nected with this mission, where the children are taught to read. My school-
house is quite small, and in arranging the seats and desks the comfort of the
children could not have been taken into account. Many of the children at this
mission are destitute of suitable clothing to enable them to attend school. If the
government would appropriate a small amount for this purpose, I have no doubt
it would secure a much larger attendance. Books used: McGuffey’s First, Sec-
ond, and Third Readers, Primer and Speller; Ray’s Mental and Practical Arithmetic, and Cornell’s and Allyn’s Geography.
Those children who attend school regularly make good progress in their
studies. As a general rule, as soon as the children become large enough to be
of any service at home they are taken out of school, and the consequence is
that nearly all they have learned is soon forgotten.
I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. WILLARD, Teacher.

Hon. M. M. DAVIS,
United States Indian Agent.

MICHIGAN AGENCY

No. 247.

OFFICE MACKINAC INDIAN AGENCY,
Detroit, Michigan, October 7, 1864.

SIR: Herewith I submit to you my fourth annual report.
The condition of the Indians in this agency has changed very little since the
date of my last report. Indeed, I might, in the main, refer to that as faithfully
and fully showing their present condition, necessities, and prospects. Neverthe-
less, some things worthy of note have occurred, and greater familiarity with
the Indians, and a more careful study of their character, have probably somewhat
modified my own views in regard to their prospects and final destiny.
As the history of all the past shows the change from barbarism to civilization
has always been slow, so slow, perhaps, as to be scarcely noticed by surrounding
nations; and so with our Michigan Indians. Looking back over a quarter of a
century, I see that they have made considerable progress in the arts and customs
of civilization; but looking back over a period of only eight or ten years, I dis-
cover but little evidence of change.
My own experience with Indians seems to show that it is comparatively easy
to bring them to a semi-civilized state, but a very different and a very difficult
matter to carry them far beyond that condition. The schoolmaster and the
missionary can easily induce them to abandon some of their barbarous customs,
but others cling to them with fatal tenacity, and, to a great extent, shape and
control their whole life. But it is their misfortune, rather than their fault. The
constitution of the Indian mind is peculiar, and there are doubtless some traits
wanting, without which the highest success in life is never achieved.
Generally, with the Indian, there is very little forethought. If he has food,
clothing, and tobacco for to-day, he is happy. He borrows no trouble from the
future. He obeys at least one Scripture injunction to the very letter, and “takes no
thought for the morrow, what he shall eat, or what he shall drink, nor where-
withal he shall be clothed.”
Again, the Indian is sadly deficient in sound, practical judgment in business
affairs. His mind seems incapable of comprehending more than the simplest and
least complicated business transactions. Whatever his general intellectual
powers may be, he lacks tact, and this, I am confident, is a very serious defect
in the Indian mind. He is not adapted to business—cannot appreciate its importance, nor push it to valuable results.

Still another defect in the Indian character is indolence. He lacks energy and perseverance. In the chase he may be untiring, but in agricultural or mechanical pursuits he is not careful, nor thorough, nor persevering. He undertakes but little, and leaves unfinished or but poorly finished, the little that he commences. He erects the body of a house; the second year he puts on the roof; and the third or fourth, he manages to so far complete it as to make it the abode of his family. There are to my knowledge many little log-houses among the Indians of this agency that have thus been two or three years in course of construction, and are still unfinished. An energetic white man would deem it an easy job to build one in three or four weeks.

With these defects in the Indian character we are not to expect rapid improvement; and it is with no slight feeling of sadness that I confess that during the four years that the Indians of this agency have been under my care, they have not made the progress I had anticipated. And yet there have been no unusual obstacles in their way. These four years have, on the whole, been prosperous and fruitful. No general or fatal illness has prevailed among them; they have received large prices for their sugar, fish, furs, and labor; they have paid no taxes worthy of note. The government has furnished them schools, done their blacksmithing, and paid them in money and goods not less than forty-eight thousand dollars per year.

