No. 8.

ONEIDA WEST MISSION,
*September* 9, 1858.

DEAR SIR: According to your request, I forward you my annual report, from the 1st of July, 1857, to 30th of June, 1858.

The whole number of names on the register during that time is sixty-three. The highest number any day during the year was thirty-five all day, and one half a day. The lowest was two all day, and one half a day.

Each of the following branches have been taught in the school during the year, viz: reading, spelling, writing, geography, mental and written arithmetic.

Some make very good proficiency, others are rather dull. In the winter the school is generally well attended; in the summer but few are present.

The greatest difficulty is the want of parental government, and an interest in sending the children to school steadily. Many are strongly prejudiced against learning any way, claiming that it only makes people worse; others don't care, while some think it will do well enough to educate the boys, but that it is labor lost to educate the girls.

Then if there is any corn to hoe, a berry to pick, or a baby, *and they are plenty*, about house, the larger ones have to stay at home, and the younger ones do not like to go alone. But little government is exercised by the parents at home, and when the children come to school some of them are as ugly as Lucifer is reported to be.

Be not alarmed if you hear of cross teachers, and receive complaints against them, at Oneida West Mission, for if you have not, I presume you will; all I ask is to hear both sides of the question, and then remove me from the charge of the school, if you think best.

Yours, very respectfully,

DAVID LEWIS, *Teacher*,
*Oneida West Mission, Oneida Reservation, Wisconsin.*

A. D. BONESTEEL, Esq.,
*United States Indian Agent.*

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No. 9.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

OFFICE OF NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
*St. Paul, September* 28, 1858.

SIR: In compliance with the requirement of the department, I have the honor to hereby submit a report of the general condition of the various Indian tribes under this superintendency during the past year.

Under the instructions of May 9, 1857, I have made payments in per-

son to the Winnebagoes, Sioux of the Mississippi, and Chippewas of the Mississippi, all matters of treaty stipulations. This has necessarily involved frequent visits to each tribe, and afforded favorable opportunities to observe the practical operations of the present system and policy in realizing the beneficiary results that are intended to be conferred by the various treaties that have been made between the Indians and the government. The object of the government, as understood, is to maintain a strict and exact fulfillment of its stipulated faith, and at the same time to observe a parental care in promoting the permanent good and welfare of the Indians, and to bring to them, as rapidly as possible, the benefits of a civilization that will eventually entitle them to the rights and privileges of a condition of actual citzenship. To accomplish this end, there has been inserted in many of the late treaties that have been made with the northern tribes a provision vesting in the President discretionary power to change and modify the application of the annuity and other funds, in such manner as he may deem for the best interest of the Indians.

It is to be regretted that a provision of this character is not inserted in all of our treaties with Indian tribes, as it would thereby permit the adoption of a common system of improvement and agricultural advancement. In closely observing the effect of the payment of large amounts of money as annuities to Indians, the invariable conclusion will be attained that payments in that form are not productive of a rapid advancement in civilization. The Indians, not understanding or appreciating any of the common principles of thrift or economy, scarcely ever look to the payment of their annuities for the purpose of receiving money for their support and maintenance; though avariciously eager to receive their per capita allowance, yet it is but a brief period of time before it has passed away; it is either consumed by the "past credits" of the trader, or, should they refuse to pay their debts, their cupidity for baubles and useless articles is tempted, or else they squander the amount received in gambling, and not unfrequently in clandestinely procuring liquor, and before a week has elapsed the stipend given them for their improvement and support has vanished, while to the Indian no practical benefit has resulted, no additional comfort secured. Again, the tendency of the Indians to commit depredations and thefts upon the white settlers seems to be upon the increase. Recognizing no right of property as binding, and roaming continually from their reserves in small bands, they meet with the isolated habitation of the pioneer, take or destroy his property, and give no other satisfaction than by saying he can obtain remuneration at the next payment; during the past season this class of claims, particularly against the Sioux and Chippewas, have been very numerous. The utter indifference manifested by the Indians in regard to the payment of these matters of depredation, and the consequent demands made upon the annuities for redress, are another source of depletion of the amounts paid them, and also of dissatisfaction on the part of the Indians, for the whole tribe suffers, in many cases, on account of the acts of the few, the identification of the party depredating not being at all times practicable; were there therefore less money provided for annuities, less importance attached to the gathering for payment, the Indians would not be

encouraged in the commission of these depredations by the idea that they could satisfy them, or their Great Father would out of their moneys for annuities, or else they would pay their debts by a general treaty, to be negotiated at some future day. Again, the centralizing influence of tribal organization militates against the progress of Indians in civilization and the pursuits of agricultural life. Nothing preserves this tribal and banded system so effectually as the present payment of large money annuities. The tribal gatherings are the occasions of tribal re-unions and of councils, in which the whole direction and policy are controlled and determined by one common will and conclusion, frequently under influences that do not originate from motives solely governed by a desire of promoting the permanent welfare of the Indians. After giving the subject a full investigation, I am clearly of the opinion that a modification of the present system of annuity payments would prove beneficial. That a judicious expenditure in opening farms for individual Indians, in agricultural implements, in giving them cattle and stock, goods, and limited quantities of provisions, to be regulated by their wants, added to a selection of permanent locations, are suggestions worthy a practical test, and the adoption of which would be promotive of their comfort and developement in civilization. The accomplishment of this modification would, perhaps, require time, and with some of the tribes new treaty provisions, and can only be done by inducing them to the occupancy of parcels of land, to be set apart for each head of a family as a permanent home. Again, the gradual expiration of treaty stipulation lessons the amount of annuities, and before many years the annuities now paid, with few exceptions, will have ceased entirely. These annuities having been evaporated by payments, nothing will then be left for the support of the Indians, save the result of their own industry; labor during large annuity payments has never been absolutely required; agricultural pursuits involve labor; the conclusion is inevitable; the remnant of their land is sought for by the white settlers, they yield them from necessity, are removed from spot to spot, until, a dwindled race, they have fulfilled their destiny of extinction. Therefore I consider that permanence and security of possession should be guarantied, agricultural implements, manual labor school, monthly stipends of provisions, clothing, and domestic utensils should be furnished.

The surplus products raised by the Indians should be purchased from them and the balance of their funds placed in permanent investments for their benefit. Their tribal organization should be destroyed; practical and stringent laws should be passed by legislatures against the traffic in intoxicating liquors, and subjecting Indians to penalties for encroaching upon the rights of citizens; an individual responsibility for crimes committed against each other, or the whites, are means which may accomplish the gradual incorporation into the habits and system of government of those who hold to them now the position of a dominant race, individualize and bring to them the comforts and permanence of civilized life, and preserve them in their property and rights.

The concentrating of all the tribes east of the Rocky mountains in a territory of sufficient magnitude for their accommodation, devoted

exclusively to their possession, has been frequently suggested; at present, the northern tribes, who are recipients of annuities under treaty stipulations, are not allied in sentiment or affinities sufficient to induce a common union within a common territory. There are instances in which the feuds of centuries still exist; even now the space of country between the Sioux and Chippewas is not broad enough to prevent them from continually renewing their conflicts, to which the traditionary hatred they bear to each other stimulates them. During the past spring these conflicts have been quite numerous. No efforts at pacification seem to be availing; while the large amount of depredations committed on innocent parties who reside upon the path the war parties travel in their forays upon each other, when they seem to act with perfect lawlessness in their appropriation of whatever property they meet with, absorbs their annuities in claims which justice demands should be paid. The legislature of this State passed at its last session a stringent law, in order to prevent Indians from roaming from their reserves, which properly administered may serve to keep them from committing continued trespasses upon the property of settlers. I have impressed upon the chiefs and head-men, in councils held with them, the necessity for their protection and prosperity, that they should resist every inclination among the members of their respective tribes to indulge in the destructive feud which has so much retarded the progress of their tribes in the peaceful pursuits and tendency to civilized life.

The accomplishment of a continued peace between the Sioux and Chippewas has baffled the ingenuity of the officers of the government for many years. Treaties of peace between each other are made only to be violated as soon as the pipe smoke which ratifies them has vanished; only extreme watchfulness and a sufficient force of troops to co-operate with the civil authorities, collecting the Chippewas on a single reservation and enforcing the law compelling them to remain on their reserves, can retain them, and the future settlement of the country dividing them will prevent the recurrence of these scenes.

The following Indian tribes are under charge of this superintendency, viz: The Winnebagoes, Sioux of the Mississippi, and Chippewas of the Mississippi; during this summer the Chippewas of Lake Superior; and under your instructions of July 8th jurisdiction has extended over the Yanctonnais east of the Missouri river.

The Winnebagoes are under the charge of Agent Charles H. Mix, who entered upon the discharge of his official duties in July last, and has vigorously devoted himself to developing the agricultural resources of the fertile lands of the reserve belonging to these Indians, and thereby promoting their prosperity and advancement.

Indians are employed here to assist in making and improving their farms, and more labor is actually performed by these Indians than at any agency under this superintendency. The accompanying report of Agent Mix exhibits a prosperous condition of the tribe; a large amount of lands have been cultivated and a surplus of grain raised. There is a decided and rapid progress manifested among these Indians, which is encouraging. The manual labor school system will rapidly develop among them habits of labor. The suggestions of the agent

in regard to the settlement, under the treaty of 1854, of lands on each head of a family, in my opinion, should be carried out, and a disposition made of the surplus lands. Farms then opened for their benefit will give them a stability and fixed locality that must be eventually successful in destroying their tribal organization, individualizing and socializing them, so as to make them identical in habits and customs with their white neighbors. A great prejudice seems to exist among the white settlers in the immediate vicinity of this tribe, which prejudice is encouraged by those who desire to possess the fertile lands which they have been successful in obtaining for their reservation. This feeling is so frequently manifested that it materially interferes with the efforts of the officers of the government to maintain a proper control over the minds of the Indians, to prevent their resorting to those annoyances of thieving and alarming which are peculiar traits of Indian retaliation.

The Sioux of the Mississippi compose the largest number of annuity Indians under this superintendency. The management of this agency has been for the past year under the direction of Agent J. R. Brown, who has, in his accompanying report, given a complete and general view of their present condition, and the plan of operations which he suggests for their benefit is eminently wise and practical. There exists no reason why these Indians should not rapidly progress in a gradual settlement into agricultural habits, and be brought to an entire abandonment of their roaming life. An effort to produce the result of a relinquishment of their present tribal organization, and a permanent settlement upon lands set apart to them and held as their own property, should be the object to be attained; for which the agent's views are especially commended to your favorable consideration. Here the amount of annuities paid them, with their other funds, render practicable the project of building houses for each eighty acres, which shall be the homestead of each family and furnished with the necessary domestic utensils, rendered by the law inalienable for a period extending beyond the life, at least, of one or two generations; and the agricultural operations, confined to the ploughing of a certain number of acres on each parcel, will, in the course of two or three years, exhibit a settlement, not in villages or wigwams, or temporary hovels, but, scattered over the large available reserve, present a pleasing prospect of agricultural growth that must be productive of great good and progress.

The inclination of the Indians, especially the Lower Sioux, is to realize such a condition. The Upper Se-see-toans are more intractable, and compose a large number whose homes are made, for a greater portion of the year, in the buffalo ranges on the Coteau des Prairies, and, extending by connexion and family relationship among the Yanctonnais into the country occupied by them, partake to a great extent of the ungovernable character of these roaming Indians, whose livelihood is procured by the results of the chase. To control them requires much prudence and determination, and as yet they scarcely feel, or care but little for, the efforts made for their agricultural advancement. The reception of annuities brings them once a year together, and they, after receiving their goods and provisions, scatter

to the hunt of the buffalo until the succeeding year brings them to the payment grounds. The Wah-pay-toan bands of the Upper Sioux, and a few bands known as the Lower Se-see-toan, are more inclined to planting and permanent residence, and for them much has been accomplished the past year. I would remark that several of the Med-a-wah-kan-toan and Wah-pa-coo-tah Sioux, having signified to me their desire to form themselves into a separate organization, with a view to adopt rules and regulations similar to a community of white settlers, and assume the garb of white men, cut their hair, and change their habits and customs, were assured that houses should be built for them, clothes and a sufficient supply of stock furnished to each family for their use. This is the commencement of a community that I am in hopes will rapidly increase and be emulated by the rest of their tribe. Encouragement should be given to all who are thus inclined.

