, with as little expense as possible.

It is much to be regretted that the Indians themselves cannot be induced to labor, and particularly as the price of labor in this country is so very high.

I will, as requested by you, make out an estimate of the necessary expenses at as early a day as possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. J. VANDERSLICE,
Sac and Fox Farmer and Miller.

Major D. VANDERSLICE,
Indian Agent.

No. 33.

KICKAPOO AGENCY,
Grasshopper Ford, October 5, 1855.

Sir: Agreeably to the requirements of the regulations of the Indian Department, the following report is most respectfully submitted:

The Indians upon this reserve have enjoyed a good degree of health the past season, until within a short time past. Those living upon the south part of the reserve, near the emigrant and military road, have had some sickness from the emigrant trains passing near them, and there have been two or three cases of cholera which have proved
fatal. I am sorry to say that quite a number are at this time sick with fever and ague; all settled on or near the streams and among the timber have suffered more or less with the above disease, while those living upon the high and open prairie have not suffered in the least from sickness or disease of any kind.

The valley of the Grasshopper is one of extreme fertility; the bottoms are wide and peculiarly adapted to the culture of all the usual grains, &c., of a western country; with a good degree of fine timber along the main stream and its branches.

There has not been as much liquor drank as usual among this tribe of Indians; but still as long as the whites will bring the article into the country as an article of traffic the poor Indian will have it, as he knows no bounds to his voracious and savage appetite.

The honorable members of the council and legislature of the Territory of Kansas enacted laws at their sitting which will, I think, go very far towards suppressing the evil and nefarious traffic among the Indians along the borders of their reserve.

There is a portion of the tribe that are exceedingly anxious to put some law in force among themselves whereby some restraint and punishment can be inflicted upon those of their tribe who may be, from time to time, found intoxicated, but as yet the chiefs and headmen have not agreed upon any plan that they feel justified in putting in force.

There has been but little advancement made towards the goal of civilization the past season among the Kickapooos; neither can there be until they have permanent missionaries among them and schools for their children.

The Indians have put up a quantity of dried corn and pumpkins, sufficient, with their annuity, for their subsistence; so that but little fears need be entertained of their suffering the coming winter. A portion of the Kickapooos have built quite comfortable log cabins the past summer, while others still prefer the more rude and savage way of living in the old fashioned bark wigwams, and prefer hunting to cultivating the soil.

All of which I most respectfully submit.

Yours, most respectfully,

R. BALDWIN,
Indian Agent.

Colonel A. CUMMING,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis.

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No. 34.

DELAWARE AGENCY, September 21, 1855.

SIR: The annual report of an agent as to the condition of the Indians under his charge and limited powers of protection is generally, and perhaps correctly, summed up in a few words: "But little improvement since my last report."
The crisis consequent upon the opening of this Territory to white population has not as yet proved as adverse to the welfare of the Delawares as was justly anticipated by the philanthropist. These Indians, nevertheless, have witnessed and experienced enough to shake their confidence in the laws which govern the white, or perhaps I should say civilized race. The irruption of intruders upon their trust land; their bloody dissensions; outbreaks of party, &c., must necessarily to these unsophisticated people have presented our system of government in an unfavorable light; and should there spring up in the bosoms of the Indians generally an increased distrust of the government, and a greater disinclination to become (as they express it) white men, neither the Indian agent nor the Indian Department ought rightfully to be subjected to censure.

I have experienced a good deal of difficulty in protecting the people of this agency. Numerous wrongs have been perpetrated; in many parts of the reserve the white man has wasted their most valuable timber with an unsparing hand; the trust lands, also, have been greatly injured in consequence of the settlements made thereon. The Indians have complained, but to no purpose; I have found it useless to forewarn and threaten legal proceedings. The destruction of timber is still persisted in; and, unless remedies of a preventive character are entrusted in the hands of the agent, whereby he may be enabled to expel trespassers who may be found on reserved lands committing waste, large annual appropriations of money will be required in instituting and prosecuting lawsuits; for, in good faith, the government is bound to protect these people. To this end a revision of the laws in relation to Indian tribes would doubtless be advisable.

The late treaty with the Delawares empowers Congress, in a limited extent, to embrace them under its jurisdiction. I am of the opinion that a few simple laws adapted to their condition and capacity, such, for instance, as a system of common schools disconnected with missionary establishments, a mild criminal code, and laws rigidly enforcing contracts between the members of the tribe, would possibly meet with their consent, and do much towards elevating and improving their condition. The administration of these laws could be effected without a resort to taxation, by appropriating the moneys which will arise from the sale of the valuable lands transferred by them in trust to the United States by the late treaty. The sooner the annuity system or policy is dispensed with the better for this ill-fated race.

The agricultural or laboring portion of this tribe have done well this season; abundant crops of corn promise them a supply of food for the ensuing year, and but a small part of their annuity, compared with that of the last season, will have to be expended for bread.

B. F. ROBINSON,
Indian Agent.

Colonel A. CUMMING,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.
No. 35.

SHAWNEE AND WYANDOT AGENCY,

October 3, 1855.

SIR: In compliance with the regulations of the Indian Department, under which I have the honor to act, I submit the following brief report of the condition of this agency during the past year. It gives me much pleasure to state that the Shawnee and Wyandot tribes of Indians, embraced within my agency, have enjoyed, during the last twelve months, an almost uninterrupted prosperity, and they are now rejoicing in an abundant return from the toils and labors of the husbandman. While disease and death in their most malignant form have visited some of the neighboring tribes, and many of the white settlements, they have been peculiarly exempted from both, except in one locality, the “Friends’ Shawnee Mission,” which was, in the month of July, entirely broken up in consequence of severe sickness among the scholars. In consequence of this sickness, and an unexpected change in the superintendent and teachers, no report has been received. I learn, however, from Mr. Hadley, who has but recently taken charge, that the prospect for a full school during the coming term is very flattering. From the Baptist mission no report has been received. The school formerly kept there has been entirely abandoned. I learn that instructions have been received by Mr. Barker, the gentleman in charge, from the society to rent the buildings and improvements. The Shawnee manual labor school, under the able superintendency of the Rev. Thomas Johnson, is in a very prosperous condition. His efforts, united with those of the teachers, to educate mentally and morally the youth entrusted to his care have been eminently successful. It was my pleasure to be present at the last annual examination, and the proficiency exhibited in all the studies upon which they were examined was alike creditable to teachers and scholars. For a more detailed and statistical account of the condition and prospects of the school, I refer you to the accompanying report of the superintendent, Rev. Thomas Johnson.

The Shawnees, as well as the Wyandots, are making rapid progress towards civilization, and are gathering around them the comforts, and, in many instances, some of the elegancies of a more refined and cultivated life. Prostitution, drunkenness, and vice of every character, which but a short time since were, if not actually countenanced by the headmen of the nation, winked at, are, under the influence of good and wholesome laws enacted and enforced by their councils, rapidly disappearing. For drunkenness the annuity of the man convicted is withheld and a fine imposed. In the case of the female, her head is shaved in addition to the withholding her share. Yet this degrading vice cannot be wholly eradicated until the legislatures of the States bordering on the homes of the Indians are induced to enact more stringent laws against the sale of intoxicating drink to the Indian. The law of Missouri upon the subject is, in fact, of no avail, the proof required being such as to render it almost impossible to convict under it. Several arrests have been made within the Territory,
and indictments found against persons for introducing and selling whiskey within the Shawnee country. Heavy bail has been required for their appearance before the district court of the Territory, and every effort will be made to convict them.

Agreeably to instructions received from the department, through your office, I caused notices to be printed, and had them posted throughout the whole Shawnee reserve, warning trespassers and intruders that they were doing so in direct violation of law, and I also caused the orders of the department to be published in several of the papers on the border, and within the Territory, and I am sorry to say thus far with but little or no effect. The most valuable portions of the timbered lands are being entirely stripped. Having no force at my disposal, I have been unable to prevent this.