And yet, during these four years, they have built but few houses, and added comparatively few acres to their meagre improvements. Nor has this been for want of advice or encouragement. Missionaries and the employés of the agency have generally cordially aided me in my efforts to awaken a spirit of enterprise and activity among them. Hence I am compelled to attribute their slow progress in a great measure to native defects of character, want of forethought, lack of business capacity, and habits of indolence.

Justice to the Indian, however, demands that I should say that the white population surrounding them, and with which they come oftenest in contact, is in most cases an obstacle to their improvement. The class of whites that seek homes among the Indians is not (with some honorable exceptions) calculated to exert a salutary influence over them. Very many of these whites are coarse, ignorant, and vicious; and they do not teach, either by precept or example, any of the virtues which the Indians must need to learn. On the contrary, the worst examples are daily set before this weak and ignorant race, who have, at least, but little power to resist tendencies to evil. Some of these whites, taking Indian women for wives, and becoming familiar with the Indian language, acquired considerable influence, seldom, however, to be used for the benefit of the unfortunate red man.

Another class of whites, who associate much with the Indians, is the traders; many of them are respectable men, but, whether such or not, they go among the Indians solely to make money, and pay little heed to anything that does not increase their profits. But too many of them, alas! consider the poor Indian their lawful prey, and rob him to the extent of their power.

Many of these evils might have been avoided by locating all our Michigan Indians on one or two, or at most three, reservations. But, as elaborately shown in my last report, they were distributed over twenty distinct reservations. And I feel that I must repeat here, what I have more than once urged upon your consideration, that the greatest favor the government could confer upon these Indians would be to concentrate them as much as possible. If they could all be placed on one reservation, I would consider their chances for improvement increased at least a hundred fold. But if the number of reservations could be reduced to three or four, very much would be gained.

Most of the land certificates forwarded to me for the Chippewas of Saginaw,
Swan creek, and Black river, have been delivered to the Indians. I have also distributed certificates to the Ottawas and Chippewas at Mackinac, Garden island, Little Traverse, and Grand Traverse. They were generally gladly received. Some of the more intelligent among them, however, feel that their title is not yet quite perfected, and ask that their Great Father send them patents. But the propriety of doing this admits of serious doubt. Very few of them are yet capable of managing their affairs properly, and if patents were placed in their hands their lands would very soon be squandered, and they would once more become homeless wanderers. There may be particular cases where, for special reasons, it may be well to perfect their title, but as a general rule it would not be prudent.

The last winter was one of unusual severity; the snow was very deep, and covered the ground for so long a time that Indian cattle and horses suffered severely. Their losses, particularly in working cattle, were very heavy, and, so far as the Ottawas and Chippewas—by far the most numerous branch of our Indians—are concerned, I am without means to replace the cattle lost. Hence I am constrained to renew the recommendation I have before made, that there be advanced to them the sum of $10,000 out of the $206,000 that will stand to their credit at the expiration of ten years from the making of the present treaty. It would be but a small matter to the government to advance this amount, but it would be a very important matter to the Indians to receive it; besides, they would thus receive it in cattle and agricultural implements, which would be far better for them than to receive it at some future time, or even now, in money. I am fully persuaded that it is always better to pay the Indians in goods than in money. They have often asked for an advance for the purposes indicated, and I trust it may be granted.

I also renew the recommendation I made in my last report, that steps be taken to secure the removal of the Chippewas, Ottawas, and Pottawatomies, and the Pottawatomies of Huron, from their present residence in the western part of the State to the Oceana, or Little Traverse reservation. They number only three hundred, are surrounded by whites, and have nothing to stimulate them to improvement. Remove them to one of the larger reservations, give them land, and, in place of the permanent annuities to which they are now entitled, give them some substantial aid for a few years, while they are getting established in their new homes, and their condition and prospects will be very materially improved. The government will lose nothing by such a course. The Indian will gain much.