The Chippewas of the Mississippi, under the immediate direction of their agent, J. W. Lynde, who entered upon the discharge of the duties of his agency in July last, embrace the Chippewas of the Mississippi, who were parties to treaties between the United States and the Chippewa Indians previous to the treaty of 1855, and under the latter treaty were included with them those Indians residing about Leech, Cass, and Winnipeg lakes, that form the head waters of the Mississippi river. The reserves set apart under the treaty of February 22, 1855, are scattered, and each band is isolated, rendering it difficult for the agent to keep such a watchful care over them as to guard them and prevent the traffic in intoxicating liquors, which has been for so long a time such a prolific source of complaint, and which has evaded all efforts of the government officers to prevent; should the Indians be concentrated, the numbers of their reserves be reduced, and thereby enable the agent to reside where he can exercise diligence in enforcing the penalties of the law, this traffic can thereby be circumscribed. On the occasion of last fall payment I made an example of one of those persons who supply the Indians with liquor during payment, by personally placing him in irons and taking him to be confined at Fort Ripley. This, for a time, succeeded in checking the sale to Indians, but the evil is so deeply rooted, and the persons engaged in it are so unscrupulous, that there are no means so base that they will not resort to to accomplish their nefarious designs. Agent Lynde has promptly acted on this subject, and I trust successfully, so far as he can reach them by the power vested in him; but the present system of widely separated and distinct reserves for Indians affords so many avenues to introduce liquor, that it discourages the hope of a termination to the evil until these Indians are brought into such a limited scope of country that they can be continually under the protecting care of the agent.

The missonaries, the Rev. J. Lloyd Breck, at Leech lake, having abandoned the location and the charge of the Indians' agricultural and educational interest at that point, and the Rev. J. P. Bardwell having resigned the same care at Cass lake and Lake Winnebigoshish, which resignation, stating the causes which influenced him in returning to the government the trust confided to him, are in your possession. This *reduces* these matters to the immediate direction of the agent,

and active measures will be taken to properly dispose of the funds for the purposes for which they were set apart under the treaty. To perform the stipulations of the treaty in regard to the breaking and clearing land, as per agent's report, there is but a limited quantity now broken, I would advise that an appropriation by Congress of $10,000 be asked for.

During the last winter permission was given for delegations of the chiefs from the Chippewas of Red lake and Red river to visit Washington, for the purpose of consulting with you in regard to their interests and to adjust their boundary lines, and consider any other matter affecting their tribes they desired to have brought before the President. Owing to the lateness of the season when the permission arrived, the Indians at the Red river were not collected together until April, when it was not deemed expedient by them to visit Washington this spring. There appears to be some urgent reasons why a permanent treaty should be made with these Indians. Their proximity to the Sioux keeps up a continued state of warfare, and during the present season the return of the annual train from St. Paul to Pembina was attacked by a party of Sioux, and two of the persons accompanying this train killed.

The valley of the Red River of the North is rapidly being settled, and the intercourse with that region becoming so frequent, and the probability that the future available route to the Pacific will pass through that country, and the necessity of defining the boundary lines of the Indians' land, and the settling the Chippewa Indians of the Red river and Red lake on reserves, are reasons that I would recommend to your consideration for the conclusion of a treaty which is highly necessary to be attained at an early day.

The Chippewas of Lake Superior have been set apart from the Chippewas of Michigan into a separate agency, under the direction of Agent C. K. Drew.

The agency has for the present been located at Superior City. The agent's report will afford you information in regard to the condition of these Indians; continued active employment among the other tribes under the superintendency has prevented my visiting them, whic I propose to do during the next season.

The Yanctonnais Sioux Indians, embracing the largest body of Indians east of the Missouri river that are not under treaty stipulations, occupy the lands lying between the Missouri and the western line of the State of Minnesota, and between the parallels of 43° and 46° of latitude, frequently extending themselves, in the pursuit of buffalo, further northward; efforts have been made during this season to appoint a time and place of consultation in regard to the claim they make to the lands ceded by the Se-see-toans and Wah-pay-toans under the treaty of July 23, 1851, and to distribute among them goods and provisions, purchased under the appropriation made at the last session of Congress for that purpose. They have declined meeting the officers of the government this fall, but have indicated the coming spring as an appropriate time for the interview, as that will afford them an opportunity during the coming winter of consulting among each other in regard to the overtures of the government.

I was in hopes that I should be able to report the termination of all apprehension in regard to these Indians. At present no absolute hostility exists, yet a disposition has been manifested whenever they have come in contact with the white settlers upon any of the disputed territory, which indicates that no certainty can be expressed of a permanent peaceful condition being maintained until a treaty has been effected with them.

I have, during the past year, had but one occasion to call upon the troops stationed for the protection of the frontier at Fort Ridgley; at that time commandant Captain Steele with Lieutenant Bond promptly responded with their whole available force, and by their presence enabled me to check and subdue a spirit of insubordination which at one time threatened a serious interruption of the payment at Yellow Medicine.

I would recommend that an available force of troops should be kept upon this frontier, and would suggest that, the country being one of extended plains, mounted troops would be preferable for cases of emergency.

I conclude this report with the general statement that I have to commend the officers of the government under this superintendency for the zealous and faithful discharge of their duties, and their endeavors in the administration of details to successfully carry out all matters of instructions and the general policy adopted for the management of their respective tribes.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. CULLEN,
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

Hon. CHARLES E. MIX,
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs,*
*Washington City, D. C.*

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No. 10.

CHIPPEWA AGENCY, *October* 1, 1858.

SIR: In accordance with the requirements of the Indian Bureau, I have the honor to submit my first annual report of the state and condition of the Chippewas of the Mississippi recently placed in my charge.

I entered upon my official duties the first day of July last, and since the transmission of my brief introductory report of July 31, have made the tour of my entire agency for the purpose of being more fully conversant with the condition and habits of the various bands. The Mississippi band, in the immediate vicinity of the agency, from their contiguity to white settlements, have suffered under the influence of ardent spirits, smuggled into their country by depraved and lawless white men, to an extent quite beyond my powers of adequate description.

The diseased and emaciated appearance, bowed frames, and im-

paired constitutions of the middle aged men, present a spectacle of wretchedness that urges immediate remedy and careful watchfulness. By constant dissipation in the past, the influence and paternal advice hitherto extended among their people by the experienced chiefs and head-men of their tribes is every year becoming less effectual. Their young men witness the rapid degeneracy of those to whom they once listened and looked up to for a rule of action, and, stimulated by a desire to distinguish themselves, they form combinations and scouting parties, the effect of which is to distract and render more difficult any system of control by habits of industry and civilization so imperatively demanded for their future welfare.

To remedy this evil, and if possible to reclaim them from the baneful effects of intoxication, has been my constant aim, and to accomplish this object I brought into requisition all the aid which the laws of the State and the statutory provisions of the trade and intercourse laws, together with vigilant assistance of the troops at Fort Ripley, under the command of Lieutenant Perry, could afford, and I am happy to say that the effect thus far has been gratifying to an extent beyond my most sanguine expectations.

In this connexion I wish, also, to impress forcibly upon your attention the necessity of a resident physician at this agency. Disease has insinuated itself so generally among the various bands, that unless frequent visits by a physician, having the opportunity of watching the incipiency of the several disorders prevalent among them, can be had, I fear much suffering and no few deaths will ensue the coming winter. The Indians are all urgent in requesting such an appointment, and I trust that the department will see the necessity of appropriating out of some available fund an amount sufficient to secure the services of an experienced man in this capacity.

In regard to the present condition of the Pillager and Winnebigoshish bands, whose reservations I have but recently returned from visiting, I wish to make a few suggestions that have arisen in my mind as necessary to their peaceable and permanent security and improvement. In order that their civilization may be effectual and their disposition to wander curtailed to the smallest possible limits, compatible with their naturally roving dispositions, it will be necessary to combine with their system of education a sufficient amount of recreation to make the one agreeable while the other is useful.

The manual labor school system, I am confident, will assist in accomplishing this object if fully and properly carried out; but intimately connected with this subject, and one to which the faith of the government stands pledged by every principle of law and equity, is the strict fulfillment of all the obligations by treaty stipulations under the compact of February 22, 1855. In article 3d of this treaty it is agreed with the Mississippi bands that a reasonable quantity of land *shall* be ploughed and prepared at each reservation, not to exceed three hundred acres. As yet this has been but partially complied with. Sixty acres only having been prepared by my predecessor, and that upon two of the least important of their reservations, Mille Lac and Rabbit Lake. Delays of this character, while they appear trifling to government, are sources of continual vexation to the agent, and

create that dissatisfaction so difficult to allay in the minds of a nation naturally jealous of their rights, and suspicious of those with whom they have to deal. These remarks, while they apply with much force to the Mississippi bands, have no special application to those of the Pillager and Winnebigoshish Indians, who have, for the many years that I have known them, manifested a greater disposition to turn their attention to habits of industry than any other of the bands within this agency, and by proper encouragement will in a few years, in my opinion, make good practical farmers. The immediate preparation then of these lands I conceive of the utmost importance, and to accomplish this object the coming winter means should be provided the agent that he may employ such of the Indians as are disposed to work, and thereby encourage a laudable ambition and stimulate to a degree of usefulness very many of the bands who have expressed an anxious desire of turning their attention to agricultural pursuits, and leaving off those roving and desultory habits which they perceive have only thus far resulted in wretchedness and degeneracy. By the performance of these obligations government will prove true to its pledges of faith, and the Indians, becoming convinced of the friendly intentions of those having charge of their property, will quietly secede from their pagan customs, and make advances toward the great problem of regeneration so necessary to their preservation from total extinguishment.

Yours, respectfully,

J. W. LYNDE,
*Indian Agent.*

Hon. W. J. CULLEN,
*Superintendant Indian Affairs, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

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No. 11.

CHIPPEWA AGENCY OF LAKE SUPERIOR,
*Superior, Wisconsin, October* 26, 1858.

SIR: I now respectfully submit to you the first annual report since my connexion with the agency of the Chippewas of Lake Superior.

On the 25th of July last I received your instructions to proceed directly from St. Paul to this place, and, in accordance therewith, I set out on the same day, arrived here on the 2d of August, and immediately opened an office for the transaction of business. Late in August the annuity goods for this agency were sent forward by Agent Fitch. Those for Bad river (Odanah) were landed at La Pointe. The distance from the latter place to the reservation is about twenty-two miles, which is made in open boats and batteaux, and, in order to insure the safe transportation of the goods to the reserve, I proceeded to La Pointe and personally superintended the removal of the same to the reserve, where they were safely deposited in the commodious warehouse established there. Shortly after my return to this place a communication from Agent Fitch advised me that the funds for the

Indian payments within *this* agency were daily expected by him. The lateness of the season, together with the protracted illness of Agent Fitch, induced me to go to Detroit; which I did, and received from the agent there my proportion of the public money, with which I returned to Superior. I had notified the Wisconsin Indians who receive their annuities at Bad river that I would meet them there on the 27th of September, which I did early on the morning of that day.