I informed you, by telegraph, that certain suits had been brought in the circuit court of Jackson county by R. W. Thompson and others against Captain Joseph Parks and other Shawnees. Not having time to receive instructions from Washington in regard to what action to take in the matter before it would come up in court, by my advice they employed Colonel A. J. Isaacs, United States district attorney for the district of Kansas, who, together with his partner, William H. Miller, esq., and Mr. Hicks, of Independence, appeared, and successfully defended them. For a better understanding of the subject and points at issue, I refer you to the accompanying certified copies of the papers and pleadings filed in the clerk’s office at Independence, which I have only to-day been able to procure.

Great dissatisfaction was created both among the Shawnees and Wyandots by the retention on the part of the department of a portion of their annuity due the present month. The Shawnees utterly refuse to receive any part less than the whole amount. The Wyandots at first also refused, but upon a better understanding of the reasons for the retention, they signified their consent to receive the amount remitted. Their payment will, therefore, take place so soon as the commissioners appointed under the late treaty shall have discharged the duties entrusted to them, which will be about the 25th of the present month.

While the policy of retaining of the Indian annuities for payments in the spring is, as a general thing, a good one, and beneficial to the Indian, so far as regards the more improvident tribes, it is perhaps of a doubtful nature in the case of the more civilized and advanced tribes. The Indians over whom I have the honor to be placed have always, since I have entered upon the duties of my office, evinced an earnest desire to comply faithfully with the very letter of their treaty stipulations. A deviation from the strict requirements of the treaties on the part of government cannot fail to weaken their faith in its integrity. To say the least, it gives those who are disposed to fail in their engagements an excuse for doing so.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT C. MILLER,
Indian Agent.

Colonel A. CUMMING,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, October 19, 1855.

Sir: The paragraphs in the annual report of Agent Miller, in relation to the dissatisfaction expressed by the Wyandots and Shawnees, because the whole amount of their annuities was not sent forward, are calculated to produce the impression that that officer entertains views and opinions upon the subject not fully in accordance with the true interests of the Indians, but rather in harmony with those of that class of men who are very ready to throw obstacles in the way of the government, in its administration of Indian affairs, and to adopt the means necessary, whatever they may be, to obtain the Indians' money.

The "policy" of retaining a portion of the annuities of 1855-'6 in the treasury until next spring was not submitted to the agent for his views. That question was determined here, and, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Interior, action was taken, of which you were informed by letter of 14th August, and the sums deemed proper sent forward, and which the agent has received. The propriety, or policy, of the measure did not come before Agent Miller, and his reference to the subject, in that point of view, is as inappropriate as his views are, in my opinion, inconsistent with the true interests of the Indians themselves.

You will apprise Agent Miller of the contents of this note.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

A. CUMMINGS, Esq.,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Mo.

SHAWNEE MANUAL LABOR SCHOOL,
September 30, 1855.

Sir: The time has arrived when, in compliance with the obligations of the Indian Department, it becomes my duty to make an annual report of the condition of this school.

You will see, by referring to the accompanying list of names, that during the past year, commencing October 1, 1854, and ending September 30, 1855, there have been received into and taught in this school—

(87) eighty-seven Shawnee children.
(22) twenty-two Ottawa children.
(10) ten Wyandot children.
(2) two Spanish boys, rescued from the Cheyenne tribe of Indians by General Whitfield; and 
(1) one small Sioux boy; making, in all, (122) one hundred and twenty-two.

The scholars were remarkably regular in their attendance at school until February, when we had an unusual amount of sickness, which caused some of the scholars to leave, and we lost four by death—two Shawnees and two Ottawas. But we still had a very respectable school up to the close of the session.

The scholars have been classed according to the progress they have made in their studies, from the alphabet to spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, composition, declamation, &c. The boys have also, while out of school, been employed at work on the farm and managing the stock; and the girls, while not in school, have been taught to knit, sew, wash, cook, manage the dairy, &c. And we think they have improved as fast as could be reasonably expected.

The Shawnees have manifested a stronger disposition to improve since their late treaty than at any former period. They say that as they have arranged to live among the white people they must qualify themselves to act their part accordingly; and I have no doubt the wise provisions made by the government, in their late treaty, for their improvement, will have a salutary influence.

Respectfully submitted.

THOS. JOHNSON, Superintendent.

Major R. C. MILLER,
Indian Agent.

No. 38.

POTTAWATOMIE AGENCY, KANSAS TERRITORY,
October 17, 1855.

SIR: Pursuant to regulations, I have the honor to submit my annual report of the operations of the Indian Department within this agency, during the past year, this being the first opportunity after the pressing engagements which have recently occupied my attention in general council with the Pottawatomies.

Early last May I turned over to John Montgomery, esq., agent for the Kansas, the funds and public property, with the papers belonging to that section of the department; and since the separation of that tribe from my agency I have had more time to devote to the interests and affairs of the Pottawatomies—a tribe once so powerful, now weak and imbecile from diminished numbers, divisions into clans, and divided councils, and from the ascendancy and rule of the ignorant and intolerant portion of this unfortunate people. A portion of these people have, for a long time, had intercourse with the whites, and in a measure adopted the civilized mode of life, and they manifest a desire for the improvement of themselves and their people. This
class composes portions of the "Wabash" and "St. Joseph's" bands, and having a prominence in their several bands, would be successful in reclaiming, to some extent, under the management of the government, their kinsmen, had they not in their midst the formidable obstacle of the "Prairie" band, or Bluff Indians, to oppose, thwart, and defeat every measure of improvement among this unhappy people.

The "Prairie band" adheres to the hunter life, nearly all of whom despise the arts and principles of civilization; who regard it as disgraceful for men to work, and they spare no language in denouncing those of the tribe who cultivate the soil or follow the peaceful arts. This band arrogantly claims ownership of all the land, and declares that the other bands have no rights here, nor to the annuities, they being permitted to participate in them only on the courtesy of their condescending brothers. And on this tenure these unfortunate people are thus subjected to the intrusions and depredations of the "Prairie" band, who frequently kill their stock, burn their fences, turn their hunting ponies into the fields, devour their crops, and even threaten the lives of the orderly portion of the tribe. The "Prairie" band is a bold and reckless race, and although they form a minority of the tribe, they domineer over it, rule and misgovern the people in a most lawless manner.

Thus two conflicting elements prevail to distract and stifle the usual efforts of government to improve these people; and I am of the unchangeable opinion that government should not only assume the patriarchal, but exercise a dictatorial rule over this tribe. The weak, who are subjected to the tyranny of brute force, should enjoy the protection of a strong power. That portion who desire to lead a civilized life, to cultivate the soil, raise stock, cherish education, should have the protection of good government and efficient laws.

A portion of this tribe who have adopted civilized life, and those who manifest a preference for such a life, undisguisedly declare that their only salvation is in a treaty, by which their lands will be run out, sectionized, and each individual assigned his own tract, with the protecting power of a State or territorial government and laws. They not only desire to know their own lands, but they require to be sustained in the possession of the fruits of their labor. This policy will save a portion of the Pottawatomies. The others will meet their inevitable destiny which hangs over them, let the policy of the government be what it may. The policy now attempted to be carried out, of endeavoring to amalgamate the civilized and uncivilized portions, is only "crushing out" civilization, abandoning the hopeful portion to the ruin of semi-barbarism, and will inevitably destroy the whole tribe. Under the policy suggested by the intelligent portion, opportunity and protection will be afforded, not only to the civilized but the uncivilized. The former will avail themselves of the policy; some stragglers of the latter may adhere to the civilized mode of life, and all these be reclaimed. If the "Prairie" band obstinately adheres to its present mode of life (which I am sure a majority will do) they will wander off to remote and more congenial tribes and lands, and disappear before the tide of civilization. This is their destiny; in all events, then, is it not wiser to hasten this result before
the better portion of the tribe is destroyed? Save these if we can; save at least the remnant of a once powerful race, who now throw themselves upon the power, magnanimity and wisdom of a great government; who appeal to you for protection. It is melancholy to contemplate such miserable prospects as at present are presented to these people. It is painful to behold intelligent, orderly, industrious families struggling against the despotism of ignorant barbarism.