I fear the statistical report will show that the schools have not been very well attended during the past year. One reason for this is that the high price of furs have induced many of the Indians to go far into the forest in search of that article. Often they are thus absent for months at a time; usually they take their families with them, thus very seriously affecting the schools.

Another and more serious cause arises from a failure on the part of the Indians to appreciate the importance of education. Sometimes, by special effort, a temporary interest is awakened, but it does not last. Since the passage of the law of February 13, 1862, prescribing severe penalties for furnishing spirituous liquors to Indians, there has been less intemperance among our Indians than ever before. Still there are some localities, as at Mackinac, Ontonagon, Garden island, &c., where it has been found impossible to prohibit this most nefarious traffic. Yet the law has, on the whole, been of great service to our Indians.

Notwithstanding the high prices of dry goods that have prevailed, I think I have never seen the Indians of this agency better clothed than I find them this fall. This arises from the fact that they have received very liberal prices for all the products of their labor, and almost fabulous prices for furs. Their cornfields, the past summer, have produced a full crop. Their potatoes, always a
leading article with them, are not as good as on some former occasions, but they have a fair yield—enough, probably, for their own use.

At some points where I have paid them their annuities, they have complained bitterly of the kind of money they received. Their complaints, however, are always found to grow out of gross falsehoods told them by disloyal white men.

A burning shame it is, yet nevertheless true, that men should live here, in these loyal States, base enough to thus seek to poison the minds of these ignorant Indians, and prejudice them against the government that, with fatherly kindness, protects and cares for them.

I am assured, by the officers of the regiment, that the company of Indians in the 1st Michigan sharpshooters have proved very efficient soldiers. They have been engaged in several bloody battles, and have, on all occasions, shown that they possess all the qualifications for successful soldiers. Lieutenant G. A. Graveraet, his father H. G. Graveraet, chief Man-ke-we-nan, of the Bear river band, and quite a large number of privates have fallen in the service, thus proving their devotion to their country. Several are now held as prisoners, by the rebels.

My statistical report is unavoidably delayed for a few days for want of returns from two leading reservations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. C. LEACH, Indian Agent.

Hon. Wm. P. DOLE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

[For statistics of this agency, see tables at the end of this volume.]

No. 248.

OFFICE MACKINAW, INDIAN AGENCY,
Detroit, Michigan, April 9, 1864.

SIR: The Chippewas of Saginaw, Swan creek, and Black river, are desirous of modifying the existing treaty, so as to receive land in place of their last annuity payment. I enclose their petition relative to this matter, and commend it to your favorable consideration.

That portion of these Indians residing on Saginaw bay are now willing to remove to the principal reservation in Isabella county, which will, most undoubtedly, tend to promote their welfare.

The above objects can only be accomplished through a new treaty. There are also some other modifications of the present treaty that might be made without detriment to the government, which would unquestionably prove beneficial to the Indians. But having conversed with you upon this subject while at Washington recently, I need not enlarge upon it now.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that I be authorized, in conjunction with such persons as you may deem proper to name, to treat with said Indians on these and such other subjects as may be deemed of sufficient interest and importance.

As one of these persons I would suggest the name of Rev. George Bradley, long time a missionary among said Indians, and possessing their confidence, perhaps, to a greater extent than any other person. Said treaty might be made some time during the summer without very heavy expense to the government—say, perhaps, from $200 to $400. They would nearly all come to the council, and it would be necessary to feed them for two or three days, which would be the main item of expense.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. C. LEACH, Indian Agent.

Hon. Wm. P. DOLE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.
No. 249.

To the President of the United States of America:

We, the chiefs and headmen of the Chippewa Indians of Saginaw, and Chippewa Indians of Swan creek and Black river, parties to the treaty of August 2, 1855, made at Detroit, Michigan, desire to say to the President, that whereas we made a mistake, or overlooked one thing in our treaty, and did not make any provision for our young men and women to have any land when they should be of age:

Now we are so situated here on our reservation in Isabella county, that if the land is brought into market, and white men come and settle among us, we fear it will disturb us very much and break up our settlement. Now, we desire to take our last payment of eighteen thousand eight hundred dollars ($18,800) in land now in the reservation, and so guard ourselves and our children from being scattered again, and that the needful steps be immediately taken to make the selection of land.