A large majority of the Indians had come in the day before, and I began my preparations to number them; but, to my surprise, I learned that the Indians were in a bad humor and would decline to be enrolled. I at once endeavored to learn the cause and the following circumstances were ascertained. One "*Loren Mitchell,*" who had been living among the Indians at *Lac La Flambeau* for several months, had come over with them from their reserve, bringing his interpreter with him. By gross misrepresentations and artful falsehood he had influenced the Indians to believe that the government had long been in the habit of cheating them by withholding a large proportion of the annuity money and goods due them from year to year, and that many of the goods that had been purchased for them had been detained on the way by the agents and sold for their private advantage. For months this unscrupulous scoundrel had been filling the ears of the naturally suspicious Indians with his double distilled lies, until he had brought them to second his plans by signing an agreement constituting him their agent for five years, at a salary of *three thousand* dollars per annum, to be paid out of their annuities; the first installment of which, namely, *three thousand dollars,* was to be met from the payment of 1858, thus placing the poor Indians directly antagonistic to the President and his accredited officials.

Upon learning these facts, I sent for Mitchell, who came to the warehouse, where we had an interview. My inquiries into his motives and conduct elicited any but satisfactory answers. He was sullen, and evidently felt certain of succeeding in his plans. I demanded the written agreement which he had made with the Indians, (a copy of which I had procured before through a friendly Indian,) and compelled him to surrender it.

I then bade him leave the reserve on pain of being arrested and sent to prison. I then notified the Indians again that I was waiting for them. They sent me word that they were holding a council, and when they got through they would come. After a delay of many hours the chiefs came down and asked for a council.

I invited them into the warehouse. They said they wished to hold the council *outside;* but I would not consent to this, for their insolent behaviour and insulting language admonished the utmost prudence and caution; besides, I had heard of the threats they had made in case the agent would not comply with their demands.

What these demands were I was soon to understand; for *O-skaw-bay-wis,* a Lac La Flambeau chief, was the chosen speaker, and, after the council was opened, he rose and delivered a long speech which was marked throughout with a boldness and impudence such as I had never before witnessed in an Indian. He stated the terms upon which the Indians would consent to be enrolled. These were that I would

recognize Mitchell as the friend and agent of the Indians, that I would permit him to examine my invoices, count my funds, and assist in distributing their annuities.

There were *twenty-three* chiefs present at this council, all of whom, with the exception of three or four, sympathized and acted with their speaker. Their grunts of approbation indicated that they had learned Mitchell's lesson well, and understood the adage that, "in union there is strength." I listened long and patiently to the speech of *O-skaw-bay-wis*, and when he sat down, I took occasion to reply, that they had greatly mistaken the government and its agents if they supposed they could be frightened into compliance with such impudent and unheard of demands. I explained to them the character, conduct, and designs of Mitchell. I pointed out to them the great danger to which they exposed themselves by holding counsel with such a man. The agreement they had signed was interpreted word by word; I denounced, in the most earnest manner, their pretended friend and would be agent. He was a muskrat and a dog; his design was to deceive, cheat, and abandon them, to break up forever their friendly relations with their Great Father, which would inevitably result in their ruin. I told them that I had been sent there by their Great Father, the President, to do their business, and I would not permit Mitchell, the Indians, or others, to take it out of my hands. If Mitchell came upon the pay ground I would bind him with ropes, and throw him into a boat, and my young men would remove him from the reservation. As for the chiefs who had sided with this Mitchell against their Great Father, I would report them to him, who would not only depose them from their chieftainship, but he would strike their names from the pay roll forever; when children were disobedient and ungrateful the father must punish. I concluded by repeating that I was ready to proceed with their business; they had delayed me a long time, and unless they were now willing to return to their duty I would remove the money and goods to La Pointe, and proceed to Grand Portage to make my payment there.

I gave them till noon the next day to answer me. Before that time had expired the chiefs who had been the principal actors in this affair appeared and expressed their sorrow for their conduct and their ingratitude to their Great Father. Without further delay or trouble I proceeded to take the census of the bands, and concluded the payment satisfactorily. I understood after the payment was over that Mitchell had told the Indians that the money and goods belonged to them, and they could go and take them from the warehouse; also, that if I would not comply with their demands they had better go home and *not take* their annuities. A person told me at La Pointe, on my return, that he saw Mitchell with a large amount of specie, which he carried in his hat, and as he was known to have met the Indians after they had received their money and goods, it is not improbable that they divided their money with him.

It was a fortunate circumstance that the precautions taken by me to prevent the whiskey traffic among the Indians at Bad river were completely successful; else, in the excitement that prevailed upon the occasion referred to, the most fatal consequences might have ensued.

I had employed reliable men to act as a day and night police; they discharged their duties to my entire satisfaction.

*Not a drunken Indian was seen upon the pay ground during the six days of my stay there.* The conduct of Mitchell deserves serious attention and prompt punishment. In such cases, the agent is *now weak* and *powerless.*

The isolated situation of the reservations, the absence of magistrates, competent jurors, and prisons, are grave impediments in the way of preventing a frequent repetition of such offences, the *fatal* consequences of which are *too obvious to require comment.*

In my humble judgment, the agent should be clothed with a power and authority that will enable him at all times to protect the reservations from being the haunts and abiding places of men who, like Mitchell, are ever prowling about, to steal from the poor Indian what little he may possess, and to brutalize and debauch him with the accursed fire water.

In his able and interesting report to the Secretary of the Interior, for 1857, Commissioner Denver says: "No white man should be permitted to obtain any kind of possession or foothold within the limits of the reservations, nor even to enter them except in the employ or by permission of the government, and for the instruction of the Indians. Power should be conferred on the agents to eject summarily all intruders from the reservations. They should also be clothed with executive and judicial authority in matters pertaining to their agencies, and appeals from their decisions allowed to the superintendents, and thence to the department." My experience and judgment confirm me in the applicability of the above, and I earnestly suggest that before another day of annuity payment shall come, the agent be clothed with an authority that will enable him to carry out, in the letter and spirit, the recommendation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The payment being over at "Odanah," I called a council of the chiefs, and we conferred together upon business touching their general interests. The Indians residing at "*Lac-Cote-O-Reille*" and "*Lac La Flambeau*" are anxious, like their brothers at Bad river, to have about them the evidences of civilization. They wished me to ask their Great Father that he would cause their reservations to be laid out and surveyed at an early day, and the boundary lines *made so plain* that *all* the Indians *should know where they were.* They had been told that their Great Father did not intend to give them any land for reservations, and they had felt discouraged and sick. They ask for aid in the way of building houses, clearing land, and farming, generally, and they are particularly anxious that the reservations should be surveyed and divided, so that each head of a family may be certain of a home. They would like to have school houses and schools, a teacher and missionary. They spoke of their great need of a blacksmith, and hoped one would be sent to them.

I felt authorized to say, in reply to these demands, that whenever they would prove to their Great Father that they were prepared for all these things, he would grant them. I did, however, promise, that in the spring they should have a yoke of cattle at each of the reservations, as they wish to clear some land and haul logs for their houses.

There are enough farming tools at each of the present points of payment to last for a long time; hardly an article of the kind need be purchased next year. The Indians at Bad river are slowly, but perceptibly, advancing in the way of improvement.

Within the past year several houses have been built, and others are now in progress. They have building materials in abundance, except lumber. I told the chiefs that in proportion as they helped themselves the department would authorize me to aid them. The farming operations at Bad river are doing very well. During the past season a large quantity of produce has been raised at Odanah. Much of it has been taken to La Pointe, where it finds a ready market. Licenses for *permanent* trading posts at Odanah have been granted to Messrs. Paul and Vaughan, with which the Indians are much pleased. Under the auspices of the Rev. Mr. Wheeler, the buildings at Odanah designed for school purposes are going forward to completion. The school house is nearly finished, and that designed for a boarding house is ready to be roofed. This building is quite large, and will afford accommodation to a large number of pupils, who, it is hoped, will be ready and willing to avail themselves of its advantages. The report of the teachers at Bad river for the last quarter does not indicate a material accession of scholars, the average attendance being but ten. For this school two teachers are now employed, at a united salary of $900 per annum. Would not one teacher be sufficient for so limited a number of scholars?

The chief, Chi-chig-gui-oh, or Little Buffalo, is making good progress upon his reserve near La Pointe. His excellent character for industry and sobriety induced me to extend to him special aid in the way of cattle, cart, and sundry farming tools. He and his people are now engaged in building houses, towards which I have promised the aid of the department to a limited extent.

The schools at La Pointe are well attended, and the teachers give general satisfaction. I arrived at Grand Portage on the 9th, where I found the Indians assembled to meet me. The payment passed off admirably, and the Indians were satisfied. Whiskey was kept at a distance. I found, however, that one Indian there had been in the habit of getting whiskey from a white man (?) and selling it to the Indians. When he called for his annuity money I refused to pay him, and caused his name to be struck from the pay roll. I have done this in repeated instances where I found the facts to exist.

The "farmer" at Grand Portage having been withdrawn by Agent Fitch, Mr. Drouillard, "the goot blacksmith," has attended to that business the past year, and he has accomplished a good deal. Under his supervision an additional quantity of land has been cleared and cultivated, and some of the Indians are now building comfortable houses. At this place the Indians lost *one* of their oxen by accident, and they made such good use of the *survivor* that I gave Mr. Drouillard permission to buy another, which he will do. I told Mr. Drouillard that for the present at least the department would expect him to devote all his spare time to assisting the Indians in ploughing, planting, &c., which he is very willing to do. The assistant blacksmith at Grand Portage I discharged for *intemperance* and general *incapacity*. I feel

that *too much* caution cannot be observed in the employment of men among the Indians.

I was much gratified in attending the school at Grand Portage. Mr. Timothy Hegney is the teacher there. In connexion with his day school, he also keeps one in the evening for the benefit of such as cannot attend during the day. Mr. Hegney is industrious and untiring in his devotion to the interests of his pupils. In these two schools Mr. Hegney is assisted by his wife, who has labored long and well. Her services are worthy of remuneration. I cheerfully recommend that, in consideration of Mrs. Hegney's long and continued assistance to her husband, her name be placed upon the list of teachers already employed within this agency, and that she be allowed the same amount of salary as is paid to Mrs. O'Brien at *La Pointe*, namely, three hundred dollars per annum.

On the day after my return from Grand Portage, I went to Fond du Lac, and made the payment there. This was on the 18th of October. The Indians at this place are disappointed and sore with regard to the boundary lines of their reserve. They state that the "Rice Lakes" which were to be included in their reservation have been entirely overlooked and left out, and they are unwilling to relinquish their claim to them. These lakes lie a few miles south of the present reserve, and abound in fish and wild rice, which constitute the principal subsistence of these Indians, and their attachment to them is very strong. It is upon the shores of some of these lakes that they have made considerable improvement, and they are now engaged in making others. They wished me to say to their Great Father that they are willing to give up a large portion of the land contained in the present reserve if he will attach to the remainder the coveted lakes. Mr. Bradshaw, who has just completed the survey of this reservation, has informed me that it already contains one hundred and twenty-five thousand acres, *twenty-five thousand* more than was stipulated in the treaty of 1854.

If the department could accede to the wishes of these Indians, and order a new survey, which would embrace the lakes in question, they would be contented, and willing to settle down and improve the land. A large portion of them still hover round the precincts of Fond du Lac.

Here, like Crow Wing, is the headquarters of the whiskey traffic—here the abandoned and vagrant white man asserts his power and influence over his Indian victim, and holds him in brutal and debauched subjection. At Fond du Lac the *law* has become *more* than a *dead* letter. There are no officers to administer it—no public sentiment to sustain it—no jail where a prisoner could be secured, for *Superior* has no institution of this kind, the nearest being that at La Pointe, eighty miles distant. The Fond du Lac reservation is sixteen miles away from the present place where the annuities are paid. The chief, Nangaw-nab, has begun a small settlement there, and he is anxious that his people should come and settle down by him.

To transfer the pay ground to the reserve, it would be necessary to make a road from Fond du Lac, a distance of sixteen miles. The Indians assured me that they would willingly assist in cutting the road.

A warehouse, similar to that at Grand Portage, could be easily built and made ready for the next payment. These measures would be of incalculable benefit to these Indians, and, considering the many and desolating influences which surround them at Fond du Lac, I would, with respectful earnestness, ask the early consideration of the department to this important subject.

Mr. Francis McElroy has resigned the situation of blacksmith to the Fond du Lac Indians. I hope the vacancy will soon be filled by a man who will be *qualified* and *willing* to devote *all* his *time* and energy to promoting the interests of the needy Indians.

In closing this report, I would express my obligations to the Rev. Mr. Fitch, Indian agent, for his kindness and courtesy. I have found his counsel and assistance valuable to me.

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

C. K. DREW,
*Agent for the Chippewas of Lake Superior.*

Hon. W. J. CULLEN,
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

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No. 12.

SIOUX AGENCY, *September* 30, 1858.

SIR: In reporting the condition of this agency at the close of the first year of my official duties, it is highly gratifying to note that during the year the Indians have enjoyed comparatively good health, and have been favored by a kind Providence with the physical ability to profit by the means provided by government for their intellectual, industrial, and religious improvement. By the treaties of 1851 provisions were made for such agricultural and educational improvement among the bands located along the Minnesota valley as was deemed necessary to withdraw them gradually from their wandering mode of life, and lead to the adoption of agriculture as the prominent means of subsistence among them. The results of the application of these funds to the objects contemplated are now being demonstrated, and appear highly satisfactory. Sufficient progress has been made to dispel all doubt of the capacity of the Sioux for a thorough transformation from a state of heathen barbarism to that of civilized and useful members of community. The entire character and habits of a people cannot be changed in a day, or with the promptitude or facility of a change in the location of a road or the cut of a coat. To overcome the prejudices of early association and education can only be effected through long and patient exertion, and careful attention to the objects sought to be obtained. Hence, in contemplating the present flattering advance of the Sioux in the path of improvement, we are irresistibly led to attribute this change to the labors of the missionaries among them since 1835. They sowed the first seeds of civilization, which sprouted after many years, and is now under successful cultivation,

under the philanthropic system engrafted in the treaties at Traverse des Sioux and Mendota.

Two years ago, among the Se-see-toans and Wah-pay-toans, the Hazelwood republic was formed by the association of the Indians most advanced in civilization who desired to throw of their tribal relations. They elected a president and council, and were represented in the delegation that visited Washington last winter. They, however, have not made it obligatory on the members to discard the Indian clothing and adopt that of the whites, and therefore some of the members wear the long hair and blanket. Its organization has been highly beneficial, and will eventually lead to much improvement among the surrounding bands. During the past fall twelve families of the Med-a-wah-kan-toan and Wah-pah-coo-tah bands have in like manner associated themselves together, elected a judge and council, thrown off their tribal relations, and, in their articles of association, bind themselves to discard the clothing and habits of the Indian, and to refrain from the use of spirituous liquors of whatsoever kind.

These associations will constitute a nucleus around which I hope to see the annuity Indians united in the bands of civilization. They are the foundation stones upon which the structure of Indian improvement in this valley must stand, and should therefore be fostered with all the care necessary to preserve their efficiency. The objects contemplated by government involve the civilization of the Indians, and the funds provided for that object should, as far as practicable, be devoted to that object by affording to those inclined to profit by the appropriation additional facilities for the accomplishment of their object. The idea that the agricultural and educational funds are the common property of all should be discarded, and the Indians made to understand that they are provided for the promotion of civilization open to all, but to be expended solely for the benefit of those who evince an anxiety to profit by their expenditure. I have been endeavoring to adopt this system, and hope in the course of another year to exhibit beneficial results therefrom. Many applicants stand ready to join the lower band of civilized Indians, and their admission has been deferred until the annuity payment, when you can be present at the ceremony of cutting their hair and changing their habiliments. I think that the allotment of land in severalty, as proposed in the treaties with the annuity Sioux negotiated at Washington last spring, will form another great link in the chain of Indian civilization if the same shall be ratified by the Senate. The working of the system is clearly demonstrated in the improvement of separate farms during the past year, and the great demand for separate farms as a preliminary to agricultural improvement. Give a man a separate tract to cultivate and he does not hesitate to labor for its improvement; but a man can seldom be induced to labor in the common field. There the women do the labor, because it is beneath the dignity of an Indian to use a hoe. The common field is the seat of barbarism; the separate farm the door to civilization.

During the past year there have been some forty-five houses built for the Med-a-wah-kan-toan and Wah-pah-coo-tah bands, and separate tracts of from two to five acres broken in in connexion with each house.

There have been several other tracts ploughed for persons who are desirous of putting up houses, but have not yet been able to put them up. It is important to observe that the Indians themselves cut the logs for their houses, assist in drawing them, and in putting up the houses. The floors are generally laid, the houses covered, and the doors and windows put in by the department employés. Among the Se-see-toan and Wah-pay-toan bands, although much interest has been manifested by the Indians upon the subject, but few buildings have been completed, and those mainly through the exertions of the Indians themselves; as during the winter and most of the spring the greater portion of the department hands were employed in the repair of the saw mill and dam, which have been of little use in the manufacture of lumber during the summer. I hope, however, that the steam mills now in process of erection will provide lumber for the supply of from sixty to one hundred houses during the next summer.

Although these Indians have failed to obtain houses, a large number have cultivated separate fields, and the result of their labors has afforded them satisfactory evidence of the advantages of this improvement. Many of the Indians occupying houses have built for themselves good, comfortable stables, cut and secured hay, and put aside corn for the support of their horses during the winter.

Last fall and winter I distributed among some of the Indians around the lower agency several pair of young pigs. These have been guarded with the utmost care, and this fall ample provision has been made for the support and comfort of the increase during the coming winter. Another season will see those people with the means for a supply of meat for their families. I believe that the annual expenditure of a portion of the agricultural fund in the purchase of a few cows, pigs and poultry, for distribution among the most meritorious of the Indians, would be of much importance in promoting their improvement, while it would afford a means for raising their own meat and provide comforts not now within their reach. With the exception of Inkpa's band, whose crops were wantonly destroyed by the Chippewas the past summer, the Sioux have obtained an excellent crop of corn, and many families have raised large quantities of potatoes. The superintendent of farms, under both treaties, succeeded in preparing for cultivation the past spring nearly double as much land as the Indians had ever before cultivated since their removal to the reservation; and the seed being put in the ground in good season, the crops have been very abundant, and many have been enabled to dispose of a large surplus of both corn and potatoes in exchange for such articles of food and clothing as their families require during the winter. This, in itself, is important, as the Indians are taught by it that they are capable of providing more abundantly for their families through their agricultural exertions than by the chase. Those who have had a surplus to dispose of this fall are urgent in their demands for an enlargement of their fields, proposing next year to cultivate more land with an intention of disposing of a greater amount of produce.

The assistance rendered the Indians at Lac qui Parle, Big Stone lake, and Lac Traverse, has enabled those Indians to derive some

benefit from the agricultural fund, the first they have ever obtained. Their crops have been very good, and have been secured for winter use. For a detailed account of the work done under the agricultural clauses of the treaty with the Se-see-toan and Wah-pay-toan Sioux, I would respectfully refer you to the report of the superintendent of farms under that treaty, herewith inclosed.

I have not been able to obtain a detailed account of the work under the agricultural clause of the treaty with the Med-a-wah-kan-toan and Wah-pah-coo-tah Sioux, owing to the absence of the superintendent of farms under that treaty. I have, however, collected such statistics as enable me to lay before you a fair estimate of the agricultural operations of this agency, as follows:

*Synopsis of work in the agricultural departments of Upper and Lower Sioux for the year ending September* 30, 1858.

| Work done for the Indians. | Lower Sioux. | Upper Sioux. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Houses erected | 46 | 9 | 55 |
| Houses erected partially | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| Acres of new land broken for villages | | 115 | 115 |
| Acres of land broken for separate farms | 180 | 108 | 288 |
| Acres of old breaking, crop ploughed | 60 | 395 | 455 |
| Acres of land ploughed | 550 | 250 | 800 |
| Acres of corn planted | 650 | 780 | 1,430 |
| Acres of potatoes planted | 120 | 80 | 200 |
| Bushels of seed corn furnished | 80 | 120 | 200 |
| Bushels of seed potatoes | 480 | 678 | 1,158 |

The operations under the educational clauses of both the treaties of 1851 have been confined to schools at the agency, at Hazlewood, and at Lac qui Parle, during last winter. The reports of Mr. Robertson, teacher at the agency, and of Mr. McCullough, teacher at Hazlewood, are herewith respectfully submitted.

During the spring and summer no schools have been kept at either of those points, but on the 8th of August I appointed superintendents of schools under both treaties, and have directed that teachers be provided and schools opened as early as possible at the agency and at the Redwood settlement for the Lower Sioux, and at the Yellow Medicine Farm, at Wah-pay-toan village, at Hazlewood, and at Lac qui Parle, and Big Stone Lake, for the Upper Sioux. If teachers and buildings can be provided, there should be schools also established for the Wabashaw and Red Wing and the Wah-pay-coo-tah farms. This, I fear, will not be practicable the coming winter. I propose, with your concurrence and the sanction of the department, to make such provisions during the winter as may be necessary for the establishment of one manual labor school for the two departments, the expense to be borne equally by both, as suggested in a recent monthly report.

The Indians express much anxiety upon the subject of education. They are becoming satisfied they will not be able to obtain the back

school money in any other shape, and they now desire that their children should have the benefit of its expenditure.

If a good manual labor school can be put in operation in connexion with winter (if not yearly) schools, at convenient points to accommodate the children and enable all to participate in the benefits arising therefrom, I think much good would result from the system.

As an effectual means of civilization, I would respectfully recommend placing a few children with respectable white families away from the Indian country. To do this would cost say $75 per annum for each child, and I do not think that sum could be expended more usefully. The further Indian children can be removed from the influence of their parents or the prejudices of their people the more effectual will be their civilization, and the more thoroughly will they be weaned from all savage habits and propensities.

Allow me to suggest that some means should be provided for allowing additional pay to the interpreter at this agency. When we consider the cost of provisions at this remote locality, it will at once be clear that no responsible person will accept the position of United States interpreter for the paltry salary of $400 per annum. The interpreter occupies the most important position within the agency. Generally he is the only medium of communication between the agent and the Indians, and in all intercourse between them the agent, when he does not himself speak the language, is wholly dependent upon the honesty and veracity of the interpreter. So much depends upon the capacity and responsibility of this medium of intercourse between the whites and the Indians that the traders invariably seek the most capable and trustworthy persons for that position, and they do not hesitate to pay from $500 to $1,000 per annum and board for a competent interpreter. The consequence is, that the persons who will accept the salary of $400 and find themselves are such that are either incapable or not to be trusted. Mr. A. J. Campbell, formerly interpreter for this agency, declined continuing to occupy this post for the salary allowed by government, and Mr. A. Frenier, the present interpreter, could only be prevailed upon to accept the appointment after much solicitation and upon a promise that an additional salary for him should be applied for. In this agency, where the interpreter has to make frequent excursions to the different locations of the Indians upon a reservation of one hundred and fifty miles in extent, a competent and trustworthy man is necessary, and such can with difficulty be secured for the position.

In reporting the result of the trip of Mr. Frenier to invite the Yanctonnais to a conference with you, I stated that I believed some extraordinary cause led to their refusal to come in to the point selected for the conference. I am now strongly confirmed in this opinion, owing to recent depredations committed upon a party of whites passing through the upper Se-see-toan country. Waanata, who was at the head of the party, claims to be a Yanctonnais chief, and was at the time accompanied by members of the Yanctonnais Cutheads; and I feel satisfied they are relying upon the hostility of the Yanctonnais towards the whites, with an inclination to join them at the proper

time, and they are, therefore, regardless of any demonstrations upon their part toward the government or any of its citizens.

The Yanctonnais, with a strong show of justice, claimed an interest in the lands sold under the treaty of 1851 at Traverse des Sioux, and they made frequent applications to the officers of government for a compensation for their interest in the said land. After being told by yourself that their demands would be again presented to the department, and that the response would be made to them the succeeding (past) summer, they, without waiting until the time proposed for your interview with them had arrived, assaulted and drove from their houses many peaceful citizens located east of the Sioux river, destroying their property and burning their houses. Subsequent to this they were met by an agent of government with an invitation to a friendly council, for the purpose of discussing their claims and making remuneration for the same, and they absolutely refused any such meeting because the Tetons and other bands residing west of the Missouri could not be present.

A second message was sent to them through mixed bloods of their own bands with the same result and the same reply—all, in my opinion, to gain time for a concentration of their numbers next spring, when the buffalo will provide them with meat for their support while operating against the whites. These Indians occupy generally the valley of the James and the country between that and the Missouri, and they, therefore, are out of the range of any of the forts, and can reach our white settlements in the Sioux valley without any interruption whatever. The failure to pursue and punish Inkpaduta and his band for the wholesale murder of our citizens at Spirit lake has confirmed them in the belief that the government is weak and cannot punish Indian aggressions except through the assistance of the Indians; hence their expectation of reclaiming and holding the country along the Sioux and extending to the Pipe-stone Quarry, all of which they pretend to own.

The government, in the course pursued towards these Indians, and the provision made for them the past summer, has done its duty, and held out the "olive branch" until it was utterly refused and spurned.

Other means are now necessary to protect our settlements on the frontier; otherwise, the next spring their inroads will be extended and their depredations increased. Unless those Indians are checked at an early day, depredations on the lives and property of our frontier settlers on an extended scale will be the result. As they will not negotiate peaceably and in friendship, they should be made to negotiate at the point of the bayonet. At least troops should be so located as to keep those Indians from trespassing upon ceded land, and to teach them to respect the authority of government upon their own land. The location of troops at the head of the Sioux and on the James river, at Oak Grove, would be effective for that purpose, and are points convenient of access, either from the Minnesota or Missouri, and possess all the requisites for the establishment of the necessary force to keep those people upon their own land, and protect the property and settlements of the whites. The simple location of troops in the country will most probably be sufficient to overawe and restrain them from

the commission of further acts of hostility against the whites; but assuredly, unless troops are located in their country early next spring, there will be trouble between them and the whites on the frontier as soon as the spring is sufficiently advanced to admit of their movements in large bodies towards the settlements. In September of 1857 a Canadian named Le Croix, who is married to a half-breed from the Missouri, located upon the Med-a-wah-kan-toan and Wah-pay-coo-tah reservation. Those bands, in open council, complained of the trespass, disowned all connexion whatever between the woman and either of the bands, and requested that the family should be removed. They were promised that their request should be complied with, but as the season was advanced, and his family might suffer by driving him away at that time, it was proposed to remove him early in the spring. This the Indians acceded to, and in Washington the chiefs again referred to the subject, and you gave me instructions to write to the agency, with instructions to order the trespassers to remove by the first of April; and if they did not leave, to apply to the commanding officer at Fort Ridgley for force to remove them. Mr. Magner, to whom I wrote, gave the necessary directions to the man, and, as he did not obey them, called on the commanding officer for assistance. No assistance, however, was furnished, and the man and his family still occupy the reservation, in open defiance of all the authority and power of the department.

During the payment at Yellow Medicine three men were ordered by you to leave the reservation, as a punishment for stealing from the department warehouse. Two of these men were immediately taken into the employ of one of the traders at Yellow Medicine, and have been, and I believe still are, employed and harbored by him, in open opposition to your express instructions and a subsequent remonstrance on my part.

These cases are brought to your attention with a view of eliciting some action in regard to them. The agent has no power under his control to remove any person from the reservation by force; at the same time no man can remain upon the reservation for any length of time, unless harbored and protected by the department or some of the traders. But if the traders, in open violation of the wishes of the officers of the department, will harbor and protect, either directly or indirectly, persons who have been ordered off the reserve, they should certainly be subjected to punishment.

In this connexion, please permit me to refer to the disadvantages attending the present system of licensing persons to trade on the reserve or within the Indian country. There is no official record in this office by which I can ascertain who are licensed traders, or whether there is a single licensed trader at any point within this agency. True, I may demand the license, and by that ascertain what men the trader is authorized to employ, where he is authorized to trade, &c.; but if he replies that his papers have been forwarded to Washington and his license not yet returned, my business with him has ceased, and I must apply to your office for information upon the subject. During this delay the trader may act at his own discretion, and the agent has no power over him but that of orders which the trader may or may not

observe. If all the incipient steps for issuing licenses emanated in the office of the local agent, who is supposed to reside in the country for which he holds his appointment, and is held responsible for the observance of the intercourse law on the part of all persons legally authorized to reside in the Indian country, his duties could be more effectively performed, and the trader would feel a greater degree of responsibility toward the person who is, under the law, responsible to his superiors for the faithful observance of the laws. If licenses are issued without consulting the agent, it involves a doubt of the power of the agent to suspend a license upon which there should exist no shadow of a doubt in the mind of any more trading under the provisions of the intercourse laws.

The house erected for the agent was completed last fall, and has been occupied since by the physician to the Med-a-wah-kan-toan and Wah-pay-coo-tah and his family, an office being reserved for the agent.

During the present fall a building has been erected at Yellow Medicine for the use of the agent. This is much more convenient, as the agent must of necessity pay frequent visits to the different locations within the agency, and he should therefore be as near the centre of the reservation as circumstances will permit. The Yellow Medicine is the line between the two reservations, from which the agent may visit the upper or the lower reservation at pleasure.

It is also much more convenient for all the Indians than the agency when they have business with the agent. Heretofore, if a party of upper Indians had business at the agency, they had to travel the entire length of the upper and thirty miles down the lower reserve to reach the agency.

By locating at the Yellow Medicine, the Indians upon either reservation may visit the agent on the edge of their own reservation. This location, therefore, is not only more convenient for the Indians, but also relieves the agent from much unnecessary travel.

Buildings are now in process of erection for each of the superintendents of schools, for the family of the carpenter, and for a schoolhouse at Yellow Medicine. The necessary buildings for the schools at Red Wood, Hazlewood, Lac qui Parle, and Big Stone Lake, have been procured, and schools will be opened in a few days.

The steam mills purchased in New York last summer have been delayed far beyond all expectation. One of the engines only has reached here, and another is reported to be at St. Paul. I hope to get those two in operation early this fall, and the others, if they reach St. Paul this fall, will most probably be ready for operation next spring. Lumber has been much needed on both reserves for the supply of the Indians. It is necessary to use frame instead of log houses, and boards instead of rails for fencing, or the timber will be entirely cut from the reservations before half the Indians are supplied with houses.

There is not a safe building on either reservation for the storage of property in charge of the agent previous to its issue to the proper subordinates or to the Indians; neither is there a building in which to council with the Indians when it becomes necessary, as is frequently the case, to meet two or three hundred at a time. To remedy these

deficiencies, I propose to burn a kiln of brick in the spring and erect a building at Yellow Medicine, the lower story to serve as a store-room and the second story for a council room. The advantage of manufacturing brick is not confined simply to their use. In making and also in laying brick boys can be profitably employed, and I think the connexion of this employment with the manual labor school will be highly beneficial.

I have been requested by the Lower Sioux to recommend that, instead of two payments, their annuities be paid at one payment. By dividing the annuities into two payments, the amount to each individual is so small that it is not sufficient for the purchase of many articles necessary to the comfort of the Indians, and consequently the money is frequently expended in small articles neither so necessary nor useful. I think the change from two to one payment of the annuities would be far more satisfactory, as well as far more beneficial to the Indians. They say that the change from one to two payments annually was made at their request; but that, having tested its operation, they are anxious that the old system shall again be adopted.

During the past summer considerable liquor has been introduced among the Indians on both reservations. This traffic has been mainly conducted through the agency of a few unprincipled mixed bloods, who obtain it from the whites and furnish it to the Indians. The Wah-pay-toans at Yellow Medicine have formed an association for the destruction of all liquor brought to the reserve. This has done a great deal of good, but has not been entirely effective, as those having liquor for the upper Indians will contrive frequently to pass around the village below, and thus escape detection. I hope, however, that this determination to prevent the introduction of liquor may shortly extend to the upper Indians. The upper Se-see-toans will not allow it to be brought among them, and by a little exertion I hope to have the other Se-see-toan bands discard it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH R. BROWN, *Sioux Agent.*

W. J. CULLEN, Esq.,
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

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No. 13.

SIOUX AGENCY,
*Medawahkantoan and Wahpaycoo-tah Reserve, September* 29, 1858.

SIR: In pursuance of your instructions I commenced a school at this place last winter, and, although the facilities for teaching were few, I immediately assembled twenty-one scholars, whose attendance was as constant as the inclemency of the weather would allow. Many others, particularly the young men, would come in after the usual school hours, and made good progress in learning the alphabet of the English language and the names of animals and implements represented on the prints of the A. B. C. books.

The same scholars continued to attend until about the beginning of June, when the constant warfare of this tribe with the Chippewas,

and the frequent alarms in consequence of tracks of the enemy being seen near the reserve, broke up the school.

Since the return of the chiefs and soldiers from Washington, there has been an expectation that a school of a more permanent form was to be established, at which the children were to be clothed and fed, and consequently there has been no regular attendance at the school.

Last winter one child came daily, for a long time, six miles to the school, and frequently called on his way for two or three companions; but it was sufficiently obvious that this could not continue. Indeed, when you look at the length of the reserve (about fifty miles) and that the established villages extend to a distance of nine miles on each side of this place, the nearest being about three miles off, it is not reasonable to expect the children to attend unless they are provided with food at least during the middle of the day.

I find from conversation with the elder Indians that they have a very earnest desire that their children should be taught to read and write the English language, so as to communicate readily with the settlers that are surrounding the reserve. They constantly speak of the stipulations of the treaty of 1851, by which they understood they were to have manual labor schools, at which the children would be provided with everything, on condition that they assisted by their labor to support themselves.

From the conversation I had with you and Superintendent Cullen lately in St. Paul, I hope soon to receive instructions to proceed with schools on a system suited to the benevolent design of the government, and in accordance with the wishes of the Indians.

I am, sir, yours, very respectfully,

A. ROBERTSON.

Maj. JOSEPH R. BROWN,
*United States Agent for Sioux of Minnesota.*

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No. 14.

HAZLEWOOD, *October* 11, 1858.

SIR: I present to you my report of the school taught by me at Hazlewood, Minnesota, commencing November 16, 1857, and closing March 31, 1858. During this time the whole number on the roll is thirty-three. The daily average is ten. I had no difficulty in keeping them under reasonable control; the oldest one in school seemed as willing to obey as the youngest child. The first class consisted of six young men; the second class consisted of five boys; the remainder were children from five to eight years old. Some of them attended quite regularly, and learned fast. One of the young men can repeat the multiplication table with ease, and several of them can read in the First Reader, and spell in words of three syllables. The most of them can tell the names of all objects familiar to them in English; they all seem anxious to learn English. I think there is a chance for a good school the most of the year at this place.

Yours, very truly,

JOHN L. M'CULLOUGH.

JOSEPH R. BROWN, Esq.

No. 15.

YELLOW MEDICINE, *September* 25, 1858.

SIR: By your appointment I assumed the duties of superintendent of farms for the Se-see-toans and Wah-pay-toans on the 1st of November last. When I took charge of the agricultural department work, it was at an advanced season, and much of the fall work yet to do, with a demand for much labor upon the dam and mill, which were undergoing repairs, and which required a large force of men, with the expectation that the dam would be in a condition to be useful for sawing in the spring.

As the dam withstood the heavy freshet of January, we hoped the work would prove permanent, and additional force was put upon the work, with a hope to get it out of danger by spring.

After, however, a vast expense had been incurred during the winter for the security of this important part of the work, the heavy freshet in March utterly destroyed the waterworks, and left the mill without water at the very time it was necessary for the operations of the mill. Not wishing to lose the entire use of the saw and grist mills, I again commenced the repair of the dam, and in about three weeks so far succeeded as to be able to use the mill most of the summer, although not at its full capacity of work; for I feared to attempt raising the dam sufficient to furnish a full supply of water. This mill has, from its first erection, been a source of expense without profit, and during last winter cost the department the labor of a millwright, two assistants, and eight men, whose services have resulted in just nothing but to swell the expense of this establishment.

In accordance with your instructions, I early in the spring commenced ploughing, fencing, and clearing for the spring planting at the different villages under this department; and although I had many difficulties to encounter for want of teams in the early part of spring, I finally succeeded in securing for the Indians nearly double the quantity of land they formerly planted. The arrival of oxen purchased for the department in May, although late, was of much assistance in enabling me to complete the spring work in time for planting. I am happy to say that in no former year have the Indians gathered larger crops from an equal extent of ground, or planted anything like the same number of acres.

The past spring has witnessed the first assistance afforded the Indians of "Big Stone Lake, Lake Traverse, and Lac qui Parle." In the work at these points I was ably assisted by S. B. Garvie and G. Renneville, the distance from this place being such that I could not do those places justice without assistance.

There can now, however, be a great reduction made in the number of men about this department until the opening of spring in 1859.

The following table will exhibit the ploughing done; the estimated yield of corn and potatoes per acre; and the seed furnished at each of the villages belonging to this department:

*Statement exhibiting the ploughing done, estimated yield of corn and potatoes per acre, &c.*

| No. | Names of chiefs. | Bus. wheat furnished. | Acres of ground ploughed. | | | Acres planted. | | Seed furnished. | | Yield estimated. | | Separate farms. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Broke. | Cross ploughed | Old ground. | Corn. | Potatoes. | Bushels corn. | Bushels potatoes. | Bushels corn. | Bushels potatoes. | Acres broke. | Houses erected. |
| 1 | Inyagmani | | 5 | | 50 | 50 | 15 | 8 | 40 | 2,500 | 1,500 | 30 | 5 |
| 2 | Manzomani | | | 20 | 25 | 45 | 5 | 5 | 45 | 1,100 | 500 | | 1 |
| 3 | Manzakutemani | 10 | 30 | 20 | 25 | 80 | 10 | 6 | 40 | 3,000 | 1,200 | 38 | 4 |
| 4 | Marpiawicaxta | | 20 | | 30 | 55 | 5 | 5 | 75 | 2,600 | 500 | 10 | 1 |
| 5 | Red Iron | | 10 | 80 | | 90 | 11 | 15 | 100 | 3,600 | 1,000 | 12 | 2 |
| 6 | Upi Iyahdeya | | 40 | 40 | 10 | 85 | 6 | 20 | 100 | 3,500 | 400 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | Inkpa | | | | | 35 | 4 | 5 | 20 | | | | |
| 8 | Warnidupiduta | | | 35 | 20 | 55 | 7 | 10 | 70 | 2,000 | 350 | 15 | 1 |
| 9 | Tatankamanji | | | 45 | 15 | 65 | 5 | 13 | 40 | 3,000 | 150 | | |
| 10 | Anagoptan | | | 30 | 15 | 45 | 3 | 6 | 30 | 1,700 | 100 | | |
| 11 | Wanatan | | | | 40 | 40 | | 4 | | 1,600 | | | |
| 12 | Ojupi | | 10 | 30 | 10 | 40 | 2 | 5 | 50 | 1,600 | 150 | | |
| 13 | Warnidiska | | | 30 | 10 | 30 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 1,200 | 50 | | |
| 14 | Mantoneyanke | | | 40 | | 35 | 5 | 3 | 18 | 1,400 | 100 | | |
| 15 | Ixtarba | | | 30 | | 30 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 700 | | | |
| 16 | Wakeyaska | | | 15 | | 15 | | 3 | 10 | 200 | | | |
| 17 | Tahanparda | | | | 10 | 10 | | 3 | 15 | 350 | | | |
| | Total | 10 | 115 | 395 | 250 | 780 | 80 | 120 | 678 | 30,050 | 5,800 | 108 | 15 |

The Indians have sustained much damage the past season from an unfortunate mistake in the purchase of seed supposed to be "rutabaga," but which proved to be "kale." This seed was planted at every village, and has afforded no benefit whatever; in some fields as much as ten acres were devoted to this miserable stuff. The work in the blacksmith and carpenter shops has consisted principally in repairing wagons, carts, guns, traps, ploughs, axes, &c., and, although amounting to over three thousand dollars in the aggregate, has been in small items too numerous to report in detail. At "Lac qui Parle," Big Stone Lake, and Chippewa river, about one hundred and fifty tons of hay have been put up for the support of the cattle in doing the spring work. At this place some three hundred and fifty tons of good hay have been secured, which I think sufficient to winter the department stock and do the spring work in this vicinity.

Submitting the above for your favorable consideration,

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL BROWN,
*Sup't of Farms, S. and W. Sioux.*

Major Jos. R. Brown, *Sioux Agent.*

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## No. 16.

Winnebago Agency,
*September* 9, 1858.

Sir: As the time has now arrived when the annual reports required by the rules and regulations of the department should be presented, I have the honor to submit the following statement of the affairs of the Indians who have been recently placed under my charge.

I came among them not as a stranger, for many of them knew me years before, and I found them in the enjoyment of excellent health, with the exception of a few who are suffering with chronic diseases—scrofula and consumption. It affords me much pleasure to mention that, during the short time I have been with them, I have found them uniformly peaceable and inoffensive in their manners and conduct. I can report no case of drunkenness among them, except in two or three instances of vagabond fellows, who had obtained liquor in some manner unknown to me. In one or two cases I had strong proof against some white men of selling them liquor. Those men I prosecuted according to law, and they were fined to a considerable amount. As I have commenced, I am determined to continue, and will relentlessly pursue all who come within the meaning of the statute to the full extent of its penalty.

The chiefs, with nearly all the men of the tribe, have expressed their determination to assist me to put a stop, as far as possible, to the use of liquor among them. Some days ago I had occasion to send several of the teamsters (white men) a short distance from the reservation on business; but they neglected their business, drank liquor, and became drunk and disorderly. I promptly discharged

them, and shall continue as promptly to discharge all who will misdemean themselves by the use of ardent liquor while in the employ of the agency,

The Indians have taken hold in real earnest upon the duties of agricultural life; they have been made at last to feel the necessity of working and tilling the soil for a subsistence. The prospect of living by the fruits of the chase or hunt is gone. The buffalo (once the mainstay of the Indian) are gone; they have disappeared as a fleeting dream. In vain the eye looks upon the vast expanse spread out before it, from horizon to horizon, for a glimpse of some hapless one that may have strayed from the herd, but habitations of man meet the view, and the poor Indian is seen, with hoe in hand, or plough, laboring for his daily bread.

The Indians and half-breeds this year have had under cultivation upwards of eight hundred acres of good land, from which they produced mostly corn. All the scythes in my possession were given them, of which they made good use, having made hay enough to keep all their stock during the coming winter. All this has been done by their own hands, with the exception of the breaking of land and other heavy ploughing. Many more acres would have been put under cultivation, but there was not time to do all the breaking up that was required, although the teams were engaged all summer and are still employed.

Quite a number of the Indians, for whom breaking land could not be done, took their hoes in hand and dug up the sod as well as possible. This was truly hard labor, but they accomplished it well, and have produced some good crops.

Minnesota, as well as her sister States, has felt the deplorable effects of too much rain, which has fallen the past season in such quantity as to cause more or less destruction of property in all the western States. It came literally in floods, greatly swelling the streams and rivers, which overflowed their banks, inundating the country for miles around, startling the farmer, and destroying and damaging his crops to a fearful extent. The poor Indian has had his share of the affliction. Though the majority have enough left to subsist upon during the winter and to spare, yet there are some who must depend upon what may be given them by others.

The waters have been fearfully high; farmers have been awakened from their slumbers at dead hour of night by the rushing of overflowing torrents, barely to escape with their lives; steamboats have navigated the principal streets of some of our flourishing towns, and floated over many portions of valuable town property. The valleys of the Blue Earth and Le Sueur rivers have witnessed terrible scenes of destruction; houses, mills, wood-piles, and cattle swept away. The government mill, located on the Le Sueur, has been greatly injured, the dams have been entirely destroyed, and much of the lumber washed away. It was in active operation during the day; and the men who had it in charge, before retiring for the night, had left everything, as they thought, secure; but during the night the rains fell, and nothing could be saved, for the destruction was effected before they could (though they were living near) possibly do anything.

The loss of the mill is deeply felt. It was in the midst of a heavy business; a large quantity of lumber was required for building houses for the Indians to dwell in during the coming winter, and for various other improvements and purposes. However, a steam mill has been purchased which is thought adequate to the business required. The most of the machinery is upon the ground already, and the remainder will be brought as rapidly as the very heavy and otherwise bad condition of the roads will permit. The workmen are engaged in getting out the timbers for the frame as fast as possible, and we have a fair prospect of its being under full operation in less than six weeks. Everything possible will be done to aid in the comfort of all upon the reservation during the winter.

The Blue Earth agency farm department has been under the care of one of the best farmers in the country, and everything is as flourishing as the season would permit. One hundred acres have been under the cultivation of corn, four of rye, twenty-five of wheat, thirty of oats, ten of buckwheat, fifteen of wheat and rye mixed, one-half acre in beans, two in rutabaga turnips, and five in potatoes. The Le Sueur farm has been attended with equally good management as the Blue Earth. Ninety-five acres of wheat have been raised, forty-five of corn, thirty-six of beans, ten of rutabaga turnips, three of white turnips, and one and a half acres cultivated as a garden. The corn, potatoes, turnips, and beans have yielded well, but the wheat and oats have been injured a great deal by the rust.

I would propose for the future, rather than have so large a farm under cultivation, and its attendant expense, that the labor it required, or as much of it as would be necessary, be employed in breaking up new land, and in doing the ploughing generally for the Indians. The Indians have no facilities for breaking up new land, and I think the more land that is made ready for their use the more diligent they will become, and that those who are now compelled to depend upon the agency farm for corn and other grain would have farms of their own.

The mechanics employed at the agency are men of skill, energy, and business habits, and are doing all that can be done for the general good.

The carpenters have been employed in repairing wagons and in building houses for the Indians. They have under way three or four log houses, and before cold weather sets in will have them completed, and several good and comfortable frame houses built.

The brick masons will have put up, in the same time, three substantial brick houses.

The brick-maker this season erected a kiln, and has made two hundred thousand bricks of excellent quality.

The blacksmiths have been kept constantly at work. One of them has been busy in making and repairing guns for the Indians; the other in repairing wagons, ploughs, and shoeing horses for them, and in doing all necessary work at the agency. The teamsters and laborers are good, honest, hard-working men, and try to do their duty.

The following is a copy of the report of the Winnebago Manual Labor Schools, given by the superintendent:

"During the past year one hundred and sixty-eight Winnebago children have attended this school, of different ages, from five to eighteen years. Many of these, however, have been very irregular in their attendance. The average number of those who have been regular is thirty-six boys and forty-three girls.

"It has been the policy of your predecessor in office to have them instructed in manual labor rather than in science; however, but little attention, comparatively, has been bestowed upon the latter, yet a portion of the time has been regularly devoted to instruction in the elementary branches.

"During last fall and winter the boys chopped and cleared the timber off of some three acres of woodland, a part of which they planted in apple seeds, for the purpose of commencing the culture of a nursery. They made the rails for fencing the same, and also got out two hundred posts for plank fence, and dug a well some twenty feet deep for the use of the school.

"The past season they have cultivated three acres and a half in garden, and have made some twelve tons of hay.

"The girls have made five hundred and fifty garments for themselves and the boys attending the school, and some seven hundred sacks for the use of the farm.

"The children, though naturally inclined to indolence, are, as a general rule, apt to learn, and have made, perhaps, as rapid advancement as could reasonably be expected under the circumstances.

"More might doubtlesss be accomplished for them, if some plan could be adopted that would secure greater regularity and punctuality in their attendance."

The above report speaks well for some of the children. I would that all could be well spoken of; but it is of course difficult to manage children who are under influences so much at variance with our system of instruction, and our institutions generally, yet I believe if we could bring them further from these influences we could succeed much better. The parental direction or influence over these children avails nothing; they know not what it is to disobey at their homes; there is no disobedience; they are permitted, without restraint, to exercise their full liberty and freedom. I am of opinion that something should be devised for their lasting benefit. I believe it would be advisable to have erected two suitable buildings which should stand near each other, on a piece of ground well suited to the purpose, enclosed with a high stout fence—one of the buildings to be occupied by the boys, and the other by the girls, and proper white persons placed in charge. The children could thus be taught all that might be thought necessary and advisable, and arrangements made for them to dwell in these houses, making them their homes. The expense of furnishing such abodes would not be great, and the benefits the children would derive from such an institution, nobody can doubt, would be of the most promising and substantial kind.

The children with proper superintendence could do their own cooking, washing, &c; the girls the necessary sewing, and the boys the supplying of wood, &c. The attendance now at school is very irregular, and those who come have only for their object the provisions and

clothing that are allowed. The Indians themselves are very desirous that an institution of this kind should be placed among them.

The Indians express themselves well satisfied with every improvement; they are beginning to feel the benefits of civilization and its necessity. They are all anxious to have property vested in their own right. Many of them have suggested the propriety of having some of their land sold, and the remainder divided among them, giving a number of acres to each family, in accordance with the treaty of 1855.

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

CHARLES H. MIX,
*Indian Agent.*

Col. WILLIAM J. CULLEN,
*Supt. Indian Affairs, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

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No. 17.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA,
*August* 22, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a detailed report of my proceedings as special agent of the Indian department under your letter of appointment of the 29th of June last, and the instructions of Major W. J. Cullen, superintendent of Indian affairs for the northern superintendency, of the 9th ultimo, in conformity therewith, (a copy of which is appended thereto,) directing me to meet the Yanctonnais Indians, and agree with them upon a time and place for consultation with him to adjust differences with them and the Cutheads, agreeably to the provisions of the act of appropriation of June 12, 1858, and to receive certain goods and other articles directed to be purchased and distributed amongst them in pursuance of that object.

The serious interruption of the mails in the interior, by reason of unprecedented floods, has compelled me to delay my report until my arrival at this place.

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

K. PRITCHETTE,
*Special Agent, Indian Department.*

Hon. CHARLES E. MIX,
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.*

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No. 18.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA,
*August* 22, 1858,

SIR: I have the honor to report, that in obedience to your letter of appointment as special agent of the Indian department of the 29th of June last, I proceeded without delay, via New York, to St. Paul,

Minnesota, and on the 5th ultimo reported myself for duty, as therein directed, to Major W. J. Cullen, superintendent of Indian affairs for the northern superintendency.

On the 9th of the same month I received his instructions, a copy of which is appended, marked A, and as therein directed proceeded to the performance of the duties assigned me, viz: "To proceed without delay to meet the Yanctonnais Indians and make known to them that the government is engaged in initiating measures in their behalf, and that goods and other articles are now being purchased, which will be distributed among them during the present season;" and, also, "to agree with them upon a place, and fix a time for a consultation with the superintendent, in order that their claims to the lands ceded in 1851 can be investigated, and where the goods and other articles spoken of will be distributed."

On the 15th of the same month I reached the Sioux agency, and on the next day, proceeded to Fort Ridgely, in order to obtain a tent for the use of the party directed to accompany me. On the 17th, the supplies for the expedition, ordered by the superintendent from St. Paul, not having yet arrived, I despatched messengers to Henderson, to which point they had been sent by steamer, to hasten their transportation. On Monday, the 19th, a portion of the supplies having arrived, I took my departure the next day, in search of the Yanctonnais, whom I was informed were all occupied in hunting the buffalo upon the Côteau des Prairies.

On Monday, the 26th, I reached Lake Kampeska, situate near the head waters of the Big Sioux river, without being able to discover their whereabouts. On the evening of the next day, while engaged in making arrangements to leave a portion of my party encamped, and to proceed with my interpreter and guide to "the oak grove" on the James river, where it was rumored they were encamped, I was informed that a camp of a hundred and eighty lodges was within a short distance. Early next morning I despatched two Indians, from a Se-see-toan hunting-camp near me, to request the chiefs and head men to come to my camp and receive good news, which I was instructed by their Great Father to bring them. About 7 p. m. of the same day, eleven mounted men, from the Yanctonnais camp, arrived. After having feasted, with the aid of a small quantity of provisions I furnished them at the Se-see-toan camp, late in the evening they assembled at my tent. The minutes of this interview are appended, marked B. By these it will be seen that they insisted that I should repair to their camp, declaring positively that their chiefs would not come to me.

This I refused to do, considering that their late conduct at Medary demanded that they should exhibit a more subordinate disposition, in view of the lenient and liberal measures of the government towards them. As the minutes above referred to will show, they persisted in their demand and declaration, and were informed, in reply, that I would give their chiefs one sun to determine. Early the next morning the delegation departed.

On the 30th, a single messenger arrived from the Yanctonnais camp, representing himself as a chief, which was subsequently found to be untrue, and urged me, with much mild entreaty, to comply with the

request of the chiefs to come to them, declaring that it was an inviolable law of their nation that their chiefs should hold no councils except in the presence of all their people. Fearing that my mission might entirely fail, should I persist in my previously expressed determination, I availed myself of this plausible explanation of the unwillingness of their chiefs to come to me, and told him that, not desiring to be instrumental in the violation of their laws, I would accompany him. Accordingly, I immediately struck my tent, and accompanied their messenger to the Yanctonnais camp, which I reached on the evening of the same day.

The whole of the next morning was spent by the chiefs in counseling among themselves; and it was not until the afternoon that the chiefs, with all their people, assembled at my tent. I proceeded to address them, informing them of the object of my visit, and asking them to agree with me in fixing the time and place for receiving the goods, &c., designed for them, and holding a council with the superintendent to consider their claims.

(The minutes of this council are appended, marked C.)

As these minutes show, they utterly refused to fix any time or place for these purposes, alleging the absence of a part of their nation as the reason. This, I am satisfied, was untrue, and that their refusal was the result of a general consultation of the Yanctonnais nation, and, as I believe, in concert with a portion, at least, of the Se-see-toans themselves, a large body of whom were encamped near and in constant intercourse with them. Messengers had also preceded me from the annuity Indians, waiting their payment at Yellow Medicine, to the Yanctonnais camps, as I was informed, previous to my departure from that place. Who had instigated the interference of the Se-see-toans, to prevent the assembling of the Yanctonnais for the settlement of the difficulties between them, and directly advised the Yanctonnais themselves to the same effect, is already a subject of diligent inquiry, and will, it is expected, be thoroughly ascertained.

Finding it impossible in any manner to effect the object of my mission, I, the same evening, broke up my camp and hastened my return in order that other and more efficient measures might be taken if, upon consultation with the superintendent and agent, any such could be devised, and another effort should be deemed proper or expedient. The Yanctonnais, immediately upon my departure, also moved their whole camp.

Deeming it advisable to convey the information of my failure as early as practicable to the Indian Department and to the superintendent, on the 2d of August, at day-break, I despatched three of my party, with the best horses, with communications to Yellow Medicine. On the evening of the 5th instant I returned to the agency at that place, and reported in person to the superintendent.

Upon consultation it was judged expedient to make a further effort to assemble the Yanctonnais by despatching a message to them by Antoine Frenier, a reliable and intelligent person, who had long been resident among them, and well acquainted with their language, together with two others, half-breeds of like known influence among

them, which was accordingly done in the most secret manner, in order to guard against further interference.

On the 7th instant, at the request of the superintendent, I accompanied him to the Pacific wagon road camp of Colonel Nobles, on the Cottonwood river, which he visited to receive the public property there; and on the 10th, returned with him to Yellow Medicine, and witnessed the payment of the annuities there. This being accomplished, and there being no further occasion for my services at present in that region, I returned at the special request of the superintendent with him to St. Paul, it being his expressed desire that I should accompany him and aid him in his business with the Yanctonnais, in the event that the second attempt to call them together should prove more successful. To this I have assented, provided your further instructions should not otherwise direct.

The reasons for the failure of my mission to the Yanctonnais can, at present, only be conjectured. It is evident, however, from what transpired in the council at their camp that they had been previously tampered with by interested or malicious parties. The prominent idea put forward by them at that time was that it was the object of the government to inveigle them into a treaty for the lands now occupied by them. It is also probable that their apprehensions had been excited, of being drawn within the power of the military, and punished for their outrages at Medary. Their declaration that they desired nothing from the government until they had settled with the Se-see-toans themselves, for their share of the lands sold by the latter, would also seem to indicate some sinister influences from without.

There is reason to believe that the object of their advisers has been to keep this claim an open question until they had arranged the recognition by the government or its agents, as chiefs, of persons under their own influence and control, who might be used to subserve their ultimate interests. This would account for the jealousy manifested by them upon the subject of chieftainship, and which, from the extraordinary discipline and surbordination displayed in their camp, could hardly have originated with themselves.

Whatever may be the motives by which these people were influenced to reject the bounty of the government, certain it is that the Indians throughout this northwestern region are in a very restless and insubordinate condition. Their late frequent contests among themselves, under the very eye of the authorities, tends to keep alive this spirit, and inspires them with the belief of a want of power in the government to restrain them. Beside the dissatisfaction between the Yanctonnais and Se-see-toans, the Yanctons are at variance in regard to the late treaty, as I was informed by one of their chiefs, who visited me with a party of his people while encamped at Kampeska lake. He declared that he was no party to that treaty, and dissented from its provisions.

The friendly disposition of the Tetons, on both sides of the Mississippi is doubtful.

One of the bands of that nation, to whom presents are directed to be bestowed, by your instructions to the superintendent, of the 8th of

July last, to wit: The "Sans Arcs," I was informed by the Yanctonnais, are in open hostility against the United States.

The result of observation and information from various sources, would seem to indicate that a common concert of action has been agreed upon, if not a hostile combination actually formed between all these bands, and that some stringent precautionary measures are necessary to prevent serious consequences hereafter.

All which is respectfully submitted.

KINTZING PRITCHETTE,
*Special agent, Indian Department.*

Hon. CHARLES E. MIX,
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*

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No. 19—A.

OFFICE OF THE NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY,
*St. Paul, July* 9, 1858.

SIR: In accordance with a communication of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of June 29, informing me you had been appointed a special agent of the Indian Department, to act in regard to matters connected with the Yanctonnais Indians, now on their way towards the Yellow Medicine, for the purpose of interfering with the payment of annuities to the Se-see-toans and Wah-pay-toan Sioux Indians; and that you would report yourself to me for duty, you are hereby instructed to proceed, without delay, to meet the Yanctonnais Indians, and make known to them that the government is engaged in initiating measures in their behalf, and that goods and other articles are now being purchased which will be distributed among them during the present season.

You will agree with them upon a place, and fix a time for a consultation with me, in order that their claims to the lands ceded in 1851, can be investigated, and where the goods and articles above spoken of will be distributed. I have appointed the following persons to accompany you, viz: Thos. Robertson, to act as your interpreter, Henry Belland and A. Robertson to be guides, Robert Weekly teamster, Peter Martelle cook; the necessary outfit and transportation for yourself and party will be furnished you.

You will proceed, with as little delay as possible, to meet the Yanctonnais, whom I am informed you will probably meet somewhere in the neighborhood of the "Hole in the Mountain." Should you however not meet with them at that point you will exercise your discretion in regard to your future course and direction, endeavoring to reach them as soon as possible. You will probably, on arriving at Yellow Medicine, obtain direct information of the present position of the Indians. After having met the Indians, and determined on the time and place of meeting for the purpose before mentioned, you will communicate with me at the Sioux agency, at which place I will probably

be about the 25th of this month, and will await information from you at that place.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. CULLEN,
*Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

K. PRITCHETTE, Esq.,
*Special Agent, &c., St. Paul.*

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No. 20.—B.

*Minutes of an interview with the delegation of the head men and soldiers of the Yanctonnais, had at camp at Lake Kampeska, on the evening of July* 29, 1858.

On the assembling of the delegation, and their signifying their readiness to receive my message to their people, I said to them:

I have been for nearly an entire moon in coming to you with a message from your Great Father, (at Washington,) given to me by your father, Superintendent Cullen, to bring to your chiefs. This message is of great good news to you, and for your benefit. After coming this great distance, and inquiring continually where you were to be found, I was told for the first time yesterday that you were near my camp.

I then sent messengers to your camp to tell your chiefs and head-men to come to me and hear good news. Much to my surprise they have not come; and I am now told that I must come to them. This cannot be. My message is sent to your chiefs and head-men, and to them alone can I deliver it. My messengers told them that it was for the purpose of fixing a time and place for holding a council with their father (Superintendent Cullen) respecting those matters of which they had complained to him last year at Yellow Medicine, and of which he then promised to speak to their great father at Washington. He has performed his promise, and now sends to them to meet him in council to hear the words of their Great Father, and to receive the valuable goods and provisions he has sent to them.

You will now return to your chiefs and tell them this, and that I will wait one sun for their coming, that I may deliver my good news to them, and with them fix the time and place for the distribution of the goods and the council with their father.

The distance I have come has exhausted my provisions so that I cannot feast them as I would; but at the council with your father, he will make full amends.

I have brought for your chiefs, head men and soldiers a small present of tobacco which I will give them when they come to me, and which I hope will be acceptable to them. I have said.

To this address they replied, that it was my duty to come to them, that they had been told last year at Yellow Medicine that a messenger should be sent to James river for them, and that I had stopped within a few hours ride; that if my horses were worn out I might take theirs.

That their chiefs would not come, and further, that they would not carry my message; that they had been instructed to say only what they had said, and were not authorized further to talk with me.

In answer, I commended their prudence and good faith to their chiefs as messengers, and that their course was also mine, and their example such as I also pursued; that I had nothing to say to them further; that my explanations were only to enable them to act understandingly; that I did not wish them to carry a *message* for me, all I had expected was that they would take my *answer* back to the message of their chiefs. If they thought proper to do so, it was well; if not, it was well.

They then reiterated all their arguments to induce me to yield and go to their camp; and inquired whether, if their chiefs did not come to me, I would leave as I had declared.

To this I replied: that I certainly would. They still endeavored with the most steady and ingenious persistence, to change my resolution. I answered that the difference between us was very plain and simple; I had come to announce the bestowal of good gifts, not to solicit anything from them. I say to them, come to me and it shall be given to you; you answer, come to us and we will take.

At this they laughed heartily, and with a promise from me that if they visited me before they left in the morning I would send a small present of tobacco to their chiefs, they departed.

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## No. 21.—C.

*Minutes of a Council held with the chiefs, head men, and soldiers of the Hunk-pate band of Yanctonnais in presence of all their people, at their camp, near the head of the "Plateau du coteau des Prairies" on the afternoon of the 31st day of July*, 1858.

The council being assembled and the principal chiefs having expressed their readiness to receive my message, I commenced by stating that during the last summer they had made a complaint, at Yellow Medicine, to their father, Superintendent Cullen, who had promised to lay the same before their Great Father at Washington (the Commissioner of Indian Affairs); that he had kept his promise, and that their Great Father had instructed him to convey to them, through me, the result. I then read from the instructions of the Superintendent, of the 9th of July, that portion which directs me to inform the Yanctonnais of the object of calling them together, and to agree with them upon the time and place for holding a council and the distribution of the goods. This I directed my interpreter to interpret to them, which he did, as also the substance of a communication of the 22d July from the Superintendent, transmitted to me while on the prairie by an express, suggesting that the place of meeting should be fixed either at a place called "The Two Ravines," or "The Lake where the Kettle was found." I concluded by stating that I was now ready to agree

with them upon the time and place of meeting, for the purposes named in my instructions.

Wa-nak-son-ta, a chief, then rose and made a rambling speech upon the subject of chieftainship among them, and the sale of the lands occupied by them, which he seemed to believe were the real objects of my mission.

To this I replied, that I had nothing to do with making chiefs nor the purchase of their lands. That I had but one duty to perform, which was to fix the time and place of meeting with their father, Superintendent Cullen. That the head men and soldiers he had sent to me had refused to talk upon any other subject but that upon which they had been authorized to speak, and that I had no authority to speak to them of anything but what I had told them.

The chief replied with some remarks about the treaty of 1851, and asking me not to be in a hurry, declared that the lands they occupied were worth a great deal of money.

To this I replied, that the government did not want to buy their lands, and that the goods and presents were sent only to settle the difficulty which they complained had been caused by the cession of the Se-see-toans under the treaty of 1851. I then inquired what were the limits of their claim to the lands sold by the Se-see-toan and Wah-pay-toan bands under that treaty, and the names of the chiefs who represented the claimants to those lands.

To this the chief replied, that he had only been repeating to me what he had said to their father last year; that they claimed all the land to the Minnesota river, which had been given to him by his father and now belonged to him. (Some difficulty seemed to have been created by my demand for the names of the chiefs representing the claimants, and though the question was repeated, no answer could be elicited.)

One of the soldiers then arose and commenced haranguing in a violent manner and loud voice respecting the value of their lands, declaring that they had received nothing for the lands already sold.

I here interrupted him, stating that it was for the purpose of settling the difficulty respecting the land already sold, that I had been sent to call them together, to counsel with their father and to receive the goods, &c.; that their father had no intention of asking them to sell the lands they occupied, and has no authority to do so.

He then enquired if the goods &c. to be distributed, were of those sent to the Se-see-toans as annuities. Being answered that they were not, he declared that they wanted nothing of the United States until they had settled with the Se-see-toans themselves; it would then be time enough to treat for their land, and that the things sent by their Great Father were to buy other lands.

To this I replied that he was altogether mistaken; that there was no authority given to purchase other lands, and that I would listen to nothing further on that subject. The chief then said the Yanctonnais were not all present, and that a council cannot be held unless the whole nation is present.

I inquired whether he could not get them all together and fix the time and place to receive the goods.

To this he replied that some of them were on the other side of the Missouri and could not be got together this fall, but that he would see them all during their winter hunt.

In reply, I asked him what was to be done with the goods in the meantime. (To this no answer was made.)

He then inquired what the Yanctons had done with their lands at Washington. To which I replied, nothing.

I then asked if the chiefs and their people present would meet with their father and receive their proportion of the goods, leaving the remainder to be distributed thereafter to the rest of the nation.

(To this question, though repeated, no answer could be obtained.)

Another soldier then said: You have not come up out of the ground but have come over the prairies. When a person is sent to us from our Great Father he should tell us all he knows.

I replied: Why do you think I have not told you all? I have told you all I have to say.

I then inquired of him how many chiefs were interested in the lands sold under the treaty of 1851.

To this he answered three here and two more on the Missouri.

I then repeated the object of my visit to them, and added that if they were not ready to receive the goods and meet their father, all that remained for me to do was to return and report to him.

To which it was replied: That is right. Our lands are very valuable to us; give us time.

I then directed the interpreter to ask him whether he thought their Great Father had nothing to do but to attend upon them.

To this he answered that their Great Father had bought all the rest of the Indian lands and he supposed that now he had only them to attend to.

I then asked if they could fix a time and place where an agent of the government could find them all assembled next year, instead of having to seek them all over the prairies, as I had done.

(Though this question was thrice repeated, a sullen silence was maintained and no answer could be elicited.)

I then retired from the council and directed the horses to be harnessed and our tent struck. The chiefs then left also.

Considerable confusion then took place; the Indians all crowding round the wagons and the soldiers declaring that, as it was the first time a white man from their Great Father had visited their camp, it was unusual to carry anything away, that I had no business on their lands and threatening to cut our harness, unless I would give them the small portion of tobacco which remained, and other of our supplies.

Having already given to them, at the close of the council, over half a box of tobacco, and all the flour we could spare, I directed the interpreter to tell them that I had come to their camp at their own solicitation, under assurances of protection, which, if they did not grant, I had no power to resist; but that under their threats I would not give them as much as I could put upon the nail of my finger.

The interpreter informed me that their reply to this was, that they did not desire to extort anything more by threats, but thought I

might have more than I needed, and that, according to their customs, the soldiers had no share of the tobacco in the distribution.

I then told the interpreter he might do as he pleased; and, accordingly, he gave them a few plugs of tobacco and a little sugar.

In the meantime our wagons having been loaded, we left their camp without further molestation. Just after we had left their encampment, an Indian, running on foot from their lodges, overtook us and stated that he was the brother of a chief of another band of Yanctonnais, whom he had that day left encamped at "Oak Grove," on the James river, which we estimated at about twelve miles distant.

This information explained the division we had observed made of the tobacco given them in *four* parcels, they admitting only the presence of *three* chiefs, and proved that their action had been the result of general concert among the nation.

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## No. 22.

### CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
*St. Louis, October* 1, 1858.

SIR: In making an annual report of the condition of the Indians of this superintendency, I have the honor to say that the evidences of progress in civilization and the arts necessary to their comfort and happiness are not very remarkable; yet in taking a view of the reports of the agents of the various tribes, I cannot doubt that something has been done in the last year to promote these desirable objects, something effected to retard the inevitable destiny of this race; and it is observable that the improvement in their condition depends chiefly upon their farming operations.

Agriculture and mechanics being the great levers by which man is elevated to civilization, their importance cannot be too earnestly brought to the consideration of all connected with this department of the government. No people were ever known to acquire civilization or to enjoy its blessings without a knowledge of agriculture and a practical application of it; and, as has been said, "it is, if possible, more important that the Indian should be taught to till the soil and to labor in the mechanic shops than to have even a common school education."

It is known to be exceedingly difficult to dissuade the savage from his migratory habits and confine him to the pursuits of civilization, yet there is sufficient evidence, in the prosperous condition of many of the tribes, to demonstrate that much can be done to effect an object so important to the government and beneficial to the Indian.

It is apprehended that if energetic means are not taken at an early period to advance these people in the art of cultivating the soil, the condition of many of them must in a few years become pitiable in the extreme. The government may expend its millions to relieve their