The Pottawatomies have no regularly established government. The dicta of self-constituted councils is the law of the time. Influence and interest of individuals frequently protect individuals from punishment for the worst of crimes. Murders, thefts, rapes are but seldom punished, and never, except in cases of retaliation, which disturb the peace of the country still more. These people cannot even boast of following ancient customs or adhering to traditions. The hereditary chiefs have been set aside, not by the formal disposition of the people, but by bold, ardent and ambitious men, who have usurped their places, and who, by threats, awe the peaceable portion of the people into submission. Among these usurpers changes are constantly going on. A man more bold and ardent rises and supersedes some individual who possesses less of these qualifications, and who in turn is "set back." It is the influence and determination of the "Prairie" band that keep up this state of things, they being the master spirits in the councils.

Last week, whilst I had the Indians assembled to receive their annuity, and after several days' counselling, I was informed by these bold usurpers that they had decided not to receive the money, whilst I was assured at the same time by individuals of various bands and neighborhoods of their willingness and great desire to receive their portion, who also assured me that they knew of many destitute families who needed, and would gladly receive their annuity. I responded to this council that they were usurping the authority of the tribe; that I would not regard their decision; and that if any respectable number would come forward and be registered, I would pay them their proportion. Upon which another council was held next day, (on Sunday,) and "braves" were appointed to keep the people at home, and to punish those who dared to receive their annuity. Such was the terror inspired among the people by this bold measure, that on Monday a number of leading men, who had hitherto held back from the council, met, united with the others, and flatly refused to receive the annuity, and no one then had the firmness to come forward and offer to receive their proportion. Had a military command been present, so that the timid could have been assured of protection, the result would have been different.

Accompanying I send a list of the employees of the United States within this agency, and the report of Rev. J. D. Duerrinck, superintendent of the manual labor school of St. Mary's in this agency. By the former it will be seen that six of the employees are natives, and seven are Anglo-Americans, being nearly equally divided. I have adhered to the policy of the department of giving preference to natives where the public service is not likely to suffer. This piece of information will be highly gratifying to the great "American" portion of
the American people who are so tenacious in their principles that natives should enjoy the patronage of the government. Since I have taken charge of this agency, I have removed two blacksmiths for gambling and idleness. I require the mechanics to devote all working hours to the service of the Indians, and gambling is prohibited among them under the penalty of immediate removal. I am gratified to be able to state that, after the removals which have been made, this branch of the agency works well. All the employees are sober, industrious, and moral men. At the request of the Indians, and with the concurrence of the department, I discontinued the services of the physician at the Baptist mission.

By the school report of Mr. Duerinck, it will be seen that the missionary labors at St. Mary's are divided into two establishments. The boys are under the charge of the "fathers" of the institution, whilst the girls are under the kind care of the "Ladies of the Sacred Heart." I cannot speak in terms too highly of the condition of these establishments. Besides the ordinary literary course, the girls are taught sewing, knitting, embroidery, and the various other branches of housekeeping. In connexion with the institution is a manual labor school, where the boys are taught the practical and useful departments of farming, gardening, &c. Mr. Duerinck is a man of great energy and business habits, united with a devotion to the welfare of the Pottawatomie Indians, to whom he has proved a father and friend, and by whom he is highly esteemed. I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that this institution is of great service to these Indians. This influence is seen in the neat cottages and little fields of the "Mission Indians," and the air of comfort and good order apparent throughout the neighborhood.

The institution under the charge of the Baptist board has had to struggle against numerous adversities, and has not been in operation during the present year. Mr. Joseph Walker, the corresponding secretary, writes me, under date of August 2, 1855, that the funds, property, &c., of the mission, have been turned over to the "Southern Baptist Convention," and that he entertains full expectation of being able to reorganize and profitably conduct this school; but I am forced to believe that, notwithstanding the great efforts of these worthy and benevolent individuals, such are the many difficulties which surround their enterprise, they will fail to accomplish the end desired.

Former communications and others cotemporaneous with this, on the subject of agricultural implements, exhibit the fact, that during the present year a better spirit is dawning over a portion of the Pottawatomies, who have hitherto opposed all improvement. This may appear to be a small matter, but like the oasis in the desert, it must be grateful to the eye of the philanthropist. The Indians have declined to receive the small number of implements which I was instructed, by the letter of the department of the 10th July last, to give them, and they have reiterated their request for a larger number, and as I concur with them that the number allowed them in the letter referred to is too small, I hope the department will order a number approximating to that which they now ask for. The "Prairie" band are beginning to demand the money of this fund, which I hope will be the last
policy adopted by the government. Better by far for the Indians were they to receive all their improvement fund in telescopes and all the variety of geometrical and astronomical instruments, never to be used or understood, than that this fund be paid them in money at annual payments. So long as the people depend on the annuities and their "hunts" for their scanty support, just so long will they remain poor and degraded. I am satisfied that there are not agricultural implements among those people to meet their real wants, and before they will expend their money for ploughs they will submit to many sacrifices; but large sums are expended at the trading posts, at extravagant prices, for hoes, axes, and other small implements. These articles should be furnished them out of the "improvement fund," and the money, in some cases at least, would go for sugar, coffee, and other comforts of civilized life.

Situated as the Pottawatomie reserve is, isolated in the central portion of Kansas Territory, this tract made the common thoroughfare of travel and trade, from the eastern to the western port, the agent has many difficulties to encounter in the performance of his duties. The intercourse law and the regulations have seldom ever been enforced, and at the present time, when the country is overrun with squatters, it is still more difficult to enforce these salutary measures. Citizens of the United States claim, and I do not question their right, to pass through the country with their property. In doing so, many carry ardent spirits which they vend to the Indians. When the facts are brought to my notice, the offenders have passed through the country and they cannot be found. They have frequent disputes with the Indians about the right of property; the whites generally take the law into their own hands and decide the matter agreeably to their own interests and feelings. There seems to be entertained an utter contempt for all law by a portion of the citizens of the territory, who do not recognise the boundary lines of reserves. Election precincts have been established in the Pottawatomie reserve, and Indians are invited to vote, regardless of their relationship to the territory. Appointments have been made for the discussion of political questions that concern alone the people of the territory. When they are told that the organic act, in distinct terms, excepts the Indian reservations from its operation, they persist in annihilating that distinction, and many of them reply that the act is unconstitutional and adverse to public sentiment, and insist that the whole territory is open to freedom's course.

It is due, however, to the legislative assembly to state that the precincts were not established by that body, nor is the course thus deprecated pursued by that portion of the people who are upholding that body. They were first established by ex-Governor Reeder, and this unlawful proceeding was attempted by the people under his lead—the "higher law" party, who have repudiated the territorial government. I deemed it to be my duty to maintain the inviolability of the Pottawatomie reserve, and I prevented the delivery of the incendiary speeches, and I forbid the holding of elections at the two precincts on the reserve.

Last spring the steamer "Hartford" passed up the Kansas river to the mouth of Blue, and on her return trip she grounded within the
limits of the Pottawatomie reserve, where she is still lying. It hav-
ing been established to my satisfaction that the crew on board have
been selling liquor to the Indians, and several difficulties having
grown out of these transactions, I sent an express to Fort Riley, re-
questing a command to arrest the offenders and to suppress other viola-
tions of the law. No command was sent me; but I must, however,
state that my messenger very stupidly returned without waiting for
an answer to my letter.