We feel this is very important to us and our children, and we pray our father to hear and grant us our wishes.  

Dated Isabella, Indian Mills, February 15, 1864.

NOLTAWA, his x mark, chief.
KEE-CHE-NO-DIN, his x mark, headman.
PEM, E, QUASH-UNG, his x mark, chief.
AH-NE-ME-KEE-USE, his x mark, headman.
SHAW-SHAW-WA-NESEES, his x mark, chief.
S. BENNETT-KUH-BA-AH, his x mark.
AH-NE-ME-KEE-ZWENA, his x mark, chief.
NAH-ZON-WA-WE-DUNG, his x mark, headman.
NAW-WA-ZE-LZHISK, his x mark, chief.
S. AUH, his x mark, headman.
ME-CHAH-BA, chief.
WOH-BA-ZE-LZHICK, his x mark, headman.
L. D. BARROWS, chief.
JACOB JAMES, his x mark, headman.
ME-SHEEH-QUAH-UM, headman.

Office Mackinac Indian Agency, 
Detroit, Michigan, April 22, 1864.

Sir: Permit me to suggest whether it would not be well to ask Congress for a small appropriation—say of $2,000, or thereabouts—which may be used, if necessary, in effecting treaties with the several bands of Indians which we propose to concentrate on the larger reservations.

I trust that most of this business may be done at the time of visiting them for distributing annuities, &c.; but it may be necessary to hold one council with the Chippewas of Saginaw, Swan creek, and Black river, and one with the Ottawas and Chippewas, which will require small expenditures aside from ordinary agency expenses. It is to provide for such a contingency that I make the above suggestion.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. C. LEACH,
Indian Agent.

Hon. WM. P. Dole,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.
No. 250.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office Indian Affairs, May 2, 1864.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th ultimo, enclosing the petition of the Chippewas of Saginaw, Swan creek, and Black river, relative to a new treaty, and also your letter of the 22d ultimo, suggesting the propriety of asking for an appropriation of $2,000 to be used, if necessary, in making treaties with several bands of Indians proposed to be concentrated upon the larger reservations.

In reply I have to state that I am inclined to favor the proposition of the Saginaw, Swan creek, and Black river Indians; but before taking action thereon I desire to be more fully informed in relation thereto, and to this end you will prepare and transmit to this office draughts of such a treaty as you propose to make with that tribe, and also with the Ottawas and Chippewas. Upon the receipt of the same, I will submit them, with such explanations in relation thereto as you may make, to the Secretary of the Interior, for his consideration and decision thereon.

Of course it is not expected that your draughts of the proposed treaties will be perfect as to details, the information desired being as to the main points thereof.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. DOLE, Commissioner.

D. C. LEACH, Esq.,
Detroit, Michigan.

No. 251.

OFFICE MACKINAC INDIAN AGENCY,
Detroit, Michigan, June 14, 1864.

SIR: Referring to your letter of May 2, and to my letters to you of the 9th of April and the 10th of May, (the latter enclosing draught of the proposed treaty with the Chippewas of Saginaw, Swan creek, and Black river,) I have to say that I have just returned from a visit to the Ottawas and Chippewas, at Grand and Little Traverse, and am prepared to recommend the following with regard to treating with said Indians:

1st. That a treaty be made with the bands inhabiting the Little Traverse and Cheboygan reservation, by which the United States should guarantee to them the enlargement of said reservation, as proposed in my letter of April 5; all the lands on said enlarged reservation to be forever set apart for the use and occupancy of said Indians and their descendants, and such other Ottawas and Chippewas of Michigan as may be induced to abandon other reservations and locate there. The Indians to relinquish the right to purchase lands on said reservation guaranteed to them by the treaty of July 31, 1855.

2d. To treat with other bands from time to time as they may manifest a willingness to abandon their present reservations and locate on this enlarged reservation.

But I need not dwell on this subject, as I discussed it quite freely in my last annual report, to which I would call your attention.

I would also very earnestly recommend that further provision be made for the education of Indians on said reservation, and that at least two farmers and two carpenters be furnished them for a term of years; also an additional blacksmith. This, if done, would go far to induce other bands to unite with them.
These treaties, I am satisfied, can be made, if they can be made at all, at the time of distributing annuities, and thus very little if any additional expense need be incurred.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. C. LEACH, Indian Agent.

Hon. Wm. P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

No. 252.

OFFICE MACKINAC INDIAN AGENCY,
Detroit, Michigan, June 14, 1864.

SIR: In a letter this day written you, I have said that the proposed treaties with the Ottawas and Chippewas can as well be made at the time of distributing annuities. But in the case of the Chippewas of Saginaw, Swan creek, and Black river, I think it would be well, if the department approves the plan of treating with them at all, to proceed with as little delay as may be.

They now seem to be in a mood for treating, and their missionary, writing me, well says, “It is best to strike while the iron is hot.” In addition to this, their payment comes late in the season, usually in December, when the weather is inclement, and the roads nearly impassable. The “Bay Indians” would have to go some fifty or sixty miles to attend the council, which would be very hard on them late in the season.

My opinion is that about the middle of July would be a favorable time. If postponed much later, it would delay the commencement of my annual tour for distributing annuities till too late a period.

When in conversation with you in reference to the proposed treaties, you remarked that you would like to have some one near you associated with me in making said treaties. Without presuming to interfere with matters belonging exclusively to you, I trust you will excuse me for suggesting the name of Dr. Alvord, a citizen of this State, now employed in your office, as a suitable person to aid in making the proposed treaty with the Chippewas of Saginaw, Swan creek, and Black river.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. C. LEACH, Indian Agent.

Hon. William P. DOLE,
Commissioner, &c., Washington, D. C.

No. 253.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., October 31, 1864.

SIR: In accordance with your instructions of the 3d of September last, detailing me to act in connexion with Agent Leach in negotiating treaties with the Chippewas of Saginaw, Swan creek, and Black river, and the Ottawas and Chippewas of Michigan, I left this city on the 5th of September, and arrived in Detroit on the 9th of the same month.

Owing to a misunderstanding between Agent Leach and myself as to the time I would be in Detroit, I found on my arrival in that city that he had, a few days before, left to pay the Ottawas and Chippewas at various points in the northern part of the State. I at once wrote to him, advising him of the objects
of my mission, and requesting him to return to Detroit as early as practicable. Mr. Leach returned to Detroit about the first of the present month. Previous, however, to his return, having ascertained that he would be back about the first of the month, I sent word by the Rev. George Bradley, missionary to the Indians at Isabella, to have the Chippewas of Saginaw, Swan creek, and Black river assembled at Isabella on the 10th instant. About the time of Mr. Leach's return a letter was received from Mr. Bradley stating that he, fearing we would not be able to reach the reservation at the time stated, had thought it advisable to notify the Indians to assemble until further directed by us.

This failure on the part of Mr. Bradley would involve a delay of some days, and as I had already waited a considerable time for the return of Mr. Leach, I thought it advisable to telegraph to this office for instructions, which I did, and in reply to which I was instructed to proceed to negotiate the treaty. On the 8th instant I went to Saginaw, in company with Mr. R. M. Smith, clerk of Mr. Leach, from whence word was sent to the bands of Nanch-che-gan-me, Dutton, and Karybay, living upon the Saginaw bay river and its tributaries. We were here joined by Mr. Leach, and proceeded to the Isabella reservation, where we arrived on the 12th instant. On the 15th instant we held our first council with the Indians, every band being there represented. I made known to them the objects of the council, and stated to them that it was the wish of the government that they should all live together upon one reservation, and if they would consent to do so that the government would treat with them upon very liberal terms. Our negotiations continued until the 19th, when they were concluded by the signing of the treaty, which is herewith.