Before I started to St. Louis for funds I addressed a letter to Colonel
Sumner, then commanding at Fort Leavenworth, and requested a
small detachment of troops to attend the payments. Upon reaching
home, but when it was too late, I found an answer from Lieutenant
Colonel Johnson, at the same post, advising me that Colonel Sumner
had departed for the seat of war, taking with him all the effective
troops. He cheerfully offered to arm, with rifles, a body of recruits
and send them to me. I should have availed myself of this offer had
Col. J.'s letter reached me in time.

I sent to the United States deputy marshal of Tecumseh to arrest
some violators of the law, but that official declined acting, alleging as
a reason, that it was beyond his authority to act in the Indian coun-
try. Having seen the United States marshal and his deputies of the
Arkansas district go into the Choctaw and Cherokee reserves, appre-
hend and bring to trial offenders against the intercourse law, I un-
hesitatingly made the call. Whether I was right in so doing it is for
higher authority to say. But I feel assured that if the United States
court in this Territory have the right and will send its officers into
the Indian reserves for offenders, there can be no more speedy and
effectual way of arresting the various disorders that prevail in the In-
dian country.

According to the annuity roll of 1854, the Pottawatomies on the
reserve number 3,440. There are about 250 others living among the
Kickapoo, some of whom have intermarried in that tribe, and all of
whom obstinately refuse to move to the Pottawatomie reserve. There
are a few scattering families in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, and
among the Sacs and Foxes. From all I can learn, this once numer-
ous tribe cannot number, in all quarters, over 4,000 souls.

The Pottawatomies complain greatly at the neglect of the govern-
ment to reimburse those who furnished their own transportation and
subsistence when they emigrated to this country. There are several
hundred who set up claims of this character. They state that they
were promised these reimbursements as soon as they arrived west, but
that nothing has been done for them. Many also complain that their
reservations have been taken without any consideration having been
paid them. I would be glad, indeed, if the department would furnish
me with a list of the reserves, to whom sold, when, and for what
sums; also of those who yet hold their lands. It would cause a great
saving of correspondence.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

GEO. W. CLARKE, Indian Agent.

A. CUMMING, Esq.,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Mo.
We beg leave to lay before you the condition of the Pottawatomie manual labor school. Our schools have been in successful operation throughout the year, without sickness or interruption. We have been crowded with scholars, who have all evinced a laudable application. The number of boys admitted during the year ending September, 1855, is 79, and that of the girls 93. The average number of boys during the session has been 57, and that of the girls 67. The institution is on the footing of a manual labor school; the boys are too young and unable to work; the girls act, on all occasions, the part of farmer’s daughters, assisting their mistresses in all kinds of housework after the regular school hours. We teach all the elementary branches of a plain English education, as you will readily perceive on perusing the tabular reports A and B, which are herewith transmitted to your office. We have an extensive establishment to support; we are every day in the year about 140 persons in family, which we have to provide with butter and bread. Our means are limited, and bear no proportion to our expenses. Our school is a real paradox; the more scholars we have the harder times we see, for the simple reason that we are engaged in a losing business, a sinking concern. If we only had four scholars we could make money, whereas 120 keep us constantly in hot water. We illustrate our position, and assume the fact, that we lose $25 on every scholar; then the loss on 4 would be $100, and on 120 $3,000. Now, if a man can make up losses at all, it is an easy matter to make up $100, but when he has to make up $3,000, then his energy and financiering may be taxed beyond endurance. It is at all times a hard thing to manage a numerous boarding school, but when the pressure of the times, failure of crops, high prices of provisions came upon us last winter, we found ourselves so much straightened in our circumstances that we had at one time resolved to dismiss the school. A ray of hope made us continue the work. We have made great sacrifices to make our pupils comfortable, and we now see several signs to encourage us. May Heaven bless the Pottawatomie boys and girls; their gentle manners, their cheerful countenances and contented looks have won them our approbation; we no longer observe in them that uncouth behaviour, that haughty temper, that fondness for their Indian ways which used to mortify us and cut us to the quick; they are now content to stay at school, and withal willing to please us. The girls, especially, are remarkable for their industry and personal cleanliness. Distinguished visiters, who have on several occasions been shown through the establishment, never fail to admire that part of the house, and pay the ladies in charge a compliment to that effect. There is also a marked improvement on the score of going and coming, leaving and returning to the school. At present the parents bring their children to the school, and leave them to their studies, without paying them those incessant visits that used to cause us a great deal of annoyance and expense.
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Three clergymen, attached to St. Mary's mission, continue to devote themselves to the sacred ministry amongst the Pottawatomies. Our church is well attended on Sundays, and our Indians are told to keep the commandments of God and those of the church, and to lead a Christian life. Our farm, as usual, is the support of the mission. We have sowed this season 60 acres in oats, but they have failed for want of rain in the spring; 50 acres in corn—good crop; 4 in turnips and potatoes, which are not as good as we had expected. We have 350 head of cattle; they all do well. We have sold within the year to the amount of $4,000, after supplying ourselves with milk, butter and beef. We use the beef fresh in summer and corned and smoked in winter.

We beg leave to say a word on the Indian policy. The system of possessing lands in common, one hundred and twenty individuals claiming an acre as their own property, is replete with evil and bad consequences that will frustrate the best hopes that the friends of the Indians have conceived. I am bold to maintain that no Indian, no half-breed, no white man living amongst them, will ever feel encouraged to make his premises a comfortable home as long as he labors under the fear that his improvements are liable to be sold for the benefit of the nation at large. Give them a title to the land, and you will soon see them vie with each other in their improvements. Interest, emulation, and a laudable degree of pride, which are innate in every one of us, will do more to carry them honorably through the world than all the penalties and coercions now in force amongst them. At the present time the industrious, frugal, good-natured Indian is to be pitted; he is the scape-goat in every tribe. When Bonnehomie has, during the summer, summoned his wife and family to share with him the toils and labors of the field; when he has secured his crops, and might expect to enjoy the fruits of his industry, then, day after day, week after week, you will see a gang of lazy neighbors, relatives and acquaintances, all indiscreet intruders, visit that family, eat and drink with them to their heart's content, and eat the poor man out of house and home. We tell the Indians that the first step towards civilization is to give up their wandering life, to settle down, and to till the soil. When they go to work and raise good crops they say it does them no good, because their hungry, half-starved neighbors hang round them and eat them up. This miserable custom, this aversion to work, this eternal begging, disheartens the willing Indian, and he becomes at last so reckless that he feels disposed to abandon our advice, and he concludes that it is far better for him to live and to die as an Indian after having vainly endeavored to live like a white man.

Now, if we pretend to teach the Indians agriculture and its kindred arts, we ought to be in earnest and honest in our purpose; we ought to put them in possession of the means of reaping the benefits, and enforce laws to that effect. We say everybody must support his own family. Nobody shall support a worthless Indian that actually lives in vice, idleness, or drunkenness. If there should be any big, stout, fat, lazy fellows in the nation unwilling to work, and who seek to throw themselves upon the charity of others, let them be ordered away; yes, away with them. If they be too lazy to work, let them die; they must die once, at all events, and they might as well die
just now as at any other time. Our plan makes exceptions for the orphan and the widow, and for all sick helpless creatures. Besides this, the great measure which the emergency of the times seems to require is the division of the land. I will support my proposition with a string of reasons, to which we invite your attention:

1. Because it will give a fair inheritance, a permanent homestead to every head of a family.
2. Because it will make them all equally rich from the beginning, and all can have a competency.
3. Because it will prevent his wandering disposition, his heart will rest upon his home.
4. Because they are sure to make more improvements; such as building stables, sinking wells, fencing in pastures, planting orchards, building barns, &c.
5. Because civilization imperiously demands that this measure should go into operation forthwith.
6. Because experience has proved that it is good policy to fire off now and then a big gun; to have a barbecue and a glorification over it; whilst it would afford the friends of the red man a golden opportunity to inculcate salutary measures.
7. Because the position of the Indian would be similar to that of the white settler in Kansas Territory; every one settled on his land, as is the case in civilized countries.
8. Because there is little evil and much good expected to arise from this movement.
9. Because all the sincere friends to the race recommend it.
10. Because by this act every head of a family would have it in his power to secure his own homestead, which will give satisfaction to everybody.
11. Because the greater and best part of the nation desire the change in order to promote their own happiness.
12. Because they seem to regard this movement as a decree of heaven.
13. Because when the easy old way of living upon their annuities has failed, when hunting has become unprofitable, they ought to lay hold of the plough.
14. Because the Pottawatomies have a fine agricultural country, and can readily sell for cash, at fair prices, all the produce and stock they can raise.

The subject under consideration is one of weighty importance; if my zeal for the welfare of the red man has carried me beyond the boundaries of discretion, you are at liberty to disregard my views, and to hold them for the spontaneous effusions of a heart that feels their misfortunes. We have lived seven years amongst them, and have observed their manners and customs, their strong and their weak points, and we feel as if our advice could benefit them. The best part of our Indians, and especially our mission Indians, have learned to make their living by cultivating the soil, and they are impatient to see the day of emancipation dawn upon them. Help them out of Egypt, and guide them to the land of promise, where every one can build on his own land, and enjoy, without envy or molestation, the
fruits of his labor. It would be impolitic to discourage them in their aspirations, for it is seldom you find a body of Indians so well disposed as they are, and they ought to be met with the cheer of, God speed the work.

Yours respectfully,

J. B. DUERINCK,

Major GEORGE W. CLARKE,
Pottawatomie Agent, Kansas Territory.

No. 40.

SAC AND FOX AGENCY, September 1, 1855.

Sir: Since my last annual report, so far as I have been able to discover, no important changes have taken place to better the condition of the Indians in this agency. We have an abundant reason to be thankful for the fine prospect of a plentiful harvest of every kind; this has been an exceeding good season so far, for farming, and I think the Indians will raise a bountiful supply of the various articles planted by them. With the exception of a few cases of cholera in the spring, which generally proved fatal, there has scarcely been any sickness. The tribes under my care are the Sac and Foxes of Mississippi, the Ottawas and Chippewas of Swan Creek and Black River. The Sac and Fox Indians have just returned from their spring hunt; they report having seen but few buffalo, and a great many Indians on the prairie in search of game. These Indians (a majority of them) are in the habit of getting drunk whenever liquor can be procured, and I am sorry to say, since the settlement of the territory, the facility of obtaining it has been greater than before it was open to settlement. I entertain some hope that they can be induced to quit the use of whiskey, to a partial extent at least; a large council was held a few days ago at the agency; by an act of their own, they resolved, “that any one of their tribe bringing liquor into the nation should forfeit his right to draw in the annuity funds for the ensuing payment.” I enclose you a copy of a memorial presented to the legislature of Kansas Territory, in regard to white men selling liquor to Indians. An efficient law passed by the present legislature, to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors to the Indians, would do much towards the civilization of our Indian population, and no doubt be the means of preventing disturbances among the citizens of the territory. I ask that it be published as a part of this report.

The Rev. J. Meeker, of the Baptist Missionary Board, located among the Ottawa Indians, died in January last, his death will be a great loss to them; he came among them some twenty years ago. They owe what advancement they have made in civilization to him and his family.

I am clearly of opinion it would be a forward movement towards
the improvement of the Indians within this agency, that treaties should be made with them by the department, at as early a day as circumstances will permit. All of the tribes have certainly more land than will ever be used by them, or would be needed under any circumstances. The history of the past will sustain the remark, that large annuities paid to Indians in money, and property held in common by them, are drawbacks upon their advancement in civilization.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. A. JAMES.

Col. A. CUMMING,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Mo.

No. 41.

To the Honorable Legislature of Kansas Territory:

Your memorialist, the undersigned, Indian agent for the Sac and Fox agency, situated on the Osage river, would respectfully ask your honorable body to pass some stringent law to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquor to Indians within the Territory. It would be an insult to your understanding to attempt to prove to you that drunkenness has been the great drawback upon the improvement of our red brethren. All persons who are acquainted with the Indians will not controvert this remark. When in a state of intoxication they will, and do, commit acts of violence and theft towards the whites which, if sober, would have been left undone. They go to these doggeries, get drunk, and are fleeced out of what little they have. The law of retaliation is then practised by them upon some innocent man and his unoffending family to recover the property which has been obtained from him when under the influence of liquor.

I think I can safely say that more than half of the troubles which arise with Indians are and can be traced to liquor. The Sac and Fox Indians are much addicted to the use of ardent spirits. They are located near the centre of your Territory, and hopes have been entertained by me that some improvement can be made to better their moral state and induce them to finally become good citizens; but unless some law is passed by your honorable body to prevent the selling of liquor to them, I fear all my efforts will be of no avail, aided, as I am, in such a laudable undertaking by the united influence of the Indian Department. If I may be pardoned a suggestion to you in framing a law for that purpose, I would say that Indian testimony should be received, and that Indians being found drunk about a grocery should be evidence to convict the owner of the grocery that he sold the liquor to them.

Holding a federal office, as I do, under the government, not being a citizen or resident of your Territory, and, with my present intentions, never expecting to become one, I have felt a delicacy in asking
you to enact laws for the government of others. The interest I feel upon the subject is my apology for this communication.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

B. A. JAMES.

I heartily concur in the above memorial.

ROBT. C. MILLER,
Agent Shawnee and Wyandots.

I fully agree, in every particular, with the above.

D. VANDERSLICE,
Indian Agent, Great Nemaha Agency.

No. 42.

OSAGE RIVER AGENCY, KANSAS TERRITORY,

September 1, 1855.

SIR: In compliance with the regulations of the Indian office, I have the honor to submit the following report in relation to the affairs of this agency.

I arrived at St. Louis on the morning of the 1st of April last on my way hence, and after reporting myself to the superintendent, and remaining a day or two for some instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, which were preparing; I proceeded, with as little delay as possible, to my station.

The absence of agency buildings here seemed to require some examination, on my part, before making a permanent location. I concluded, however, to station myself at the residence of Battles Peoria, the interpreter. The character of this man for honesty, truth, and the great influence he wields over the Indians, together with his expanded knowledge of their affairs, seemed to make it necessary that I should have him near me.

The first business to which my attention was called officially, after arriving here, was to attend to a complaint of the Miami Indians on account of the suspension of the trading houses, which was the result of an order from the department forbidding any further issue of license to traders.

The Indians had been taught to present a pitiful picture of their condition, caused by the absence of trading establishments amongst them.

They plead that their people were bound to go to the State for the necessaries of life, and by so doing were always exposed to temptations which inevitably resulted in drunkenness and the consequent losses of money, property, health, &c.

The moral condition of those Indians was shown to be so low, and still sinking in degradation and disgrace, that I made it the subject of a special communication to the Indian office, by letter of the 23d April last. A remedy for the evils complained of has been adopted, however, which has taken the wind from the sails of those who were
the main-springs to the complaint for the re-establishment of the trading houses by white men.

There are now two stores kept in this agency, one at the Miami village for the accommodation of the Miami Indians, and the other at Battiesville, in the bounds and for the use of the confederated tribe, composed of Weas, Peorias, &c.

One of those stores is kept by Andrew Chicks, a Wea chief, and the other is kept by Little Doctor, a Miami chief. Both men of sober and industrious habits, each feeling a deep interest in the happiness and prosperity of their respective tribes. Both these stores are managed by Edward Black, an educated Miami Indian, and a young man of great worth and promise; he received the first rudiments of his scholarship at the Wea Mission in this agency, and finished his education in Louisville, Kentucky. He is possessed of firm business habits, and manifests a lively interest in the moral culture and general welfare of the Indians. The main-spring in those operations, however, is Batties Peoria. For the purpose of quieting those clamors, and restoring harmony amongst the Indians, he was induced to use his influence and lend his credit and his capital, to give life and vigor to the undertaking. He did so and the effect has been very favorable to the Indians. They are now furnished with everything needful without going from home, and at prices as low as goods can possibly be afforded in this market. There are no silly baubles exhibited with a view of taking their money without an equivalent. Nothing is kept but provisions and clothing of the most necessary kind, and farming utensils, a species of goods which had never been kept here by traders before.

The next matter of importance which required my official attention, was the intrusions by citizens on the Indian lands within this agency, which I cannot better report than to repeat a portion of my letter on that subject to the Indian office, of the 28th of June last.

Immediately on my arrival here I found that citizens from Missouri and other States, in considerable numbers, had made settlements upon the Indian reservations, and upon inquiry I found that quite a number had made their locations previous to the election for congressional delegate last fall, and that considerable accessions had been made to these settlements during the past winter and spring. Finding this to be the state of affairs, I made it the subject of a special communication to the office of Indian affairs, by letter, dated May 5, 1855. I embraced every opportunity afterwards, as well as before, which would enable me to forewarn these people, and inform them of the penalties which they were incurring by violating the intercourse laws enacted by Congress, and the treaty stipulations existing between the government and the Indians, upon whose lands they were encroaching. Many who had come with a view of settling were governed by my admonitions and retired, while others, already located, continued with a view to a permanent settlement, which is encouraging to others to come and do likewise; and while they augment in numbers, they increase in boldness and contumacy, until they begin to fix boundaries to the Indians, and whisper plans to suppress competition when the lands come into market. And when warned of the danger to
which they are exposing themselves, by wilfully setting at naught the
laws and treaties of the United States, they would at once call atten-
tion to the condition of the Delaware lands, and exultingly repeat a
stale story, which has by some means got into circulation here, that
Mr. Manypenny had already made a call for the military to remove
the Delaware settlers, but had been refused by the head of the War
Department. This, together with many hear says, all tend to their
encouragement.

The main cause of a large portion of the emigration here, and that
which determines them to maintain their ground, I believe arises from
a question, the agitation of which is not confined within the limits of
this Territory, because its vibrations are felt in the most remote cor-
ners of this Union. Circumstances and the general aspect of affairs
here justify the inference that there are leading spirits on both sides
of this most perplexing and dangerous question, urging the emigra-
tion of persons hither whom they think will best suit their peculiar
political views, while no doubt there are guaranties offered to cover
any loss which may be sustained by the enforcement of the laws of
the United States against such intruders.

The lands thus occupied are amongst the best in this part of the
Territory. They are generally selected along the streams and water
courses, and consequently embrace the finest timber, which is regarded
as a valuable item in this country.

The inevitable result, therefore, arising from these premature settle-
ments, must be to injure the sales of these lands, even if there should
be no organization to suppress competition at the sales. No person
likes to bid for land which is occupied by one who claims the owner-
ship, and more especially when it is located, or he is seated upon it
with his family, and the prairie land will not likely be soon sought
after when it is known that the timber lands are already occupied.

The Indians are alarmed at the present and approaching aspect of
affairs, and would like to have such action of the government as would
secure to them, with some degree of certainty, a reasonable compen-
sation for their surplus lands, so that they may have something tangi-
ble to rely upon in regard to them.

If there is nothing done to remedy the complaint, I feel satisfied
that the sales of the Wea lands will amount to but little more than
to pay expenses.

Another matter out of which a feeling of discontent seemed to arise
amongst the Indians of this agency, (though not of so serious a char-
acter,) which required some time to explain, grew out of the provisions
in the two late treaties which set apart certain funds to pay old debts.
It seems that the practice heretofore had been, to some extent at least,
to have all such moneys forwarded and placed in the hands of the
agent, and to be disposed of under the direction of the chiefs. The
Indians, from some cause, both Miamies and Weas, were very urgent
in having these moneys forwarded, in accordance with what they say
was their understanding of the treaties.

Whether they had any particular views of their own to subserve,
or whether they were urged by traders to insist on having the money
brought out, I am not prepared to say, but I am inclined to believe
the latter, because when it became a settled question that all accounts and claims against the Indians had to be itemized and scheduled, and forwarded to Washington for examination before paid, it created a fluttering amongst others besides the Indians, which resulted in the common charge that the government was acting in bad faith towards the Indians by withholding money which should properly come into their hands.

When it was explained to the Indians, however, (and they disengaged from the influences which seemed to be controlling them,) that it made no difference whether the money was deposited here, at St. Louis, or Washington city, no claims would be allowed except those that were shown to be meritorious beyond doubt, after the most minute examination; and that if there were one hundred thousand dollars set apart to cover claims, and only one hundred found to be due to claimants, no more could be had, let the money be deposited where it might; that this precaution was a measure of protection on the part of the government to guard the Indians against the machinations and robberies of the herds of ravensous vultures and blood-hounds who have been pursuing them ever since time immemorial. This agitation subsided, however, when it was found that the determination to examine claims in Washington before they were allowed was irrevocable, and would not be changed.

The moral condition of the Indians in this agency will, perhaps, compare favorably with any similar number of people anywhere in the States, although the greater number seems to be naturally inclined to intemperance, and would be constantly intoxicated if extraordinary means were not employed to prevent it, surrounded as they are now by every species of temptation.

Intoxicating liquors are kept in the State along the border of this agency, and sold to the Indians in such a way as to render it next to impossible to reach the evil by means of the laws; and liquors are also kept for sale southwest of this agency, in the Territory, which renders it a matter almost of surprise that any degree of temperance is preserved and maintained amongst the Indians. The want of employment amongst any people leads directly to the walks of vice and folly, and more especially amongst those who are habitually and constitutionally indolent and idle.

The missionary schools for the education and moral culture of the Indian youth have been highly beneficial; but I am satisfied that the object of government will never be properly attained until manual labor schools are established, by which the young can be trained and brought up to habits of industry and economy. Labor and domestic economy should be one of the principal branches taught in our missionary schools, without which Indian education, in my opinion, is of but little value.

Much of the credit for sobriety and industry, and the consequent advancement in the paths of civilization, which the Indians seem to be entitled to, is due to Batties Peoria, the interpreter. I do think, that if he was taken from amongst the Indians here by death, or otherwise, they would be like bees without their legitimate head; they would scatter and decline and die, so that there would soon be no more of them.
They look to him as children to an affectionate father. He is now warning them daily of the great changes which are soon to take place with them, and the nature of the elements with which they are soon to be surrounded, and the consequent necessity of industry and sobriety to counteract the dangerous influences to which they will be exposed.

He is prevailing on the Indians, both Weas and Miamies, to sign a pledge of total abstinence, but admonishes them not to do so unless they are determined to keep their promise. In short, he exhorts the inebriate to temperance, the indolent to industry, and extends the hand of charity to the needy.

The Miamies are located at some distance from him, and have, therefore, not so much the benefit of his counsel and example, and are more exposed to the dangers and designs of the pale faces. Intemperance, therefore, prevails to a greater extent amongst those Indians than it does amongst their neighbors, the Weas, Kaskaskias, &c.

It was quite common a short time since, on going to the Miami village, to find drunken Indians lying about the fences in almost any direction; but at this time the matter is somewhat changed; the great majority, including the leading men of the tribe, are members of the temperance society, and are exerting their influence for the promotion of the cause. Even Big Legs, the principal chief, who is an habitual drinker, is now lecturing on temperance to some purpose; he holds forth to the young men the many evils growing out of the practice, and admonishes them against the use of intoxicating drinks. He tells them he is old now and cannot easily abstain, but how much better it would have been for him if he had never contracted the habit.

There are a few French Miamies, or half-breeds, who are now engaged in the cause of temperance amongst these Indians, which promises a good result.

The mill built for the Miamies some four or five years ago, at an expense of near $2,000, is now entirely useless, in truth it never has been any advantage to the Indians. In the first place, its location is most extraordinary; it is about two miles from the village, and if inconvenience and inaccessibility had been the ruling consideration, the spot which was selected could not have been excelled. It is located amongst rocks and deep impassable ravines, so that it would cost about as much to make a wagon road to it as the mill cost at first. Why this property was located where it is I am not advised, any place in or near the village, amidst the inhabitants, affords a good seat for a horse-mill. It is very evident that those who built the mill never intended that it should be of service to any person. It is not only inaccessibly located, but its construction is of the most temporary and fragile kind.

The saw-mill, which was erected at a very considerable expense, never could be put in motion. It was a most consummate piece of imposition. The grist-mill is but little better, though it has been run some. The mill-house of the grist-mill is a fine building, it measures about 36 by 40 feet, and is about 2½ stories high, and is well weather-boarded. The roof, however, is put on in such a way that it will throw the building down if a remedy is not applied immediately.
The rafters are poles about twenty-five feet long, and are put on their whole length, without any collar-beams or purlins, or any other stays of any kind to keep them from spreading out. They are set on a plate which is only supported in the centre by a piece of timber running across the middle of the building, each end of which is fastened by a pin to the middle of the plate which supports the rafters. These pieces are giving away, and those plates are springing out with the weight of the roof; if something, therefore, is not done before winter, a common snow will crush the whole fabric to the ground.

By the best estimate I can get, it will cost about $800 to repair the mill substantially and put it in good running order where it is, and it will cost about $300 more to move it to the village and put it in good order. The Indians very wisely objected to having it repaired where it is, and insist upon having it removed, so that they can get to it; I will therefore procure an estimate of the precise cost of removal and its substantial re-establishment at an early day.

The legislature of Kansas, which closed its session on the 30th day of August, has divided the eastern portion of the Territory into thirty-three counties, and in many of them county seats have been established by law. The lands of the Weas, Peorias, Plankeshaws, and Kaskaskias, and the northern part of the Miamies, including a portion of the government lands on the Pottawatomie and Meridezene creeks, have been formed into a county; and the legislature, I believe, has designated a point on the lands of Batties Peoria for the county seat, it being near the centre and a desirable location. I am of opinion that the establishment of a county seat here would have a good tendency in regard to the value of lands within six or seven miles, at least, around the site; and if citizens were permitted to settle in the town, and be confined within the bounds of the town plat, and not allowed to occupy any other lands within the above circle until after they have been sold in accordance with the terms of the treaty, I think it would greatly enhance the value of those lands.

No persons have settled within the bounds of the confederated Wea lands, to my knowledge, since about the 1st of May last, and certainly none within the circle which I have described around the contemplated county seat.

I am happy to have it in my power to say that the Indians of this agency are enjoying general good health, although it is thought that sickness will prevail to some considerable extent this fall, on account of the extraordinary growth of vegetable matter to be decomposed.

The Indians have planted more corn this season than usual, and it promises to yield in great abundance. The prairies this summer afford hay in incalculable quantities, and the Indians are now busy saving their winter supply.

The dry weather in the spring destroyed all the early sown oats, and the wet weather in harvest destroyed those that were sown late after they were cradled. Potatoes have yielded abundantly in every instance where seed could be procured for planting, but seed was so scarce and dear this spring that many could not be supplied.

Wheat, no doubt, would grow well here on this limestone land if the
experiment was tried; but I believe there has been no attempt made
to raise it yet here.
The employees of this agency are all sober and industrious men,
and are quite attentive to their business.
Many of the confederated Indians applied to the legislature to have
conferred on them the rights, privileges, and immunities of citizen-
ship.
The schools within this agency are not at present in a very pros-
perous condition; for particulars I respectfully direct attention to the
accompanying report of the superintendent of the Wea missionary
school.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,
M. McCASLIN, Indian Agent.

Col. A. CUMMING,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis.

No. 43.

WEA MISSION, September 8, 1855.

Sir: In accordance with your request, and the regulations of the
Indian Department, I respectfully beg leave to submit the following
brief report. Up to the close of the second quarter of the present
year, the school under my charge, composed of Wea and Piankeshaw,
Peoria and Kaskaskia children, was regular and averaged about twen-
ty-five. These were in various degrees of advancement, from the al-
phabet to English grammar. From the 30th of March until the 16th
of July our school was suspended. At first on account of sickness
and death in my own family, and afterwards for the want of the ne-
cessary funds to carry it on. On the 16th of July it was reopened,
and we are prepared to take all the children that may be sent in, and
we shall use every exertion to advance the children in the arts of civi-
lized life. Surrounded as the Indians now are by the white race, the
adoption of the customs and habits of the white man alone can save
them from utter ruin, and this desirable object only can be attained
by educating the rising generation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
DAVID LYKINS.

Maj. M. McCASLIN, Indian Agent, &c.

No. 44.

COUNCIL GROVE AGENCY, August 31, 1855.

Sir: As I have been with the Kansas Indians but a short time, it
is impossible for me to make a full or lengthy report of their condition,
progress, &c.
They have an annuity of ten thousand dollars, which, after being paid to them, is mostly laid out for provisions and "whiskey;" for the latter a considerable amount of this annuity is spent, and of which there is a full supply in the Territory; they drink it where and whenever they can get it.

They are situated on one of the great thoroughfares of the west, (the Santa Fé road,) where they can carry to its full extent the practice in which they have engaged for several years past, id est, the practice of stealing; they avail themselves of every opportunity to steal, not only from other people, but from each other; this custom, and many others equally as mean, have so long been tolerated amongst them, that, I believe, they have lost all confidence in each other; they subsist by hunting, stealing, begging, and sometimes taking.

Immediately after they received one thousand dollars worth of provisions, which was paid to them about the middle of June last, the smallpox broke out amongst them and has continued fatally with the greater number of them, it seems to the great satisfaction and admiration of all those who have any acquaintance with the Kaws.

They plant their corn without the plough, not even fencing their fields, but leave the corn exposed and uncultivated to make itself; in consequence of the drought killing all their corn this season, they will have to pass a severe winter; during the dry weather they came to the conclusion that this was not the country designated for them by the Great Spirit, and that the Great Spirit has become dissatisfied with them, and was then frowning upon them; they would refer to the mission farm, and say, look at our white brother's corn, how splendid, beautiful, and green, it is; look here at ours, almost joining his, how parched and brown; it will make nothing.

At present they have no school, and it seems that what they have had has been only a dead expense to the government; those who have enjoyed the privilege of the school heretofore are now no more than common Kaws in dress, manners, and everything else.

I am constrained to say that the Kansas are a poor, degraded, superstitious, thievish, indigent, tribe of Indians; their tendency is downward, and, in my opinion, they must soon become extinct, and the sooner they arrive at this period, the better it will be for the rest of mankind. I would state, however, before sending my report, that there are nearly four thousand dollars of depredation claims already brought against the Kansas tribe of Indians, depredations committed on the Santa Fé road by running off and killing stock; I would also state that these Indians should be removed from this road.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN MONTGOMERY,
Indian Agent.

Colonel A. CUMMING,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri.
No. 45.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, October 5, 1855.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 17th ultimo, enclosing what purports to be the annual report of Agent Montgomery, I have to remark that, upon a careful perusal of said report, I find that the agent speaks in very improper terms of the Indians under his charge; as will appear from the following quotations from his communication, viz: "About the middle of June last the smallpox broke out among them and has continued fatally with the greater number of them, it seems, to the great satisfaction and admiration of all those who have any acquaintance with the Kaws." Again:

"I am constrained to say that the Kansans are a poor, degrading, superstitious, thievish, indigent tribe of Indians; their tendency is downward, and, in my opinion, they must soon become extinct, and the sooner they arrive at this period the better it will be for the rest of mankind."

In view of the expressions used, in connexion with the Indians committed to his fostering care, and presuming that they were made without due consideration as respects their true import, I have to direct that you will apprise Agent Montgomery of the nature and extent of his duties to those untutored wards of the government; that instead of designing their extermination, he should employ the best means within his reach calculated to promote their welfare and improvement, and that language such as that above quoted is as improper and inconsistent with his relation and obligations to the Indians as it is unacceptable to this office.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner.

A. CUMMINGS, Esq.,
Superintendent, &c., St Louis, Missouri.

No. 46.

SHAWANOER, KANSAS TERRITORY,
September 4, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that I reached this place on the 28th inst., after having visited the Comanches, Kioways, Apaches, Arapahoes and Cheyennes. I found them very much scattered, and, consequently, considerable time was required to have them collected. They are in a state of great confusion, by no means agreed among themselves, and uncertain of their position in reference to the government. I used every means in my power to pacify them and to reconcile them to the United States. How far I succeeded I am un-
able to say with certainty; but I presume that the first train that
passes will have to do as all others did previously to my arrival; that
is, to pay toll in the way of sugar and coffee, and such other articles
as suit their fancy.

The history of our Indian affairs clearly proves that the friendship
of Indians cannot be bought; and I still entertain the opinion I did a
year ago, that nothing but a sound chastisement will have the effect
of bringing the Indians of the plains to their senses. Make them
fear you and you can manage them at discretion; but every present
made them they regard as an acknowledgement of their superior power,
and given to deprecate their wrath. At this time they have no re-
spect for the government.

No road in the United States needs protection more than that to
Santa Fé. More than two millions of dollars' worth of merchandise
are annually carried over it to New Mexico, besides government stores
for military posts. I had the pleasure of meeting Colonel Morrison,
commanding a detachment on the Arkansas river, and of conferring
with him; and I am happy to inform you that we agree as to what
should be the policy of the government in relation to our prairie In-
dians. Two military posts should be built on the Arkansas; one
where the road crosses the Walnut or Pawnee Fork, the other at
Bent's Fort. This done, and respectable commands of mounted men
kept at each place, threashing every Indian who stopped or in any
way molested a train, and, my word for it, in a very short time we
should have peace and safety on the Santa Fé route. As it is now,
every train that passes has to pay toll at several places, and each has
to submit to whatever exaction may be levied; whilst the stealing of
horses, mules, and oxen is an every-day occurrence.

I have spoken of the necessity of chastising these Indians, because
the safety of travel and trade on the plains, especially between the
frontier and the remote Territory of New Mexico, imperatively de-
mands that, by some means, they be reduced to peace and order. But
I would further remark, in relation to these five tribes, that their con-
dition is altogether anomalous in the history of our Indian relations.

Our intercourse with Indians has hitherto extended only to those
tribes which were within our borders, or to those on our frontiers,
whether in their original seats and into whose neighborhood we had
advanced our settlements, or those which we had removed from the
interior to our borders. As a general rule, we had first to subdue
them, and then to buy their lands, allot them new homes, and grant
them annual allowances to cover differences in value. With the re-
move tribes, those in no condition to annoy our frontier settlements,
and which our settled policy has protected from the intrusion of white
men, we have had little to do. Occasionally an adventurous trapper
or hunter has found his way amongst them, and brought back accounts
of their habits of life, their numbers, resources, &c., but these fur-
nished matter of speculation to the philosopher and the philanthro-
pist, rather than of sober reflection to the statesman and the politi-
cian. The immense acquisition of territory, however, resulting from
the war with Mexico, and the overland intercourse which at once
sprang up between the Atlantic States and the Pacific coast, embrac-
ing the intermediate territories of New Mexico and Utah, have brought
to light a state of things not previously known, except to a few. The
cessation of a supply of arms and ammunition by the general govern-
ment, to the particular tribes under consideration, has also contributed
its share towards bringing important facts to light.

These tribes are now confined to a district of country from which
the buffalo has almost entirely disappeared, and the smaller game
remaining in it is too shy and too fleet to be killed with bows and
arrows. Even with fire-arms it would be a scant, a precarious, and a
constantly diminishing means of subsistence which those sterile wilds
could afford. If the hunters of these tribes venture into the region
of the buffalo, they are liable at any moment to come into contact
with the border Indians, the Osages, Delawares, and others, who
claim as their own hunting grounds all the lands over which the
buffalo now roams. When such meetings occur sanguinary fights are
sure to follow, in which the border Indian, owing to the superiority
of his arms, and his skill in the use of them, is sure to be the victor.

Occupying, as they do, a country in which only the most skillful and
laborious culture could render the immediate products of the earth
available for human food, it is easily perceived that even had some
advances been made in civilization, these people would still be reduced
to a state of great destitution. But they have not made one step in
the direction of civilized life; they know nothing of agriculture, have
no domestic animals except horses and dogs, no agricultural imple-
ments, nor knowledge of the use of them if they had. Under these
circumstances it is at once perceived that their situation is desperate.

In the absence of other food, they have fed upon their horses and
mules until the numbers of those animals have fallen below their
needful supply; and hence their frequent forays into Old and New
Mexico for the purpose of replenishing their stock. Starvation is
constantly staring them in the face; and it is a fate to which the most
tutored citizen or subject of civilized society does not submit without
a struggle. No wonder then that the wild and untaught savage
should resist it with all the strength and all the art of which he is
master.

The conclusion to which I am tending, and which I would gladly
impress upon the government, is, that one of three alternatives must
be embraced. The first is, to wage a war of extermination against
these unfortunate beings, and so be done with them at once and for-
ever. However shocking to humanity such a course may appear, it is
less so than the second, which is to let matters proceed as they are
now going until, by the combined and gradual operation of famine,
disease, domestic broil, and outside pressure, the same fate, that of
utter extinction, shall have overtaken them; the travel and commerce
of the plains having, in the meantime, been subject to constant inter-
ruption and annoyance. The third, and it is in strict conformity to
the humane and philanthropic spirit of the age, is to feed these people
until such time as, by the introduction amongst them of knowledge
and habits suitable to their condition, they shall be able to provide for
their own subsistence.

It is now an ascertained fact, that wherever the buffalo can live,
the domestic ox will live in like ease and good condition. The region of country occupied by these nomad tribes is precisely that in which the former animal has heretofore most abounded, being that of the short grass, which still constitutes his principal if not his sole food in winter. It is capable of sustaining, upon animal food alone, as dense a population as exists anywhere in the world. It is emphatically the pastoral region of America, destined, when it shall have become the abode of civilized man, to be the seat of wealth, health, ease, art, and refinement. But, not to indulge in speculations not demanded by the occasion, I come at once to the main purpose which I have in view: it is to urge the propriety of the government's supplying those Indians with the means of entering at once upon a course of pastoral life. With a liberal supply of grown up animals for present consumption, and of cows and bulls for breeding, their plains could, in a few years, be stocked far beyond their own wants, and all motives for depredating on the property of others would thus be withdrawn. It would be necessary that the government still have a parental care of them, to prevent the destruction of property not needed nor fit to be killed; to impress them, if possible, with the dignity of individual ownership; to train them in the proper care of stock, such as castrating, marking, and branding, the processes of milking, butter and cheese making, that of taking off and preserving hides, &c. Whilst so restrained and so taught, they should also be protected against the powerful wild tribes which inhabit the countries adjacent to them.

Expensive as a compliance with these recommendations would undoubtedly be, it would yet prove less so than either a war of extermination or the maintenance of a sufficient force to hold these tribes constantly in check. Simply as a means of saving them from starvation, it is probably the most economical that could be devised, whilst on the score of humanity, it bears no comparison with a war, whether of extermination or of mere coercion. The fact must not be lost sight of, however, that, in order to do anything calculated to result in benefit to these deluded creatures, they must first be whipped into submission; at present they hold the American government and people in the utmost contempt, and until they shall be set right in this particular, it is folly, and worse than folly, to attempt to maintain friendly relations with them.

I have thus given a hasty outline of what I deem to be the true policy of the government in relation to these people, but the history of the past admonishes me of the inutility of all such suggestions.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. WHITFIELD,

Indian Agent.

Hon. G. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.