By the terms of this treaty it will be perceived that the Indians relinquish their right to the several townships upon Saginaw bay, and agree to make selections in severalty upon the Isabella reservation. They also relinquish all claims to locate lands outside of the reservation at Isabella, in lieu of lands disposed of by the government prior to the establishment of that reservation.

This claim, the Indians informed me, would cover some 36,000 acres. Not being fully informed as to the validity of this claim, but finding that the Indians considered it good and valid for the purpose of effecting a settlement thereof, and as a consideration for the relinquishment of the townships upon Saginaw bay, it was stipulated that the government should pay the sum of $20,000 for the support of a manual labor school at Isabella. This is the only expenditure of money involved in the treaty, an amount insignificant in itself, in view of the relinquishments made by the Indians and the importance of having them all concentrated upon one reservation.

There are other important provisions in the treaty which I will not here refer to, but to which I respectfully call your attention.

The Indians living upon the reservation are in a most prosperous condition. Many of them have good improvements, and live in houses such as their white neighbors might well covet, and there is a general desire among them to improve their condition and habits of living. They are all loyal to the government and take a deep interest in the present struggle for its existence. They have sent many of their young men into the army—even a larger proportion than the whites have furnished.

I regret, however, to state that I found abundant evidence that the rebel copperhead sympathizers with the rebellion had been busily at work to create distrust and dissatisfaction against the government, and at the time of my arrival at the reservation these traitors had made considerable headway in deceiving these Indians. The treaty negotiations, however, restored confidence and good feeling, and the whole tribe may be considered at this time as a unit in its support of the government.

Owing to the lateness of the season it was not thought practicable to attempt negotiations with the Ottawas and Chippewas this fall. I would remark, how-
ever, that there is an urgent necessity for early negotiations with these Indians, with a view to their concentration upon at least two, and if possible one reservation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. J. ALVORD,
Special Commissioner.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs.

No. 254.

APRIL 1, 1864.

In the ceaseless march of time we are brought to the close of another half-year. A kind Providence has blessed us and the children under our care with uninterrupted health. No accident has befallen any member of the school.

At the last report there were six boys and ten girls in the school. Since that time one girl has completed her term and left. Three boys and one girl have been received. The number at present is nineteen, viz: nine boys and ten girls.

It is gratifying to those in charge of this school to see very clear indications of the growing favor in which it is held by the Indians, and that they begin to appreciate the educational advantages here afforded. The children who have been educated here, remaining their full term, will be found to take a rank above the ordinary level of the Indians. The knowledge they have here obtained, although limited when compared with the white man's standard, gives them an importance among their friends which they could not otherwise attain, and makes them useful in many ways. They are often called upon by the Indians to write letters to distant friends, and in keeping rude accounts. The art of letter-writing is by them held in high esteem.

The influence of the regular attendance of our boarding scholars is producing manifest results upon the outside children, who come to the day schools. Formerly very few came with any regularity. Two or three days would comprise their monthly attendance. During the past winter terms several of them have attended with all the regularity of white children, and their progress has been very gratifying. As they notice the superior attainments of the boarding-school children, they are manifestly stimulated to follow them in their pursuits of knowledge, and this is increasingly so.

The general deportment of the children during the last half-year has been commendable. They have uniformly been respectful and obedient, and seem to have clearer notions of moral truths than formerly. The most of them have grown up at home with the idea that lying and stealing were not so very bad, if they were not detected. They all seem to have clear ideas of the moral wrong of these acts.

The boys seem to be learning the value of money, and of the importance of saving it. We have, in their leisure hours, given them small contracts to do various kinds of labor, paying them one-half at the completion of the work, and reserving the other half, on deposit, till they shall leave school.

The influence of this plan has been good. They seem desirous to accumulate, and the habit thus forming will probably be lasting as life.

EDWIN ELLES,

Hon. COMMISSIONER INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington.