SANITARY.

There has been during the year but little sickness among the Indians of this agency, with the exception of small-pox, which raged to some extent. There were some fifteen Indians died with this disease. There have been twenty-four deaths and seven births during the year.

CIVILIZATION.

To an unprejudiced mind there can be but one conclusion. While these Indians live entirely in tents, tepes, and brush houses, and move from one part of the reservation to another, they are fast adopting the customs of the whites in manner of dress. I also consider their present location well adapted for their advancement in this direction. They are surrounded by white settlers, with whom they are constantly thrown in contact, which has a good effect.

INDIAN POLICE.

The police at this agency consist of two officers and eighteen privates. They are not as efficient as is desired. However, they are getting to be of some service to the agent. On several occasions they have brought in horses belonging to white settlers and turned them over, so that the owner could get his stock without trouble.

AGENCY BUILDINGS.

The buildings at this agency are very poor; they consist of two old log buildings, which are unsafe for the protection of supplies, &c., and are insufficient for the accommodation and comfort of the agent and his employés.

SUPPLIES.

The supplies furnished this agency last year were not in quantity sufficient for the number of Indians who receive rations at this agency, and as the appropriation for the present year is largely deficient from that of last, it is hard to tell what the result will be. Owing to the fact that game is very scarce on the reservation, it is natural to suppose that they will subsist on the sheep furnished them by the Government as long as the same will last.

I inclose herewith statistical report.

Very respectfully,

WARREN PATTEN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY, DAKOTA,
August 15, 1883.

SIR: In compliance with instructions contained in circular from Indian Office dated 13th July, 1883, I have the honor to submit the following as my first annual report of the condition of the Indian service at this agency relating to the Sioux Indians, composed of the Blackfeet, Sans Arc, Minneconjou, and Two Kettle bands.

I assumed charge of this agency on the 22d day of September, 1882, since which time I have endeavored to perform my duties in accordance with such instructions as I have received. If I have failed in any of them, I trust such failure may be attributed to my inexperience rather than to *inattention* to my duties.

LOCATION.

The agency is located on the west bank of the Missouri River, about 8 miles below the mouth of the Big Cheyenne. The buildings stand upon about as unfertile a piece of "gumbo" land as can be found along the river. Above us there is much better land and better locations for agency buildings, and in my opinion they should be moved at as early a date as possible.

The Indians of this agency are remarkably peaceable and quiet. There are among them, as there are among any other people, bad characters; but the proportion is no greater, in fact I believe I am safe in saying that it is less, than in the same number of whites. When I meet a bad Indian I treat him as such until he makes up his mind that it is better and more profitable to be "good," and this he generally acknowledges. I do not speak egotistically when I say I think they have confidence in me. It is very seldom necessary for me to repeat an order or a request. They are not only willing but they seem *anxious* to obey all orders given them, especially such as come direct from the "Great Father." As an instance I will relate the following: In the early part of June permission was given quite a number of the Indians to go on a buffalo hunt (a number sufficient to attend to all their crops were to remain at home.)

After they had received their passes I received from the Indian Office instructions to prevent the Indians of this agency from going on a buffalo hunt. Immediately on receipt of these instructions I dispatched couriers to the different camps from which any were going (one of which was 80 miles from the agency), with instructions to those who had not already gone to remain, and to call a council for the following day. This they did. I met them at a camp 35 miles from the agency (visiting three camps on the way), and a council was held. I read to them the letter I had received, and explained *why* such instructions had been given. Having made all preparations, and having had their hearts set on a "hunt," it was a great disappointment to them. But, without a single exception, they said, "We want to do as the 'Great Father' tells us, and we will obey his instructions," and surrendered their passes.

DANCING.

Excepting one locality, dancing and other superstitious habits have been almost entirely abandoned. At Pierre Bottom the Indians had erected a large building, which they used solely for dancing, and here it was indulged in to a considerable extent. This place is but a short distance from Pierre, and was frequently visited by whites, whose only object was to witness Indian dances, which they encouraged by money contributions. I determined to put a stop to these dances at this place, which purpose I accomplished by tearing down their dance-house and confiscating their drums.

The "sun dance" was not held this year. They, however, asked my permission to have one. I explained to them that their "Great Father" was very much opposed to the "sun dance," and would be displeased with them if they persisted in holding it. I further told them that I would not permit it, and that in case they attempted it I would punish the leaders. They seemed perfectly satisfied, and abandoned their purpose entirely.

LIQUOR.

The use of liquor is also confined to but one locality, and that the same in which dances were so frequently held—Pierre Bottom. With this exception I do not know of a single instance where liquor of any kind has been used by the Indians. I have as yet been unable to detect any one furnishing them with liquor. I am confident, however, that the practice cannot long continue without *some* guilty party being discovered, in which case an example will be made.

In matters pertaining to the interests of the service and to the welfare of the Indians generally in this locality I have been materially assisted by Mr. George P. Waldron, United States commissioner at Fort Pierre. Rev. T. S. Riggs, missionary at Peoria Bottom, has also rendered me much kind assistance.

ANNUITIES.

Annuities at this agency should be issued not later than October, for two reasons: First. The Indians *need* their clothing at this time. The weather here is very cold at this season, and the clothing issued to them the previous winter is so old and worn that it is insufficient to keep them comfortable. The annuities for 1882–'83 were not issued until in January of the present year, in consequence of which there was much suffering from cold among the Indians. Second. It is the practice at this agency to kill as many beef cattle as will supply the Indians with meat during the winter as soon as freezing weather has fairly set in, and to freeze and store the meat in the warehouses, which cannot be done until the annuity goods are removed. The shrinkage in beef cattle last winter was very great on account of having been obliged to hold the cattle through most of the winter, entailing a loss not only upon the Indians in their supply of beef rations, but also to the Government.

CENSUS.

The census was taken in January last at the issuing of the annuity goods. There was then found, by actual count, to be 3,187 Indians on the reservation; at the present time there are 3,215 persons drawing rations, being an increase since January last of 28 people. Following is a complete record of the number of Indians now at this agency:

Band or tribe.	No. of families.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blackfeet, No. 1	52	56	81	41	60	238
Sans Arc, No. 2	190	217	285	118	151	771
Minneconjou, No. 3	315	374	480	271	298	1,423
Two Kettle, No. 4	174	197	286	149	151	783
Total	731	844	1,132	579	660	3,215

SANITARY.

The sanitary condition of the Indians of this agency is good, although the number of cases treated would seem to indicate the contrary. A majority of the cases treated were trivial diseases, which were speedily cured. The number of cases treated from August, 1882, to August, 1883, as reported by the agency physician, is 1,707; number of births, 80; number of deaths, 41.

FARMING.

Owing to the floods which occurred after the planting had all been done, the crops on certain portions of the reservation will be almost a total failure. This is especially the case with the crops along the Cheyenne River, where most of the farming was being done. The water in this river rose higher last spring than it was ever before known to be by persons who have lived on its banks for upwards of forty years. The crops were entirely washed away, and it was too late in the season to replant them. The number of acres of land under cultivation by Indians is 460. One hundred acres were broken this year. During the latter part of the season of 1882 and up to the present time they have cut 900 tons of hay.

INDIAN HOUSES.

There have been built by Indians since my arrival here seventy-five log houses. Excepting the doors and windows they did all the work themselves. The expense of furnishing material for roofs and floors would be so trifling in comparison to the degree of health, comfort, and cleanliness they would afford, that they should be supplied.

AGENCY FARM.

This consists of about 150 acres, of which about 15 acres was cultivated by agency employés, and about 45 acres, in lots of from 1 to 5 acres, was cultivated by Indian families. With the present force of employés it would be impossible to cultivate the whole farm, even if it were profitable. About 12 acres were planted with Hungarian grass, from which 24 tons of hay was cut.

POLICE.

The police force of the agency consists of one captain, one lieutenant, four sergeants, and fourteen privates. They faithfully perform the duties required of them, are efficient, and seem to realize the responsibility of their office.

MISSIONARY.

The religious care of the agency is assigned to the Protestant Episcopal Church, under the direction of the Rev. Henry Swift, who is doing good work among the Indians. There is also on the reservation a mission maintained by the Congregationalists, under the care of the Rev. T. L. Riggs, which is in a flourishing condition.

SCHOOLS.

Nothing in the results of the past year gives me greater satisfaction than the condition of our schools. The boys' boarding school at the agency proper is under the immediate supervision of Mrs. Emma C. Swan, principal, assisted by Miss Louisse Cavalier. The progress made by the 20 boys in attendance is simply astonishing. The advance made by some of the boys is surprising. Two boys entered the school totally ignorant of a single letter of the alphabet, or of a word of English. In less than three months both were able to read. In arithmetic, geography, and penmanship all make rapid progress.

Saint John's school, located about 3 miles north of the agency, is under the auspices of the Protestant Episcopal Church. It is conducted by Mr. J. F. Kinney, jr., principal, assisted by Mrs. J. F. Kinney. There is an attendance of from 32 to 36 scholars—all girls—at this school. Mr. and Mrs. Kinney are untiring in their efforts for the education and civilization of the Indian children under their charge, in which undertaking they have been eminently successful. Their school is well disciplined, and is a model of neatness and cleanliness. These schools will compare favorably with any white school, and the teachers and assistants have just cause to feel proud of them. They challenge the admiration of all who have an interest in the education of the Indians, and it is the universal verdict of all who have visited them, whether in an official capacity or otherwise, that they are among the best schools in the Indian country.

WM. A. SWAN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DEVIL'S LAKE AGENCY, DAKOTA,
Fort Totten, August 14, 1883.

SIR: In compliance with circular letter of July 13, 1883, from the Office of Indian Affairs, I have the honor to submit my second annual report of affairs at this agency.

RESERVATION.

The Devil's Lake Indian Reservation is situated south of "Devil's Lake" or "Lake Minnewakan," in northern Dakota, and extends from the extreme west end to the extreme east end of the lake, being bounded on the south by the Cheyenne River. The reservation contains about 230,000 acres of land of excellent quality and well adapted to the wants of the Indians for agricultural purposes, with plenty of good water, and timber in sufficient quantities scattered over the reservation convenient to the most desirable lands for farming.

AGRICULTURE AND INDIAN INDUSTRY.

The Indians of the reservation, with but few exceptions, are located on individual farms which they cultivate with varying success, according to their knowledge and experience, but all labor with commendable industry and energy which must ultimately and, in fact, is now winning for them the respect of their white neighbors, and leading to self-support. The amount of land cultivated this year is about the same as last, with the addition of about 447 acres of new-breaking principally sown to wheat, which will make the acreage in about the following proportions: Wheat, 1,000 acres; oats, 450; corn, 300; potatoes, 200; pease, 10; turnips, 30; carrots, beets, and onions, 15; beans, 30; cabbage, squash, and pumpkins, 20. Our harvesting having just commenced I can only approximate the yield as follows: Wheat, 18,000 bushels; oats, 14,000; corn, 12,000; potatoes, 25,000; pease, 100; turnips and vegetables, 5,000; beets, carrots, and onions, 300; beans, 700; besides other vegetables, such as pumpkins, cabbage, and squash in fair yield. The amount of new land broken this season has been more than double that of any previous year—1,154 acres.

Thirty young men, some 2 or 3 years since, commenced the battle of life, and have continued to show evidence of their future intentions to become independent by breaking new land and settling down on distinct patches, and making improvements thereon. To enable them to do this they have worked for their friends and relations and earned the use of cattle. To these men I have just issued 30 yoke of oxen supplied by contract under the authority of the Department, and as I now write, about 30 Indians are in the field in view from my office with two reapers, cutting, binding, and shocking the agency oats.

Ten farmers, in what is called the "Wood Lake district," have selected places out on the prairie, and have broken from 10 to 20 acres each to sow to wheat next season. These ten came to me in the spring and stated that they wanted to buy a "self binder," and inquired the cost. I informed them a good one would cost about $300—$30 each—and to encourage them and others to do likewise I promised to advance half until they sold their grain. They raised $88.50 in cash towards this object, and I have furnished the balance, $192, from my private funds, and have purchased a "McCormick self-binder" for $280, delivered at Bartlett. The prime mover in the enterprise, "Oyesna," is now absent to bring the machine to the agency with his own team.

Our crops look well and promise a good yield, and with the 10 harvesting machines (1 self-binder and 9 self-raking) we shall, I hope, secure the grain in good season without loss from over-ripening.

I informed the Indians in early spring that all those who had cattle must raise wheat to supply themselves with bread; that I should issue them no more flour after their grain was thrashed and the grist mill in operation, and have only estimated for half the usual quantity of flour. All the Indians who have cattle, and some that have not, have sown wheat and oats. I insisted on all having some oats so as to feed the teams during the time of thrashing.

The agency farm consists of about 20 acres sown to oats for the public animals and a small garden for employés to raise vegetables and potatoes for their own use.

Since my last annual report and up to the present date the Indians have hauled with their ox teams from the railroad point of delivery about 332,000 pounds weight of agency supplies. Transportation upon that part of this amount of freight, which was hauled before July 1, has been paid, and the remainder will be paid as soon as funds are received for the current quarter. The whole amounts to about $1,830. They have cut and hauled about 600 cords of wood for use of agency, industrial boarding schools, and grist-mill and saw-mill, besides about 300 cords of down or fallen timber, which they have sold to settlers on the north side of the lake and to the captain of the steamer "Arrow," realizing the average of $4 per cord; they also have cut and hauled about 200 sawlogs to the saw-mill, and have built 20 log houses and 25 log stables on the reservation. The Indian trader has paid them $1,887 for hauling his freight during the year. The peltries disposed of by the Indians to their trader and the military

post trader amounts to about $600; these peltries consist principally of muskrat, fox, polecat, and badger, and are obtained on the reservation. No robes have been disposed of by these Indians.

We have one Indian apprentice to the carpenter and one blacksmith's apprentice at the present time.

EDUCATION.

On February 16 last the industrial boarding school for boys and girls carried on by Rev. J. B. A. Brouillet under contract with the Indian Department, and under the immediate management of Reverend Mother Superior Sister Clapin, and seven assistant teachers of the order of Grey Nuns of Montreal, was destroyed by fire, there being at the time 96 scholars in the building besides the teachers and other help. A Dakota blizzard was in full blast at the time, and in a few moments after the fire was discovered the building with nearly all its contents was destroyed, including nearly all the clothing of both sisters and children and medical supplies. A new school-house for larger boys had been completed and in successful operation, into which I moved the sisters and their scholars; this compelled the male teachers and larger boy to return again to the small and dilapidated log buildings they had occupied before the completion of their new building. The new building was too small to accommodate the sisters and all their scholars, and to allow the latter to return to their homes would not do, so two of the sisters with 35 boys took up their quarters in the upper half story of the bakery—a room 16 by 32—the beds being made on the floor and piled up in a corner during the day. The bakery was also used as a kitchen, and in this cramped and crowded condition the schools were continued until the end of the spring season, when the hay loft of the barn was cleaned out and converted into a dormitory, which answers the purpose very well during the summer months.

Too much credit cannot be given to the sisters and teachers in sacrificing all personal convenience and comfort in order to keep their little flock together, so that they could continue their studies; they have labored hard for ten years, and succeeded in building up a system of education and discipline in school management that has won for them the love and respect of both children and parents, and which, if continued, will make the Indians of this reservation a happy, Christian, and civilized people. To show the influence of the schools and the interest of the Indians in the education of their children, I will quote some of the remarks of the Indians when I called them together and informed them that the Great Father intended to rebuild the school, and wished to know what they could do towards its erection gratuitously. The remarks were as follows:

"They could depend on that house, for in it their children would learn the white man's ways, which would enable them to support themselves and their parents in their old age."

One old man regretted that he was so old and could not be educated, and that "he had no children to send to school, but he would do his share, for he had many children sleeping on the shores of Minnewakan, and he, too, might hope to remain here in this small spot that is left of their once vast country to call their own, to mingle his ashes and bones with those of his children. His heart was light as in youth, and his mind had this day been settled and placed at rest. His mind had been unsettled since the fire for fear the white man would induce the Great Father to remove them, for, in the same year when their annuities ceased, the home of their children had been destroyed by fire and they were left orphans indeed; but a new building would be erected, and it would hold his heart and chain his feet; he would not have to go elsewhere without food, shelter, or hope." "Father," he continued, "I speak the mind of all these young men assembled here at your call, who are ready to assist you with their work. Tell the Great Father this: he has made his people happy and settled their minds."

Judging from the foregoing remarks I would ask: Is Indian civilization a "problem"? Teach the young boys the English language, husbandry, and trades in industrial boarding schools *located on reservations;* teach the girls, also, the English language, domestic economy and all household duties, and as they arrive at maturity induce them to marry and settle down on farms, and it will be but a question of time to insure civilization, and no "problem." The advancement of these children in their studies I think will compare favorably with white children of the same age, when we remember their studies are in another tongue, which they have also to learn.

The industrial school for large boys has been very successfully conducted under the management of Simon Carew, who has devoted his whole time and energy to making it a success. He has been ably assisted by Rev. Jerome Hunt, a missionary from Standing Rock Agency, of the order of Saint Benedict. Since Father Jerome's connection with the schools a marked improvement in the advancement of the scholars is noticeable. He speaks the Indian language fluently, and by his mild and zealous abors has proved himself in every way a true missionary and competent teacher.

MORALS.

In this respect I would willingly compare notes with our white neighbors, and am satisfied that the balance sheet would be largely in our favor. There have been no crimes or depredations committed against each other or against whites. Polygamy will soon be a vice of the past, as none for the last two years have been allowed to take two wives, and all are compelled to be married by a minister of their own choice. Stealing a wife has been stopped by punishing both parties by imprisonment in the guard-house at hard labor for a month or two; this I had to do on two occasions, since which time all taking wives have been regularly married by the priest in church before the whole congregation.

MISSIONARY WORK.

The missionary work at this agency is under the charge of the Catholic Church. Rev. Jerome Hunt, O. S. B., a zealous worker and eloquent preacher in the Sioux language, is fast dispelling the prejudices and superstitions of the Indians and instructing them in the knowledge of the Christian religion. Services are held on Sundays at 7 in the morning for the children, at 10 for the Indians, and 4 in the afternoon in the school-room at the mission; half of the members are unable to get into the room and have to stand on the porch and by the windows. The choir is composed of Indian children, led by Sisters Allard and Page, and would be a credit to any school or academy in the States for children of the same age. Services are also held in the council room at the agency by Rev. S. Carew at 10.30 for the benefit of the employés and soldiers and Indians from the Crow Hill district, and are well attended. I cannot close this brief account of the missionary work at this agency without again referring to our good sisters who labor from 4.30 in the morning until 9 at night the year round almost unknown and unappreciated, except by their little flock and immediate friends. To the example and teaching of the sisters I attribute the Indians' desire to become Christians and civilized, and hope Congress will provide the Department with the means necessary to continue the good work so that all children of school-going ages may be educated and grow up intelligent citizens and not wards of the Government.

AGENCY BUILDINGS.

There have been no new buildings erected at the agency this season except a small addition to the grist mill of a dust room for the purifier. The mill has been refitted and repaired generally. We have now a good mill with two run of stones for wheat and one for corn and feed, also a Smith's patent purifier and all appliances necessary to make a good article of flour. We have had, also, a new 45-horse-power engine and boiler put in by the Cooper Manufacturing Company, who also put in the new mill machinery.

I have just received authority to repair one of the old log buildings to tide us over until new buildings can be erected which are very badly needed. I had a roof put on an old log building, intending to use it as a harness shop, but since the appointment of a physician I have fitted it up as a dispensary and office for him, as we have no other place suited to keep or dispense medicines.

INDIAN POLICE.

The fifteen police are all that could be expected of them, and perform their duties cheerfully and promptly, and watch with a jealous eye any signs of infringement by whites on the reservation. Since receiving their revolvers quite a noticeable difference is perceptible in their bearing and manner.

SURVEY OF RESERVATION.

It is very desirable that the balance of the reservation should be surveyed.

CONCLUSION.

These Indians are aware that their regular annuities have ceased and are doing all in their power, with the means at their disposal, to become self-supporting, which the majority of them will be after this year, while many will have to be supplied with work animals and implements before we can expect them to support themselves. Ten thousand dollars expended in the employment of competent instruction will return tenfold in its results in its increased crops, and surely this would be money well expended, at least for two or three years, until they could see for themselves and understand how to profitably manage a farm. They do work enough now to support twice their number if properly performed. Heretofore there has been no great effort made to farm with a view to making a living exclusively from the farm. Some money

has been earned by freighting, but as the railroads are within 12 miles of the agency, not much money will be realized from this source in the future, so that they will have to depend on their farms altogether. With proper help I can make an Indian cultivate 25 or 30 acres of land with good results, while left to himself he may, after a fashion of his own, cultivate from 4 to 10, and have but little to repay him for his labor, and probably become discouraged. We should not expect more of an Indian than a white man, for I have seen and known many farmers who have expended considerable money and much labor before they made farming pay.

Material for building houses is very much needed for these Indians, and as two lines of railroad are distant, or will be this fall, 12 miles only from the agency, material for roofing and floors should be furnished all those who have houses suitable for the same.

I have explained the new rules governing Indian offenses to the Indians in council, and appointed the three judges who asked for time to consider the matter. I think it will be difficult to find three men who will be willing to incur the displeasure and expose themselves to the malice of the whole tribe by undertaking the task, without compensation; however I will enforce the rules to the best of my ability.

I take pleasure in returning thanks to the Department for its many favors and generous response to our many wants, and give assurance that to the best of my ability, I shall strive to manage the affairs of my agency for the best interests of the service and welfare of the Indians under my charge.

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

JOHN W. CRAMSIE,

United States Indian Agent for the Sisseton, Wahpeton, and Cut-Head Sioux.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

CROW CREEK AND LOWER BRULÉ CONSOLIDATED AGENCY,
Crow Creek, Dak., August 20, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit my first annual report of the Consolidated Agency of Crow Creek and Lower Brulé.

I took charge of this agency on the 7th day of June last, relieving W. H. Parkhurst. The work incident to taking charge of a consolidated agency, situated as this is, some 25 miles apart, on opposite sides of the Missouri River, has so entirely taken up my time, since my coming here, that I have had but little opportunity to make preparations for an extended annual report. My predecessor left me no data to go by, and my report, therefore, necessarily is limited to only one quarter's observation and experience.

CROW CREEK AGENCY.

Situated on the east side of the Missouri River, about 25 miles above Chamberlain, the western terminus of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and Saint Paul Railroad, and about 60 miles below Pierre, western terminus of Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, is located on a low bottom, extending some miles up and down the river, with a heavy growth of young timber between the agency and the river front. The location of the agency is unfortunate for several reasons: First, being low and flat the drainage is necessarily very poor, and I am told that in the spring of the year, when the waters come down from the highlands adjoining the agency, the whole bottom on which it stands is under water, and so muddy as to make it very difficult to get about, or transact the ordinary agency business. Secondly, the river front near the agency is one extensive sand-bar, so compelling all freight for this place to be landed at least 3 miles below, or some 5 to 8 miles above.

Agency buildings.

The property roll of this agency is quite extensive in this respect, containing a large number of buildings. Many of them, however, are nothing but cottonwood structures, unfit for occupation; others are the remnants of old Fort Thompson, and so rotton and warped that they are beyond repair, and only fit for firewood. There is not a single plastered building at the agency, and the dwelling houses, having mostly been built of green lumber, are but poor shelters for the families of the employés during the severe cold of this northern climate.

The reservation

is quite extensive, containing 630,312 acres. The land may be divided into four classes: Farming, grazing, wood, and hay lands. The farming lands constitute the larger portion of the reservation, consisting of plateau and bottom lands. I look upon these lands as among the very best in Dakota. Wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, and all kinds

of garden vegetables are produced upon them, and the average yield is large. All that is required to make this portion of the reserve equal to any farming section of the Northwest is intelligent labor. The grazing cannot be surpassed, at least for summer grazing. The severe cold of the winters makes it unsafe to have stock depend entirely upon what they can find in the pastures, and great loss has been sustained by those who have thus exposed their animals. The timber on the reserve, if properly cared for, is sufficient to last for many years for fuel and ordinary farm purposes, and consists of cottonwood, elm, box-elder, oak, and white ash. The wild plum and grape are abundant, and the bull berry and wild cherry also are found in certain localities. At present there is no timber on the reservation fit for lumber, trees of this kind having been cut and made into lumber years ago. The hay lands are principally found on the bottoms along the rivers and creeks, and are quite extensive, producing a superior quality of wild grass.

In connection with these timber and hay lands I would state that the allotments which have been so far made include all of these. To some few favored Indians have been given lands, including all the valuable timber and hay bottoms, leaving the great majority without any timber or hay. This is a cause of much complaint among them, and constant depredations are being reported. These hay and timber lands should have been given out in small allotments, thus preventing jealousy, and supplying all alike with what they all equally need and to which they have an equal right.

Condition of the Lower Yanktonais Indians.

I find these people in many respects doing well. A large number of them have taken lands in severalty and are living on them. The Indian village has disappeared, and in its place is seen scattered over the prairie the Indian farm-house, with stable and farm-yard; small fields adjoining these homes, many of them well fenced, giving to the landscape the appearance of a young western settlement, and giving a promising outlook for the future. In passing over the reservation at present one sees on all sides gardens and stacks of wheat, oats, and hay, potato patches and cornfields, here and there small herds of cattle feeding, and the inevitable pony near by.

Of these last I am pleased to see that the number is much less than is usual in the Indian country. The ruling desire among these people now is to get cattle—oxen and cows, and large American horses; these are what they desire above all things, and what they should have to make their effort toward self-support a success.

Indian houses.

I find that most of the Indian houses are very poorly built—many of them are of logs, with dirt floors and roofs, built by the Indians themselves, spurred on to do so by the promise that the Government would furnish the floors and roofs. These houses are very objectionable, as it is impossible to keep them clean, and generally being very damp, they are also very unhealthy. Owing to this fact I do not wonder that the Indian prefers his cloth "tipi" or lodge. It is therefore a common sight to see beside the log house a cloth "tipi," where the family take refuge from filth and vermin, during the summer, and this will continue to be the case until better houses are provided. Other houses again are of frame, built by the Government. Of those I have examined most are so badly built that they neither keep out wind or rain, cold or snow, and are not fit to live in during winter.

These Indians have, to a great extent, adopted the white man's dress; the old Indian dress is yet frequently seen, but it is put on generally for dress occasions, and is no more the every day attire. In fact, I believe that it can truly be said of these people that they are doing well, and are as far advanced as any of the Sioux Nation. They are quiet and peaceable, generally courteous and kindly in their manners.

Farming.

This industry is carried on among these Indians to a considerable extent. In place of the usual Indian patch of corn are seen fields of wheat, oats, and corn, with gardens and potato patches; all usually well fenced and kept in good order and tolerably well cultivated. Last year was their first experiment in wheat-growing, and proving a great success gave an impetus to the undertaking, which induced many more to undertake it this year. Now that the harvest is over—wheat and oats stacked—there is general joy at the result, and the interest now has become universal.

Much land has been broken up this year, and fall plowing to a considerable extent will be done; so that next spring will see the wheat acreage greatly increased. Many of the Indians will have considerable wheat and oats for sale, besides exchanging for flour what they may need to eke out the Government ration. This, and last year has proved that this is a very good wheat country, and that the Indians are able and willing to do the work required, if only assisted and encouraged by the Government and its employés.

In order to do this more effectually the agency farm has been abandoned or given out in allotments to the Indians. This I look upon as a wise arrangement, as it leaves the agency farmer—who himself is an excellent interpreter—free to devote his entire time to instructing and assisting the Indians.

I feel that too great importance cannot be given to this movement, and aid should be given the Indians to push forward vigorously next spring, as the planting of wheat must be done very early in the spring. The assistance if given, should be given this fall if possible, so that as soon as spring opens the work may go on, and this assistance should be in the shape of, first—

Work oxen.—Of these there are quite a number now in the tribe, but, unfortunately, the most of them were when purchased unbroken and wild, and as a consequence are but poorly suited to the unskilled Indian driver. *Good, young, well broken cattle* should be purchased subject to approval of parties able and trustworthy. The second great need in this connection is—

Farming implements.—Plows, "breaking and stirring," harrows, cultivators, harvesters, and, in fact, the usual farm machinery, without which even the most skilled farmer is helpless, should be judiciously distributed among them.

Water.—One of the most serious wants of this country is the scarcity of good water. Those Indians who have taken allotments away from the river or creeks are complaining constantly of this, and that they are compelled to use the semi-stagnant waters of pools and water holes in their neighborhood or else bring water from the river, sometimes a distance of 5 miles. This is a very serious matter, as it greatly affects the good health of the people, and retards their prosperity. The only way in which this can be remedied is by sinking a few artesian wells in such localities as will supply a number of farms and pastures. This can easily be done by reason of perfect drainage of the plateau farming lands. There is at present a well of this kind being sunk at Fort Sully, and if this proves a success, the water question has become greatly simplified.

Schools and school-houses.

There is on this reservation one single school-house as yet, the Government boarding-school for boys and girls, at the agency, able to accommodate about 30 children—this number, however, makes it very crowded, particularly in dormitory room.

The building is in great need of repairs and enlargement. I would respectfully recommend at least three day-schools in different parts of the reservation, where children can be prepared for the boarding-school, and where the school will have a daily direct influence both on parents and children. During the past year the school has been conducted by the Misses King, of Saint Paul, Minn., and, as far as I can judge, has been quite successful.

Missionary work and churches.

The Episcopal Church has charge of this most important work on this reservation. Three church buildings have been erected through the indefatigable efforts of Bishop W. H. Hare, and are, particularly on Sundays, well filled with worshiping Indian congregations. The Rev. H. Burt is in charge, and his long experience, perfect knowledge of language, and zeal for the work make him peculiarly able to instruct these poor people in the way of life. The marked improvement to be seen in the Christian Indian, over his heathen brother, in conduct, cleanliness, and in home comforts, speaks in unmistakable tones in favor of the Christian religion and the earnest work of the missionary.

The Lower Yanktonais Indians

are now in a fair way to become self-supporting. It is, however, a critical time with them, and great care should be taken that they do not become discouraged at the start. If they find that because they begin to labor and partially support themselves they are therefore cut short in their rations and other gratuities of the Government, they will, I fear, be greatly discouraged. On the contrary, it seems to me that they should now be pushed forward by all means in the power of the Government. When they have houses to live in, farms broken and fenced, cattle and implements with which properly to work their farms, then let the rations be withdrawn at least from all able-bodied Indians, thus compelling them to labor for their own support.

LOWER BRULÉ AGENCY, DAKOTA.

This agency is located on the west side of the Missouri River about 25 miles below Crow Creek Agency and nearly opposite the town of Chamberlain, the western terminus of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railroad. The location is good, and in many respects beautiful, having an extended view of the river and perfect natural drainage. The buildings of the agency are all of frame, with the exception of

a few log structures, used for stables, &c. The employés' quarters are quite good and commodious, and with slight repairs will be all that is needed for many years; only immediate want felt being in stable and warehouse room. A good substantial stable is now being built, and steps are now in progress to remove the present warehouse from Rosebud Landing to this place.

The reservation,

while it is broken and hilly in many places, is yet well suited to the wants of the Indians, there being sufficient good land to be found in different localities to give the people farms of from 50 to 100 acres, with outlying pastures and hay land.

No effort has yet been made here to give out these lands in severalty. This should be done at once, as, until it is done, no great progress will be made.

Timber.

Of this there is now no great quantity to be found in one place, but with care there is enough to last many years, and the Indian must be taught to plant timber, as all his white neighbors do.

Indian farming.

Scattered over the reserve in every direction are to be seen small Indian farms, in extent from 1 to 25 acres. Most of these are under fence (post and wire), and in many instances evince considerable care. Crops of oats, corn, and potatoes are the prevailing productions, and many of these promise an abundant yield; gardens also are frequent, and melons, onions, carrots and turnips, with other garden vegetables, are to be found near most of the Indian houses.

Log houses and stables generally covered with earth are numerous, but the Indian "tepee" is also seen close beside these. These are Indian summer resorts, where he betakes himself to escape from the filth and vermin accumulated and engendered during winter. As long as they are compelled to live in these miserable hovels this will continue to be the case; for the clean, airy "tepee" is in all respects a better summer house than the dirt-covered, dirt-floored and poorly ventilated log shanty.

For some reason unknown to me no wheat was planted here during this season, either by Indians or Government. This it seems to me is a mistake, as wheat can be produced here with the same labor that oats require, and is a far more valuable production. As this reserve is so near a railroad, market is always found where good prices are paid, particularly during winter. I propose to urge the Indians of this reserve to devote a large portion of their lands the coming season to wheat-culture if I can procure for them the seed required.

The agency farm, of some seventy acres, is ably cared for by the farmer, and the crop of the present season is very fair, consisting of oats, corn, and potatoes.

Considerable land has been broken up this season, and there seems to be a strong desire among the Indians to have larger farms. Most of the breaking has been done by the agency teams and employés, the Indian pony not being strong enough to undertake successfully this heavy work.

The Lower Brulé Indians in many respects are an interesting people. Independent, outspoken, and somewhat excitable, they are also quite intelligent, and at times quite demonstrative in their manners. If once they can be induced to go to work in earnest, I feel sure they will make rapid progress.

Cattle and horses.

There are fewer cattle and more ponies among these people than there should be. If these useless ponies could be exchanged for good work-oxen and milch-cows it would greatly tend to settle these people down and induce them to industry. Generally speaking, they are now taking good care of the cattle they have. Some few of them have quite a large number, and are making preparations to care for them during the coming winter by building stables and putting up hay.

The great difficulty that exists in procuring a sufficient quantity of hay for the agency use makes it almost impossible to provide for the cattle lately sent here, and with the present small number of employés I fear it will be quite difficult to make adequate preparations in sheds, hay, &c., some of the hay having to be hauled a distance of 12 miles. The Indians are anxious to take these cows, and are making preparations to care for them. I would recommend that they be issued to the deserving ones, to those who have proved by the care they have taken of the animals heretofore given to them that they will care for them, thus rewarding them for past good conduct and inducing others to follow their example.

Stock-raising.

The nature of the land, as far as I have seen it, seems to point to this industry as the one thing to be profitably undertaken here. I believe that many of these people

can be made to care for small herds of cattle very well. The grazing in summer is abundant, water sufficient is found in most localities, and the small valley and creek bottoms provide a sufficient quantity of hay for winter use.

Government industrial school.

This school I found had been closed for some months when I took charge. The cause of this seems to have been dissatisfaction with the management and the occurrence of one or two deaths among the children. I am making preparations to reopen the school, and having secured the assistance of experienced school instructors, I am in hopes of making it work successfully. The building is in need of extensive repairs, however, and it will take some time before it can be in full working order.

Missionary work.

The Rev. Luke C. Walker, under the direction of Right Reverend Bishop Hare, is in charge of missionary work on this reserve, and being a full-blood Indian himself, and an educated man, has great influence among the people. Mr. Walker, with the assistance of some of his young men, all full-blood Indians, has just finished an addition to his church which would do credit to white workmen.

Some of these young men have been trained at Hampton, and are quite capable workmen. I have endeavored to employ these young men at the agency in the different shops and in the office, but so far have not been able to keep them for any length of time, owing to the fact that they are not willing to work for the wages I am allowed to pay apprentices. I am in hopes to overcome this difficulty, and to have them all engaged in some industry for which they shall seem best suited.

Conclusion.

Since my coming here I have had frequent councils with the Indians of both agencies. The subject that seems particularly to occupy their minds at present and causes them great disquietude is their reservation. Some of the chiefs and headmen of the Crow Creek or Lower Yanktonai Indians signed the proposed treaty, thereby ceding to the Government a large portion of their reservation. They now wish to withdraw from the agreement altogether, and so expressed themselves to the honorable members of Senate committee who lately visited them and counseled with them on the subject. It is of the greatest importance to these people that they should be made to feel that their reservation is theirs permanently, and that they will never be compelled to part with it. It has always been their country; they are deeply attached to it, and are now making good improvements upon their allotted lands. To disturb them now would in my judgment be to destroy them. If any portion of their lands is ever to be sold, it seems to me but just that they should reap the full benefit of such sale. It is the last remaining remnant of their once grand domain, and if left to them intact will make them eventually an independent, self-sustaining people; if despoiled of it, they are forever made dependent upon the bounty of the Government, and the last chance of an independent existence is taken from them. Their long unbroken friendship for the whites, when many of the surrounding tribes were engaged in hostilities, their advancement in the arts of civilized life, should speak for them in unmistakable terms, and secure to them forever the homes that God has given them.

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

JOHN G. GASMANN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

FORT BERTHOLD AGENCY, DAKOTA, *August* 9, 1883.

SIR: In compliance with your letter of August 1, just received, in which you require annual report to reach Washington not a day later than August 20, I submit this my fourth annual report of affairs at this agency. This requirement being much earlier than in former years, finds us in the midst of harvest, with but little time to collect statistics, which will render the report somewhat unsatisfactory to myself.

The number of Indians regularly drawing rations at this agency is 1,246, to wit: Arickarees, 591; Gros Ventres, 347; Mandans, 308, with about 240 Gros Ventres and Mandans at Fort Buford who, as I have been recently informed, expect to come here to remain.

FARMING.

Total number of acres farmed during the year, 942. I regret to say that this season has been unfavorable for crops at this agency; Indians labored with commendable industry in plowing and preparing ground for their various crops, which were all planted

in proper time in the spring. An increased acreage of wheat and oats was sown by the Indians. Last year 46 heads of families sowed wheat; the present season 87 sowed wheat; also 39 sowed oats last year; this season 62 heads of families. Total wheat sown by Indians, 227 acres; total oats sown by Indians, 146 acres. To date, 91 tons hay have been made by agency employés. The long-continued drought, together with hot winds on the 29th of June, will reduce the yield to a low average. Up to date the rainfall since the close of winter has aggregated but 2⅛ inches, with no rain during the last seven weeks. We are now in the midst of harvest, with much of the straw too short to bind. I estimate the yield of wheat at 1,362 bushels; oats at 1,752 bushels; potatoes so imperfectly developed at this date that an intelligent estimate can scarcely be made; from 69 acres I estimate the yield at 3,450 bushels; corn, 451 acres, 3,157 bushels; squash, 6 acres, 72 bushels; beans, 300 bushels, cultivated by the Government; wheat, 13 acres; estimated yield, 103 bushels; oats, 19 acres, 380 bushels; Hungarian grass, 11 acres, 6 tons; potatoes at Fort Stevenson, 2 acres, estimated 100 bushels. There was also broken on the military reservation 24 acres for agriculture, in connection with Indian boarding-school.

There was ground during the year 74,100 pounds flour in agency grist-mill, and sawed on agency saw-mill 8,235 feet cottonwood lumber.

SCHOOLS.

The Government school during the past year was kept in session continuously for ten consecutive months, beginning September 1, 1882, and ending June 30, 1883, with an average daily attendance of 32.4 pupils; instruction was also given by Miss Kauffman and Miss Ferris to girls and young women in sewing, making and fitting dresses and other garments; lessons in making bread were also taught them. Much difficulty is experienced in securing regular attendance, as the school-house is situated quite near the village, and parents do not compel their children to attend school. School work is in fairly prosperous condition.

On the 7th of August the military post at Fort Stevenson, with the following buildings, was, by an order from the War Department, turned over in my care to the Interior Department, to be fitted up and used for Indian boarding and industrial school in connection with this agency, to wit:

Five sets officers' quarters, with outhouses.
Four storerooms.
Two sets company barracks, with outhouses.
One hospital building.
One building used as offices and library.
One bakery building, with oven complete.
One corral and buildings, consisting of one blacksmith shop, one carpenter shop, one stable for animals, one grain-house, one coal-shed.
One cattle corral, with sheds.
One root house.
One guard house.

It is also understood that this transfer carries with it the military reservation, which I regard as very important to be used for agriculture, pasturage, &c., for the purpose of carrying out the plan of Indian boarding and industrial schools. These buildings above enumerated contain sufficient room for the accommodation of several hundred pupils when needed repairs are made. This school, the necessity of which has long been felt, will, when in successful operation, supply a much needed want in the educational work of this agency, where proper discipline with pupils can be enforced, and regular attendance secured.

LANDS IN SEVERALTY.

In former reports I have given my views upon the question of having portions of lands surveyed on this reservation to be given Indians for permanent settlement, and urged the importance of this measure; I am convinced, that if this were done many families of this agency would gladly avail themselves of this means of possessing lands really and actually their own. This desire to possess homes in their own name, and right, is frequently expressed by them. This would also serve in a great degree to dissipate their desire for going in large parties on hunting and visiting expeditions, as the love of home and its duties would fully occupy their time. These Indians have for many years been congregated in one compact village with no facilities for raising or caring for stock, no incentives for making comfortable homes or permanent improvements. As no white man would improve lands for which he had no assurance of title, so these Indians will not leave their village, around which is the accumulation of filth and garbage of many years, until some provision is made for giving them homes of their own. If lands were given them in severalty, being assured that they could hold them, they would be stimulated and encouraged with the knowledge of real

ownership. In my judgment this measure more than any other would tend to speed them on the way to civilization and self-support. I trust you will present this matter with your recommendation for prompt action to Congress in the early part of the approaching session, and also that an appropriation of $10,000 be made for the purpose of aiding in the improvements of lands thus given them. I deem it important that to each family making settlement should be issued one yoke of oxen and such farm implements as are indispensably necessary for the cultivation of said lands. As I feel deeply the importance of this measure I cannot too strongly urge your favorable consideration upon this subject.

The feeling of insecurity expressed by these Indians in the possession of lands, unless held by actual title, is intensified from the fact that in April, 1880, that portion of this reservation which was required to fulfill the grant made by Congress to the Northern Railroad Company to complete the "forty mile limit," was taken from the south part to the extent of more than half the territory of their entire reservation. This they state was arbitrarily done without their knowledge or consent. This act of bad faith on the part of the Government has, on many occasions, been made the subject of severe complaint, and it does not avail to satisfy their injured feelings toward the Government that a portion of territory to compensate in part for the amount taken was given them on the north. They assert the amount added is less than half the number of acres taken; that the land is rough and undesirable, and, moreover, they had not been consulted, and would not have consented to such transaction. This question is agitated at present because their ponies are frequently found in possession of white settlers near the line, who refuse to surrender them unless payment be made for alleged damage done their crops. These Indians are also aware that the right of way for railroads through other Indian reservations was secured by treaty and purchase, from which other tribes now receive money annuities, and much larger quantities of commissary supplies than are given Fort Berthold Indians. It is difficult to reconcile them, as they fully believe that because they are weak the Government has taken advantage of them and dealt unjustly with them. They often assert that the white man's government would not dare to treat the more powerful and warlike Sioux in such a manner. And now they are informed that because there are no treaty stipulations to fulfill with them they can no longer be provided with certain supplies which they formerly enjoyed. I am constrained to confess that I am unable to answer these complainings, which seem to be well taken, in a satisfactory manner to myself or to the Indians. * * * * * *

INDIAN POLICE.

My police force now consists of ten men. These were carefully selected from the three tribes of this agency: Arickarees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans. Almost uninterrupted good order has prevailed during the past year, which I attribute largely to the moral effect of these Indian policemen. They seem to fully realize their responsibility, and are careful and vigilant in maintaining good order. I feel that it is highly creditable to these Indians to be able to say that, in my judgment, there cannot be found in the United States a village having a like number of inhabitants of white people, which, even with all their superiority of intelligence, the advantages of education and civilization, has not had many more cases of disorderly conduct, violations of law, and breach of the peace, than have occurred during the past year among these simple-minded, honest, well-disposed people. No case of drunkenness, or even the use of intoxicating beverages by Indians of this agency, has come to my knowledge during the past year.

MISSIONARY WORK.

The missionary work of this agency is in charge of the "American Missionary Association," under the direction of Rev. C. L. Hall, resident minister, who is earnestly devoted to the work assigned him, and zealous in his efforts to promote the spiritual welfare of those committed to his care. Religious services are held in a neat chapel in the morning and afternoon, each Sabbath throughout the year. School, with Miss Ward, teacher, has been kept nine months from September 1, 1882, to May 31, 1883, with an average attendance of 12 pupils.

On the night of the 4th of August, died at this agency Pierre Ganeaux, at the advanced age of 92 years. The death of this good man is deeply regretted by all who knew him. Although an Indian, his sunny life, his strict integrity, his high sense of justice and honor, and his unyielding devotion to the Government, and his wise counsel to his people endeared him to all who knew him, and make us deeply feel that a good man has gone.

In conclusion I would say that progress in civilization among these Indians is apparent to all, their good deportment and obedience are alike commendable. In many things they are helpless and dependent, and deserve sympathy and kind treatment.

When treated as men, they seem elevated in their own estimation, and appreciate teaching when led to believe that their own well-being is considered.

I send herewith statistical report of agency affairs, also annual report of school teacher.

For the considerate manner in which my efforts in discharge of duties in connection with affairs of this agency have been regarded in the past, and the usual promptness with which requests pertaining to the service have been granted, and the uniform kindness of the honorable Commissioner, I am profoundly thankful.

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

JACOB KAUFFMAN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

PINE RIDGE AGENCY, DAKOTA,
August 10, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my fifth annual report as agent for the Indians of the Pine Ridge Agency, Dakota.

THE INDIANS.

There has been an average of 8,000 Indians present and carried on the agency rolls for the past twelve months, of which 7,800 were Ogalalla Sioux, and 200 Northern Cheyennes.

THE NORTHERN CHEYENNES.

These "Bedouins of the Desert," as compared with the Sioux, have remained in their normal condition of general worthlessness under their officially recognized chief, "Little Chief." Some have gone North to the Big Horn country, some have returned, none have built houses, none have adopted civilized costumes, none have engaged in freighting, but have passed their time in dancing, wandering around the country, and occasionally making a raid on the agent's office to inform him that they are guileless children of nature; that the "Great Spirit" gave them this land; that they are constitutionally opposed to labor, &c. I sometimes suggest to them that some day when the "Great Father's" storehouses become empty of rations, they may have to try the experiment of sitting on a hill and howling to the "Great Spirit" for something to eat, and patiently await a fall of heavenly manna. To the credit of the young men of the Cheyennes I would report, however, that they have within a few days, withdrawn from the leadership of "Little Chief," and have decided to engage in freighting and other labor. This action on their part has hurt the chief's feelings, so I presume it will be in order for that ancient and superannuated aborigine to visit his "Great Father" this winter for sympathy. This will furnish a fine opportunity for some of the visionary *experts* on the Indian question living in Washington and vicinity, to coddle the old gentleman, and tell him what a wicked and dishonest man his agent is, and how sad that a man of his ability should be so wanting in lovely Christian character and moral balance.

THE NORTHERN OR SITTING BULL SIOUX.

This portion of the Ogalallas, some 600 in number, are progressing in a remarkable manner as compared with the regular agency Indians. House building and other labor is carried on by them to a greater extent, comparatively; and I will venture to state that in a few years they will be far in advance of the Indians who have lived for years on the reservations and been experimented with, and fairly spoiled by a constantly changing and theroretical Indian policy. I would at any time prefer almost to deal with wild Indians just in from the warpath than with the majority of pampered and demoralized agency Indians.

THE INDIANS GENERALLY.

The Pine Ridge Indians, as a body, show evidence of decided progress during the past year, rapidly abandoning their savage customs, and adopting civilization, scattering their abodes more and more, so that frequent disputes arise relating to locations and building sites. The creek bottoms for from 10 to 20 miles up and down the running streams for a distance of 40 miles from the agency, are now nearly all taken up, the more progressive Indians moving out of the villages and settling in between. Dancing is diminishing rapidly, and the attendance on church increasing.

HOUSE BUILDING.

The construction of houses has averaged well with the four preceding years, about 100 having been built in the past twelve months, so that now we have on the

reservation 625 substantial log houses, giving shelter to over half of the Indian families on the reserve. This speaks well for our Indians, considering the fact that five years ago, and prior, not an Indian family lived in, or could be induced to live in, anything but a canvas or skin lodge.

These houses are built by the Indians themselves, or by men employed by them, the Government supplying nothing but the window-sash, nails, hinges, locks, and rough lumber for casings, so that the expense to the Government is very little. The houses are, of course, not provided with board floors, for the reason that the supply of lumber is barely sufficient for casings and doors. I need not urge the necessity of, in every way, encouraging the Indians in this enterprise.

STOCK-RAISING.

The majority of the Indians have taken good care of the stock cows issued to them, and the increase has been marked. Some of the bands, noticeably Red Cloud's and his adherents, have not cared for their stock, relying on the fact that there is yet due them many years of rations under the treaty, and, of course, going on the principle that it is useless to work for a living when you are given plenty to eat without doing so. The public may rest assured that until the policy of rewarding worthless chiefs and Indians who persistently oppose any efforts toward self-support is changed, not much practical progress toward self-support will be made.

Theoretical experts on the Indian question in their newspaper and magazine articles appear to have recently discovered that our Indians are "natural-born herders," for, see their numerous herds of horses; hence the Indian problem is solved. "Give them cows;" "Why has not some one thought of this before," &c. The theory is good, but the practice fails, and for the following reasons: The horse is good to ride on, and the cow is good to eat.

Under the nonsensical treaties at present in force these people are guaranteed plenty of beef to eat, whether they work or not, so what earthly object has an Indian in going to the trouble and labor of raising beef? The consequence is that he either permits his cows and bulls to stray off or eats them. The Government should reward the working Indian and ignore the lazy, careless one, but it, as a rule, does the opposite. Is it a wonder that a few years ago, Spotted Tail, chief of the Brulé Sioux, when asked by the Missouri River Sioux, how it was that the Brulés and Ogalallas, who were always opposing the Government, received more rations than themselves, who had been at peace for years, replied: "You Christian Indians on the Missouri River are too good. Why don't you take off the white man's breeches you are wearing, put on a breech clout, howl a little, get brave, and the white man will give you plenty to eat?" When, last August, it became necessary for me as the agent for the Government, to check Red Cloud, the so-called chief of the Ogalallas, in his ridiculous assumption of authority and opposition to the progress of these Indians, which he was induced to do under scheming white influence, there was a perfect newspaper panic.

AGRICULTURE.

We have had an unusually abundant rainfall this year, and wherever the cereals and other seed have been planted the yield has been good, but the same obstacle that exists to these people making stock raising a practical success opposes in a more marked degree their becoming agriculturists, for there is more labor connected with raising grain than with raising stock, and the Indian, being a carniverous species of the human family, has not much use for grain unless he can have it served up in the shape of hot rolls and buckwheat cakes in a Washington hotel.

FREIGHTING.

This enterprise has been as successful as usual. There have been engaged in the work about five hundred wagons driven by Indians and half-breeds. Of Indian supplies, there have been hauled from the terminus of the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, 130 miles distant, during the past twelve months 2,501,059 pounds, for which the Indians earned and were paid in cash $35,192.13. There have been hauled in addition about 1,000,000 pounds of traders' and other supplies. The Indian teamsters are all young men and have proved themselves honest and trustworthy in the care of their loads.

SAVING OF SUPPLIES.

There has been saved on the issue of supplies about $50,000 worth, and, as a partial result of the accumulated savings of previous years of my management here, requisition has been made for subsistence for the present fiscal year as against that of last year as follows:

Supplies.	Last year.	This year.
	Pounds.	*Pounds.*
Beans	24,625	8,000
Coffee	100,053	50,000
Corn	250,000	None.
Flour	800,000	750,000
Hard bread	100,000	None.
Oats	10,000	None.
Salt	40,000	None.
Sugar	175,075	80,000
Tobacco	12,000	None.

Notwithstanding this saving, the Indians do not present an emaciated appearance, and they are happy and contented.

SUPPLIES.

The quality of the supplies has been excellent and the quantity ample, and the prices paid noticeably low as compared with the market quotations.

EDUCATION.

During the past twelve months six day schools have been kept in active operation, with an average attendance of thirty each, which is up to the requirements of the treaty of 1868. The schools are located at a distance of from 3 to 40 miles from the agency. As some of the other villages promise me a good attendance in case more schools are located, I hope to see these people provided with ten schools by this time next year. The effect of the schools is excellent in many ways. We hope to open the new boarding school this fall, in case the requisite funds are forthcoming. When it is opened the attendance will be good.

CHURCH AND MISSIONARY.

The Episcopal church and mission located at this agency are doing well. Converts are being rapidly made, and the church attendance is more than the capacity of the building.

MEDICINE.

The Indians are rapidly adopting our system of medicine. There were treated by the agency physician in the past year 2,015 cases, and as the present physician appointed here July 1st, had for treatment during the month of July 450 patients, the number will probably double for the coming year.

TRADERS.

On the principle that competition is the life of trade, we are well supplied with traders, having six white, one half-breed, and three Indian stores.

THE POLICE.

The police, numbering fifty members, have kept up their reputation for efficiency. Whisky and crime are unknown on the reserve, and the hinges on the guard-house door are rusting through disuse. The Indians fully recognize the power and authority of the police, and it would be impossible to conduct these large agencies without the police organization.

THE INDIAN POLICY.

As I am somewhat of a "tender-foot," having lived with these people for but seven or eight years, it may appear presumption for me to advance any views in connection with the experts that frequently ventilate themselves in the newspapers, but I hope I may be excused for venturing a few remarks on what appears to be a superfluity of bunkum and red tape in the management of Indians by Congress. It is a very simple matter for members of Congress and officials to resolve that these Indians must become self-supporting, to make spread-eagle speeches as to how to make stock raisers and agriculturists of them. It is interesting to read agents reports of how their good Indians love to work, and how they are *rapidly becoming self-supporting*, &c., but the fact is, the Indians are a long way from being self-supporting, and never will

until there is a radical change in the system. It is not that there is a lack of money appropriated for this agency, but the difficulty is that it is set aside for what is not required, and our everlasting red tape prevents its being used for any other purpose. The subsistence and other supplies allowed and furnished my Indians are ample, in fact more than sufficient. If not, how is it that I can save $50,000 per year on the issue of supplies? What earthly inducement or reason can be advanced why an Indian should go to work and earn his own living by the sweat of his brow, when an indulgent Government furnishes him more than he wants to eat and clothes him for nothing? Select 8,000 whites of the pauper class, or send 8,000 of the "assisted emigrants" to this reservation, feed them as you do these Indians, and they would hold a caucus and vote to assassinate the first one of their number who attempted to become self-supporting.

What we require are less supplies and more skilled labor and employés. What can I do as an agent to teach 8,000 Indians agriculture with one farmer? It is simply a farce and a burlesque. Our Indians are scattered out on five creeks, taking up 100 miles of bottoms. There should be at least five farmers. We have one physician to care for 8,000 Indians scattered out for 40 miles. He is kept all the time at the agency, attending to office business. He should have at least two assistants employed in the villages. The same is true of all the other employés, one blacksmith, one wheelwright, one carpenter to 8,000 Indians; yet we are told the *Indian must be instructed how to work*, to become self-supporting. What good does it do these Indians for their agent to economize to the extent of $50,000 yearly in the issue of supplies? It does not give them a single extra employé, for the reason that our red tape says that the money having been appropriated for a specified purpose, *i. e.*, the purchase of food, cannot be made use of to employ instructors to teach the Indians to raise their own supplies.

Another piece of pure red tape is the regulation which limits the amount of white employé fund at any one agency to $6,000 per year, which may at the discretion of the honorable Secretary of the Interior be increased to $10,000, but in no case to exceed that amount. This leaves even the honorable Secretary powerless, so that this agency to-day, with its 8,000 Indians, can, under the law, be allowed no more than an agency of 800 Indians. When I assumed charge of this agency in 1879 the entire duty of the agent was to act as a national poor-master, dishing out rations. Since then the Indians have scattered out farming, erected 625 houses, engaged 500 wagons in freighting, built 135 miles of telegraph line, opened up six day-schools, began stock-raising with 1,500 head of cows and bulls, employed 40 mowing machines in putting up hay, employed a police force of 50 members, received a winter's beef herd of 6,000 animals to be cared for, kept a saw, planing, shingle, and corn mill going, and advanced in every respect in civilization, thereby entailing the necessity for an increased force of skilled white employés and instructors; and yet that nonsensical $10,000 white employé clause still survives. Without change in legislation and system in appropriating the funds for the expenses of the service these Indians will not become self-supporting until the angel Gabriel sounds the second call, and the poor heathen awake in the dim and uncertain hereafter, when subsisting on a light diet of air, there will be no necessity of any self-supporting scheme.

In this matter the Department and the officials of the service are powerless. It requires pretty much all of their time to get the regular appropriations through, let alone any new legislation. The remedy remains with Congress, and I would suggest, as far as the Sioux are concerned, that each agency be made independent, and this communal system of supplying eight or nine Sioux agencies out of a common money-box be discontinued. Where one agency advances another agency retrogrades, and thus neutralizes any resulting good. Divide the Sioux reserve, giving each agency a reserve by itself to care for, and have legal ownership and control over. (I hope I may not be accused of making this recommendation in the interest of some railroad monopoly.) Let Congress make appropriations for each Sioux agency separately, and not for specific purposes, such as so much for clothing, so much for subsistence, so much for transportation, so much for white employés, so much for Indian employés, so much for schools, so much for interpreters, &c., but make the appropriation for the expense of the Indian service at such an agency to be disbursed at the discretion of the honorable Secretary of the Interior. Then, if an agent can economize in the use of his supplies, it will act as an incentive that his Indians will derive some benefit from the saving by an increase in the number of absolutely necessary employés.

It might be well, perhaps, for members of Congress and the superior officials of the service, to realize the fact that occasionally, after an agent has lived for several years among the Indians, he may have gained nearly as sound a knowledge of the Indian question as the visionary and theoretical cranks that hang around the Department and lobbies of Congress, trotting antiquated and superannuated chiefs around as samples and representatives of the Indian as he is on the reservation.

The Indians' hearts have been made to feel good recently by the report that an august committee from Congress is on its way hither to figure on the Indian problem, and we are in hopes that if winter does not strike us too soon, or Pine Ridge

does not prove too far distant from Pullman sleepers, they will finally reach here and much benefit may result.

In the mean time the agent remains patiently awaiting another investigation, or that threatened indictment before the grand jury. He feels lonesome without an inspector or two camping with him.

I have to express to the employés my appreciation of the manner in which they have performed their duty, while subjected to the unwarranted and abusive attacks made on them during the past twelve months.

Sincerely thanking you for the confidence placed in me by yourself and the Department during the past year, and your valuable support,

I am, very respectfully,

V. T. McGILLYCUDDY,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

ROSEBUD INDIAN AGENCY, DAKOTA,
August 15, 1883.

SIR: Herewith, in compliance with instructions from office of Indian Affairs, I have the honor to submit the annual report of this agency:

I assumed charge of the agency August 11, 1882, receiving and receipting for all public property (which had taken some four days to invoice) transferred to me in good order, by Generel John Cook, whom I succeeded. I found affairs in a very peaceful and harmonious condition; the little excitement at an adjoining agency did not affect these people in the least degree. All appeared happy and contented. I was gratified at the reception tendered to me by the chiefs, head men, and individual Indians—no less so by employés and others located at the agency in various capacities. The Indians met in council to welcome me, and by expressions from many manifested their desire to live in peace and harmony with their white brethren, obey the "Great Father's" wishes, advance in civilization, and asked my assistance to these ends, all of which I most heartily indorsed and promised. I am happy to be able to say that these promises have been fulfilled to a commendible degree, and the friendly expressions then made have not proved words only. The cordial reception tendered to myself was evidently from no discontent toward my predecessor. The friendly feeling appeared to be extended to him in equal degree, and on the eve of his departure the chiefs and Indians met to express to him their good feeling and to wish him well.

CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Several additions, changes, and improvements in the buildings at this agency have been proposed, submitted to, and approved by the Indian Office. Some of these have been completed, among which are the enlargement of the commissary warehouse by adding 30 feet thereto, in which a new issue office has been made, much needed from the exposed location of the old room to the extreme cold, making it almost beyond endurance for the employés to remain there to perform their duties; the danger from fire by overheating, as also the suffering to the people coming daily for their supplies. The new issue house is convenient and comfortable for both employés and people at all seasons. It has also increased the much needed storage capacity of this warehouse by the space occupied by the old issue room and the upper floor over the new one, giving ample space for the storage of the annual supplies.

An additional warehouse, 30 by 70 feet, has also been erected for the storage of annuity and other goods, heretofore scattered over the agency wherever protection could be had—very inconvenient and impossible of classification for distribution. This gives ample storage room for all purposes.

The office has been made comfortable by a new floor, covered on the outside with tarred paper, and weather-boarded with siding.

A new dispensary has been built adjoining the business office, and connected therewith, opening into the interpreter's room; also into the Indian council-room, a convenience over the old building and its arrangements fully appreciated by all interested.

The agency barn, a very poor building, with board roof, built but two years ago, had become dilapidated and very unsafe, endangering the lives of man and beast if in it at the time of the not infrequent high winds of this country. This has been almost entirely torn down and rebuilt with shingle roof, and is now a good and reliable building.

Authority has been received and the material purchased for other buildings, which

are now in course of construction. The buildings finished and inside of the inclosure have been painted, giving a decided by improved appearance to the agency proper.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION.

I was surprised to find no school at the agency, and more so to learn the opinion advanced by my predecessor in his report and to myself that "There is no disputing the fact that day-schools on a reservation are and will be a failure." Notwithstanding this opinion has been indorsed by others, I am loath to believe it correct, fully realizing that my own case would induce me to adopt and act upon this opinion. I feel it a duty to make an effort, and, by so doing, prove the truth or error of this statement. I have converted the old dispensary building into a school-house, with two school-rooms, with capacity for 30 scholars in each. One of these was finished ready for use in June; being late, it was thought better success might attend its opening if delayed till cooler weather in September. If the attendance is what I hope it may be, the second room will be prepared and furniture asked for. I have authority to build two school-houses, to be located where likely to be most useful to the Indians. These are in course of construction. I hope to have them built and furnished ready for occupancy during September. Should I succeed in obtaining suitable teachers, who would interest themselves in the welfare of the Indians in the vicinity, I have little fear of failure, if I am to judge by the desires of Indians of different localities to have these schools built in their vicinity with the promise that their children shall attend.

It is doubtless the most efficient way to instruct Indian youths to send them to Carlisle or other industrial schools off the reservation if possible, or in boarding-schools of like character on the reservation, in every case away from home influences. At best but a small percentage of the children and youth of this agency can be accommodated at such schools, and I see no reason why day-schools under proper management should not be provided as preparatory to the boarding-school. If the treaty stipulations with these Indians were complied with (one teacher for every 30 children of school age, between six and sixteen), many schools would have to be erected and many teachers employed, and, as I believe with much good to this people.

No expenditure having been made at this agency in that direction, while large sums have been expended at every other agency for like purposes, I hope that liberal appropriations may be allowed, and that the long projected and talked of boarding-school, for which plans have been made and remodeled several times during the past two or three years, but as yet not finished, may soon become adopted, and the building ordered built. I see no reason why industrial schools should not be adopted at an agency, where boys may be taught trades, and girls household work as elsewhere, with less expense, and more benefit by bringing the several industries taught to the notice and attention of the other Indians, old and young.

There have been kept at this agency the past winter and spring two mission day-schools, with two teachers and an average attendance of fifteen scholars in each.

Twenty-nine students came home from Carlisle one year ago; twelve of these returned with twenty-one others—in all, thirty-three going from here in November last. One of this number died *en route* returning home sick. There were in addiion thirty-five at the different missionary schools during the past year. The great reluctance of Indians to send their children a long distance away to school, largely on account of the liability to sickness by the change, often gives rise to the question, why cannot this agency have a good boarding or other school, as others have; and how long will it be before we will have such schools here?

AGRICULTURE.

Certainly this location could not have been selected for an Indian agency for its agricultural advantages. Surrounded by barren sand hills, far from what little timber there is, so little arable land to cultivate, where the same number of white men as Indians could not make a living if dependent on the product of the soil, why should or can Indians be expected to become self-sustaining by engaging in agriculture? The only redeeming feature of the country is the many small creeks running through it. On the banks of these there are many tracts that can be and are cultivated. Those who persevere against the disadvantages of country and climate certainly deserve credit.

By long and earnest persuasion, and with the precept and example of several of the older men, many younger ones have been induced to work and till the soil in small pieces this year; while a majority of the able-bodied men have during the past year performed labor more or less. Much of it has been unproductive for want of intelligent supervision, which has been overcome in a large degree by the employment of a practical farmer, who has visited the different localities, instructed and encouraged the Indian in his work on his land. It is the first time such assist-

ance has been given, and it has been fully appreciated with I hope good results. I am advised that fully three times as many are tilling the soil this year as at any previous time. Should the season prove favorable and their crops make satisfactory returns, this number may reasonably hope to be increased another year, several having been induced to prepare land by breaking for next year's cultivation. The seed received, consisting of corn, potatoes, and garden seeds of all kinds, I distributed to all who promised to plant. Sample products from several parties have been brought to show the result of their labor, which do them credit. There are fifteen farms of larger dimensions, from 10 to 75 acres each, on which are small crops of wheat, oats, and with good promise of larger corn crops, fine potatoes, and other vegetables.

WIRE FENCING.

Many crops are lost and much discouragement occasioned for the want of proper fences around the cultivated fields. Much labor is expended by Indians in making fences with poles and brush, little or no protection from the roving ponies and cattle when, as is not infrequently the case, the whole family is away. Fencing wire should be furnished to all who would put it to good use, and would give great encouragement to those disposed to till the land. I have had frequent applications for it.

STOCK-RAISING.

The expectation that the failure to some extent of the country for agricultural pursuits would be made good to the Indian in its adaptability to stock-raising, and that this must be his future reliance to attain wealth and independence would appear to be but partially sustained. More care, with protection in winter, will be necessary to make good this expectation. The grass of this section fails more in quality than quantity; while ample and good for summer grazing, it does not retain the nourishment for winter feeding that other localities do. Cattle will not remain where feed is poor or insufficient; they must die or wander in search of a better range. The past winter proved severe on all. Many of the older settlers lost heavily from the severity of the weather. (A further loss in stock cattle followed the shortage in the beef supply.) So discouraging has this fact become that several old settlers, and among the largest stock-raisers, have abandoned their ranches and moved farther to the westward on the reservation, where it is said the grass and land are of better quality. I fear the stock cattle lately received, many young, unused to the exposure cattle have to submit to in a severe winter, will have a hard time and many will succumb.

BEEF CATTLE.

The extreme cold and heavy snow of the past winter was very severe on the beef cattle received at this agency last fall. Many of them being through Texas steers, unused to a Northern winter, received off a long drive, in poor condition, it should not cause surprise that a large number died and more strayed, which caused short supplies and much privation to the Indians. The policy dictated by the cattle contractors in the delivery of such large numbers is so much to their interest it is not surprising that they combined for that object. They are relieved from the expense of winter herding, the loss from perishing, and gain all the strays from the agency herds, which naturally drift to the ranches from whence they came. The gains from these causes must be large, and the expense to the Government equally large. No agent should or can reasonably be held accountable (if vigilant) for any such loss. Nor will any agent think it reasonable that such a responsibility should be put upon him.

HOUSE BUILDING.

Every effort that reason and argument could bring to bear I have used to persuade these people to build houses and abandon their "tepees," not without effect. Could I have added more tangible argument in the shape of doors, windows, &c., with furniture to put in when finished (none such has ever been given the Indians of this agency), I am satisfied the result would have been more satisfactory. I could only furnish what I had, boards for roofing, for doors and frames, with nails and other hardware, with the promise to those who would build that I would endeavor to obtain for them such articles as were necessary and convenient for their comfort. There have been sixty built this past year, and there are now four hundred and fifty fairly comfortable log houses built and occupied by Indians. The distribution to these of various articles of furniture, and to others windows and doors (my request for which I am advised, has been complied with), will no doubt have the effect of encouraging many others to build. If timber was more abundant and easy of access I think much more progress in this direction would be made.

INDIAN FREIGHTING.

The Indians manifest industry and ability to work in the transportation of all supplies from Valentine, Nebr., the railroad terminus, to the agency, eagerly seeking for orders when freight is to be hauled. This is not confined to the young men, but many of the older ones, among whom chiefs and head men are prominent, and not slow to earn money by the sweat of their brows. There are engaged in freighting over four hundred Indian wagons and nearly double that number of individuals. Those not having more than two work ponies change with their neighbors, who put another pair to the team, and alternate trips, dividing the earnings.

SUPPLIES.

The supplies, both subsistence and annuity, have been ample in quantity and excellent in quality. No complaint has been heard of either. The present supply of flour is much better than that of last year, though the price paid should still command a better article. No saving of supplies is reported. When a surplus exists it is taken up in regular form; but no great surplus can exist when used with care, if the Indians receive what they are entitled to and receipt for, unless overestimates are made.

TELEGRAPH.

That portion of the telegraph line between this agency and Pine Ridge, belonging here, I put in good order and working condition last season, and so kept it till the severe weather of January or February last; since then it has been in a demoralized condition. The pine poles are small (set about three years ago), are rotting, and with very high wind more or less fall. During winter they could not be replaced. Since then action has been delayed by correspondence with the Department, having in view the abandonment of this line and construction of one to connect this agency with Fort Niobrara via Valentine, Nebr., distant about 35 miles, thus connecting us with military and giving full telegraphic communication with the outside world by a much shorter and more direct line at little expense to keep in working order. Being on the regularly traveled road it would be under constant supervision from accident or molestation. I hope to receive early authority for the construction of this new line.

WATER SUPPLY.

The old time-honored manner of water supply is still in practice at this agency by the water wagon. This is no less slow and sure than it is expensive, occupying one-half day with pair of horses and two men every day in the year. This expense would go far to cover the cost of constructing a systematized water-works. An engine adjacent to the spring from which the present supply is obtained and now unused could be utilized to force the water through pipes to a reservoir on an elevation sufficiently high to cover every building on the agency proper, giving such security in case of fire that the whole cost of such works would be covered by the security of property in a short time, should it be necessary to cover the same by insurance, not to consider the comfort and convenience of an abundant and constant supply of water. I propose to submit for your consideration at an early day a detailed plan for such works, and ask for their adoption and construction in behalf of safety and economy.

POLICE.

The United States Indian police have continued efficient in their duties, performing all with alacrity. There were thirty in number till the first of present fiscal year, since when the number has been reduced to twenty-five, three commissioned officers and twenty-two privates (by office instructions). They have doubtless become a necessity on every agency; without them I cannot see how authority could be maintained, as they are a necessity, to say the least. Their pay is remarkably small. At the time of my taking charge the police quarters had been prepared. Immediately after it was completed and occupied. Here one-third of the force is kept on duty, changing every ten days. A mess is provided for those on duty. In connection with the police quarters I have built a

GUARD-HOUSE,

which met with much opposition when my intention of so doing was known to the Indians, and many protestations were offered against it. There had never been any

place of detention or punishment on this agency; therefore such place was not looked upon or received with favor. Its existence has, I believe, had a salutary effect, and made many more careful in their conduct than perhaps they otherwise would have been, knowing it had been built for a purpose and would be used if occasion required.

Heretofore the punishments meted out to these people have been stoppage of rations, which in a majority of cases is punishment only to the innocent. A man guilty of an offense having his rations stopped, visits his friends, is well fed and provided for, while his wife and children are left hungry at home. Confinement in prison even for a short time is dreaded far more than this stoppage of rations for a much longer period. An Indian does not like to be imprisoned naturally, but far less the ridicule pointed at him after his release. I believe it the most effectual means of checking

IMMORALITY,

which, I regret to say, prevails to a large extent among these, but perhaps not more than among other Indians. I have been told it is not so bad; if this is true I am sorry for the others. The marriage relation among this people is from our stand-point very loose; it has been my endeavor to correct this, and prevail upon all to be married according to "white man's" laws, and have succeeded to some extent, but not, I regret to say, as far as I could wish. The impression prevails that marriages contracted under church or State law, being binding, leads to trouble when broken, but those made according to Indian custom can be sundered at the pleasure of either party; that the population on Indian agencies are free to follow which custom suits them best. Unfaithfulness to the marriage obligation and the almost impossibility to obtain divorce for just cause has much to do with the reluctance to marry according to law. An agent is authorized by law to marry, and such marriage is binding in law. If his authority were extended and he were allowed the power of divorce for *justifiable cause*, I think many evils now existing might be corrected and more guarded against. A recently promulgated idea at this agency which has gained prevalence, especially among the mixed bloods, that no marriages were of binding effect except those performed under the direction of some particular church or religious ceremony, has had a very demoralizing effect. It has been my purpose and endeavor to check immorality in any form, and I have done so in every instance brought to my notice. I am informed that I am the first agent to punish or confine in durance vile an Indian of *any degree* on this agency, or to correct one in anyway for immoral practices. I have been told when meting out correction or punishment for such offences that it was "*Indian custom, with which I had no right to interfere,*" notwithstanding which I shall continue to *interfere* and *correct* wherever and whenever occasion requires.

COURT OF INDIAN OFFENSES.

No nominations for judges of the court of Indian offenses have yet been submitted by me. I have studied over the matter, have talked it over with my Indians, and have not been able to select suitable persons for the position. From Indian stand point the offenses as set forth, and for which punishment is provided, are no offenses at all, and I doubt if one could be found willing to punish another for the offenses set forth in the rules governing such, and if willing or inclined would have the moral courage to do so. In my judgment the checking of the so-called Indian offenses must be gradual, and done, if at all, by the agent.

MEDICINE.

This agency has been without a physician during nearly three months of the past year by the resignation of Dr. C. R. Corey, who has been succeeded by Dr. F. Grinnell, transferred from Pine Ridge Agency. Dr. Grinnell secured an enviable reputation while at Pine Ridge, which, judging from the impression during his short residence here, is likely to be well sustained.

MISSIONARY WORK.

No agency could be better, more ably, or more acceptably cared for in mission work than this one in the person of Rev. William J. Cleveland. In addition to the church work in the agency he has established a mission on Oak Creek, about 30 miles distant, has had two mission day-schools, and two Sunday-schools, with two ordained Indian assistants. No more earnest Christian, and more highly respected gentleman can be found among missionaries, to do the work of his Lord and Master in a more conscientious manner. Indians recognize him as their friend and appeal to him on many occasions.

The Rev. Francis Crafts, of the Roman Catholic Church, came here as missionary this last spring. He claims many of the Indians to be of his faith and persuasion, and is endeavoring to build a church and school, with what success I am unadvised. He is active and zealous in his calling. ministering to the ailments of soul and body.

The Christianizing of the Indians is a large field to work in, where any and all, if so disposed, can do good, and after doing all they can there will be room for others. If ministers or laymen would work for this end there is no reason why Indian reservations should not be open to all; but if those permitted to come, in their mistaken idea of religion and the service of the "Great Spirit," try to undermine what little faith has been planted in these benighted hearts, by persuading them that what they have been taught to believe is error, they should be denied access to reservations and Indians. If any teach or try to teach these people that they should look to them before any law, agent, or other authority, it is better they should be denied the privilege of an Indian reservation before discontent and trouble is generated. I would respectfully invite attention to the accompanying report from the resident missionary at this agency.

CONCLUSION.

The Indians of this agency, I judge from my short experience, are not going backwards. From what I am told by those able to judge from long residence among them, as well as from themselves, they are advancing, though slowly, in civilization. They show increased inclination to wear citizens' clothing, increased industry, and in this I must not omit to give credit to some of the oldest men for their encouragement and example to the young ones, many of whom have listened and obeyed. Of course there is ample room for great improvement. How rapidly civilization is to take place among a people isolated, away from civilization to copy, with only the few white officials of the agency for examples, is a conundrum not easily answered.

Indian peculiar customs will and are slowly dying out; the "tom tom" for the dance is not heard so frequently; it is forbidden and entirely silenced on Sunday, when a year ago it was more noticeable than on any other day of the week. The barbarous festival known as the sun dance has lost ground.

A year ago there were at this agency between thirty and forty sacrifices who were cut and swung to the pole; this year there were but three. By a combined effort of agents at all agencies to prevent the Indians going to wherever such dance may in the future be planned much can be done to prevent its recurrence.

Health has prevailed to a good degree among all, though the prevailing disease among Indians, consumption, has carried off many children and not a few adults.

In closing this my first annual report I beg to recognize the uniform attention to business and assistance given to me in my new duties by the employés of this agency, without which a new agent must necessarily find difficulties multiply and his duties extremely arduous and unpleasant. If an "Indian agency is a long way from paradise," as I read in reports, I can add that this one is not the Garden of Eden, nor very near it.

Returning thanks for the support I have received from the Indian Office at all times. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. G. WRIGHT,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

ROSEBUD AGENCY, DAKOTA,
August 15, 1883.

SIR: The mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church was begun among these people in June, 1875, when suitable buildings were erected at a cost to the Church of $3,000. During the eight years which have intervened, the agency and Indians have been moved once 270 miles and once 150 miles, necessitating the tearing down and rebuilding of the Government, church and private buildings. During this period also two protracted and bloody wars were carried on by the Government with the people nearly related to these and within easy traveling distance to the north of them. Again, no less than ten agents, some civil, some military, have had the management of affairs here during these eight years. Considering these frequent changes, disturbances, and demoralization which necessarily resulted, at times almost overwhelming, it would be unreasonable to expect the people to have made any very substantial progress either in civilization or moral enlightenment.

In the fall of 1878, the agency and mission were rebuilt at the present location, by much the most undesirable one they have ever occupied, and at present writing the

Church has property here valued at $4,500. This consists of a neat frame church seating 150 persons, frame parsonage, log teacher's dwelling and school room, and a new log building for church, school, and dwelling at the camp on Oak Creek. About 600 persons have, since its beginning connected themselves with the mission. The population in the immediate vicinity of the agency is never large, and is chiefly made up of mixed bloods, loafers, and their relations. Still the attendance on services has averaged about 75, and the number of baptisms this year (110) is larger than usual.

The mission exerts a substantial influence on a large number who have not as yet directly connected themselves with it, and many families who are members of it have, for the purpose of farming and stock raising, removed to long distances from the agency, some more than 100 miles. Probably half of the members of the church live at too great distances now to receive much regular instruction from the services and mission day and Sunday schools at the agency. The congregation of a number of such families at Good Voice's Camp on Oak Creek led to the opening last winter of a branch mission and school among them, and since then nearly the whole population have joined the church. This point is but one of many where such branch missions have been for the past year or two earnestly prayed for. Unfortunately, however, none of these camps are as yet so well located or firmly established as to warrant the expenditure of money by the Church in permanent buildings among them. If the Government is to establish schools among the people the camps must first be made reasonably permanent. Could the Government insist on each family or even each band selecting some location (first taking care that it be good agricultural land) and then positively and persistently refuse to recognize or aid such band or families *except in the place which they had selected as theirs*, it would render a most valuable and parental assistance to them, both as against the common practice among them of driving each other off from improved lands and their inherent disposition to be constantly "on the wing."

SCHOOLS.

Owing principally no doubt to the disturbing causes mentioned above, and considering the large number of Indians connected with this agency (8,000), but little has been done either by the church or the Government for them in the matter of schools. When I first came among them by the united efforts of the two a flourishing day-school was kept up for two years, and over 400 pupils were enrolled. This school was abolished by a subsequent administration and the building appropriated for an agent's office. Meanwhile the minds of the people were filled with the promise of a large boarding-school which would accommodate 400 children, and to this day that promise, now dwindled to a school for 50 pupils, and still existing only as a promise, has been a most serious obstacle in the way of getting parents to consent to send their children off the reserve to Carlisle, or the mission boarding-schools on the Missouri River. Not until you took hold of the matter and provided the building now ready for use at the agency, and the two about to be erected in the camps, has the Government done anything further towards fulfilling that clause in the treaty of 1868 which pledges it to provide a day-school and resident teacher for every 30 children of a school age.

For the past two years a day-school has been kept up at the agency by the mission, and since the opening of the branch station on Oak Creek, one at that place also. The attendance has not been encouraging, especially at the former. This is partly owing to the difficulty of securing competent teachers, but chiefly to the fact that no pressure is brought upon the children from the outside, either by the parents or by the Government, to make them attend. The scholars only come when and because they want to. No large or regular attendance should be expected under the circumstances.

A small number of children are now at the Indian training school at Carlisle, Pa., for a five years' course, and we may reasonably hope that much good will result from their being so long under the good influences of that institution. Of the first lot of children who returned from Carlisle after a three years' course, but few have kept up to or near the standard acquired while there, and those only, I believe, because they were placed in most favorable circumstances on their return. If a class could be graduated from Carlisle and another received there *each* year (the course of training still being for five years, as now) the Government would accomplish much more rapidly and securely what it is trying to do through that school. Annual reinforcements to those who had returned, and who, with their newly gained light and higher life, were battling against the darkness in their old homes, would help much to keep them from what now is all but inevitable, viz: after a fitful struggle against all odds, a falling back with utterly discouraged hearts into the old ways.

The same difficulty is not felt so much by those children who attend the mission boarding-schools on the Mission River, and I believe it is because some are coming home from and some going to these schools each year, sometimes each spring and

fall. There are at present 35 children from this agency attending these mission boarding-schools.

Very respectfully, yours,

WM. J. CLEVELAND,
Missionary.

JAMES G. WRIGHT,
United States Indian Agent.

SISSETON AGENCY, DAKOTA,
August 15th, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to submit this my fifth annual report of affairs at this agency.

This reservation is situated in Eastern Dakota and contains 918,780 acres of as fine land for agricultural and grazing purposes as can be found in the Territory. There are numbers of small lakes on the reserve which abound in fish of good quality, pike and pickerel principally, and are plentifully supplied with water-fowl of different kinds, including ducks, geese, and brant.

As no rations have been issued except to apprentices and school children since April, 1882, these Indians have had to support themselves and with the assistance they have received from the Government in the shape of agricultural implements, &c., have done so.

EDUCATIONAL.

The schools have never been in as flourishing a condition as during the past year. All have been full, and on this account many applicants have been refused admission. The progress made by the scholars in all the schools has been very commendable and reflects credit upon the teachers. The average monthly attendance at the manual labor boarding-school for the term was 60¾, a far greater average than has ever before been attained at this school. Too much credit cannot be bestowed upon Prof. B. S. Haskell, principal of this school, and his corps of able assistants for the general proficiency of its scholars and for their excellent behavior.

These Indians are fast learning to appreciate the advantages possessed by the educated members of their tribe and are insisting that their children shall attend school and become educated; and when I have been compelled to refuse admission to applicants for lack of room their parents have invariably come to me and urged me to try and crowd their children in some one of the schools, and also to hurry up the new school so that all who desired to attend might be accommodated. This will bear testimony to the sincerity of their oft-expressed desire to have their children educated.

The addition to our new school is being rapidly pushed to completion and when it is ready for occupancy there will be ample school accommodations, I am glad to say, for all children of school age upon the reservation.

The Ascension school, presided over by Rev. J. B. Renville, a native missionary, has had a successful year and should be continued.

The Goodwill school, under Mr. Morris, and Brown Earth school, under Mr. Hunter, have both done good work.

Many visits have been made to this agency during the year by persons interested in civilizing the Indians, notably among whom were Rt. Rev. Bishop Hare, Gen. E. Whittlesey, Rev. Dr. Strieby, and Major C. S. Palmer, assistant district attorney of Dakota, and all have spoken in the highest terms of the schools and their management.

AGRICULTURE.

While the crop this year will not aggregate by 20 per cent., probably, that of last year, owing to continued drought throughout the season, much more land has been under cultivation. I estimate that at least 5,500 acres have been cultivated during the past year, 500 acres being new land broken this spring.

Owing to the disappearance of the buffalo and other large game from this locality these Indians have long since come to the conclusion that they must give up the hunt and become farmers in order to live, and with this fact as an incentive, and an evident desire among many of them to become practical farmers, rapid advancement has been made in agricultural pursuits. The quantity of wheat and oats raised by them during the past few years certainly proves the earnestness of their intentions to become self-supporting by making successful farmers of themselves. Their wheat will compare in quality with any raised in this locality by experienced white farmers.

Many of our more successful and intelligent farmers have this year secured skilled

white labor in harvesting their crops, there not being machines or labor on the reserve sufficient to meet the demand, although several new reapers, together with quite a number of other farming implements, such as horse and sulky rakes, mowers, &c., have been purchased during the year, and paid for by the Indians.

PATENTS.

There have been nine patents, for 160 acres each, issued to Indians, who have complied with the treaty stipulations, viz, to plow, fence, and put in crop 50 acres; this makes twelve patents issued to Indians on this reserve. Four more, who have complied with the requirements of law, have forwarded applications for patents. The issuing of these patents has had a very beneficial effect among those who have not the required amount of improvements, and has stimulated them to extra exertion to obtain title to their land.

BUILDING.

The shoe and tailor shops, with sleeping rooms for mechanics, their families, and apprentices, have been finished, and also one dwelling erected for agency physician. Several frame houses have been built for the Indians, the material and labor being furnished partly by the Indians and partly by the Government. Quite a number of hewn log houses built by the Indians themselves have been shingle-roofed for them by the agency carpenters.

SANITARY.

The general sanitary condition of the Indians on this reserve has been excellent. No epidemic has prevailed with the exception of the measles, and that to no considerable extent, very few cases having proved fatal, owing to the prompt and efficient measures taken, and the careful treatment administered to the patients. The health of these people is better than ever before, and this is without doubt attributable to the change in their mode of life, the majority of them now living in frame and comfortable log houses, which better shield them from the severe wind storms and the extremely cold winters peculiar to this region than did their lodges in days gone by.

POLICE.

The force of this reserve consists of one captain, one lieutenant, two sergeants and eleven privates, and numbers among its membership some of the best men on the reserve; They are efficient and capable in their positions, always prompt in their obedience to orders, but so quiet and orderly are the people generally that they have had comparatively little to do in the line of their duty; several arrests for minor offences have been made, and the offenders punished.

MISSIONARY.

Much good has been accomplished and many conversions to Christianity made by the white and Indian missionaries here. There are five of the latter, of the Presbyterian denomination, and under the able direction of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Morris they are doing noble work with an earnestness that is very commendable.

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, although yet in its infancy, is doing great good under the able and efficient supervision of its rector the, Rev. E. J. Ashley, whose untiring zeal and energy has gained the confidence and esteem of these people in no small degree. For the year there have been 21 baptisms and 10 confirmations, and an average attendance of 75, with 26 communicants. Besides Saint Mary's Church there are two other stations under Mr. Ashley's charge, Saint Luke's, and Saint John the Baptist's, at which services are held every Sunday, presided over by native deacons, with very fair attendance.

WHISKY.

During the early part of the calendar year some of the lower class of our Indians succeeded on several occasions in obtaining liquor in Brown's Valley. After much trouble I succeeded in obtaining sufficient evidence to warrant me in instituting proceedings against the man who furnished the liquor, and as United States Marshall Deny, of Minnesota, was in Brown's Valley at the time, I placed the matter in his hands, and he escorted the whole party to Saint Paul, where the accused plead guilty,

was fined $50 and discharged. Since this time I have had little trouble from this source.

CONCLUSION.

In closing this my last annual report, my resignation having been accepted, I wish to say I have not lost faith that the Indian can be civilized. In my judgment they have never done as well as now, and all interested in the race have every reason to feel encouraged to work for their future good.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES CRISSEY,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

STANDING ROCK INDIAN AGENCY, DAK.,
August 15, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my annual report for the year ending July 31, 1883.

LOCATION.

This agency is located on the "Great Sioux reservation," occupying the northeastern corner of the same. The agency buildings are situated on an elevated plateau on the west bank of the Missouri River, about 60 miles south of Bismarck, the new capital city of Dakota Territory. This portion of the reservation is well watered by numerous small streams, but the country adjacent to these streams, together with that bordering along the Missouri River, is somewhat broken and hilly, with small stretches of alkaline or bad lands. The hilly portion, however, affords excellent grazing, while the valleys and table-land are very fertile and well adapted to agricultural purposes, and, except in seasons of severe drought, which this whole section of country is unfortunately subject to, wheat, oats, corn, and vegetables, when properly cultivated, are reasonably certain to return an excellent yield.

TRIBES AND POPULATION.

The Indians of this agency, constituting 1,085 families, numbering 4,472 persons, are composed of the Upper and Lower Yanktonnais, Uncapapas, and Blackfeet bands of Sioux, classed respectively as follows, which classification is taken from the agency census rolls, carefully corrected up to and including July 31, 1883.

Name.	No. of families.	Men.	Women.	Boys under 16 years.	Girls under 14 years.	Total.
Upper Yanktonnais	321	334	431	257	220	1,242
Lower Yanktonnais	141	164	217	125	93	599
Uncapapas	437	477	625	363	364	1,829
Blackfeet	163	192	232	149	125	698
Mixed blood	23	27	27	21	29	104
Total	1,085	1,194	1,532	915	831	4,472

The number of Indians at this agency has been materially augmented during the past year by the transfer from the War Department on the 10th of May last of Sitting Bull and his immediate followers, numbering 153 persons, who were held as prisoners of war at Fort Randall, Dak., since September, 1881. This number, 153, includes 6 boys belonging to the families of these late prisoners who were attending school at the Yankton Agency at the date of the transfer, and who have since joined their respective families here.

A considerable number of Indians came into this agency from the north last fall and winter, and there also arrived from the Fort Peck Agency, Mont., during the months of May and June last, in several small parties, 386 Yanktonnais, accompanied by a few Uncapapas, who were transferred to this agency by Agent Porter, of

the Fort Peck Agency. These Indians formerly belonged to the Standing Rock Agency, but went north subsequent to 1870 and prior to 1872, making their headquarters at the Fort Peck Agency, and have since hunted in that region; but as the buffalo have now nearly all disappeared from that vicinity, and as these nomadic Yanktonnais are closely related to some of the oldest and better class of Indians here, they have therefore returned, with strong professions of their present good intentions, and express a determination to settle down among their relatives and commence an agricultural life. Many of them have made commendable progress this summer, having planted small fields of corn, and are now building log cabins on claims upon which they have located. There can doubtless be no valid objections to these Yanktonnais being admitted here, as they properly belong to this agency, but this large addition to the number estimated for for the current fiscal year cannot be provided for from the supplies calculated upon for the number of Indians at this agency when my estimate was prepared. I therefore recommend that provision be made by which the subsistence now being consumed by them will be replaced next spring, and as this additional consumption will exhaust the subsistence stores estimated for the current fiscal year by the 15th of May next, I trust that the same will be replaced on or before that date.

AGRICULTURE.

Nearly every family of this agency has been cultivating small fields this year, which have been planted with corn, potatoes, and other vegetables. There were also 100 acres of wheat and 70 acres of oats sowed by 41 heads of families, in all aggregating about 1,400 acres cultivated by Indians, which, with 60 acres of oats sowed for use of agency stock, and 40 acres cultivated by the two boarding-schools for use of the scholars, will approximate 1,500 acres now under cultivation at this agency. The Indians commenced their spring work in good season, and cared for their fields in a very commendable manner, and all crops looked well, in fact could not have been more promising up to June 28, at which date an excessively warm spell set in which lasted three days, with the thermometer registering 108° in the shade, and on June 30 a burning hot wind from the southwest, with the thermometer registering 135° in the open air, killed many of the growing crops outright and parched all others to such an extent that not more than one-fourth of an ordinary yield will now be realized. Oats, pease, and the other smaller garden vegetables were the worst injured, and a severe drought that succeeded this excessive hot spell prevented the crops from recovering from this back-set. The corn crop alone withstood this extreme heat, but the dry weather has kept it from filling properly, and owing to the drought the potato crop will be almost a total failure, there being but few in each hill and very small. The Indians labored earnestly up to the time of this hot spell, after which their crops, which previously promised so well, were left in such a condition as to be very discouraging, and many abandoned their fields entirely, believing that nothing could be harvested from them, which was a fact in many cases. Those, however, who kept their fields well cultivated from the beginning, and had a good, healthy growth at that time, will harvest about one-half a crop. Notwithstanding that more acres have been cultivated and more labor performed this year than last by the Indians, yet owing to the causes herein referred to, and which could not be controlled, there will not be over one-third of the quantity of products realized from this season's cultivation as compared with last year's yield.

The hay crop, for the reasons hereinbefore set forth, is light, but the Indians have been and now are industriously engaged in securing their winter's supply, which will approximate about 2,000 tons. This failure of crops is not by any means confined to Indian farming or to this agency, but is general throughout the entire section of Northern Dakota bordering on the Missouri slope.

SITTING BULL AND THE OTHER LATE HOSTILES.

As hereinbefore stated, Sitting Bull and his immediate followers arrived at this agency from Fort Randall by steamer on May 10 last, and immediately upon their arrival were transferred to the Indian department at this agency by Lieut. T. F. Davis, of the Fifteenth Infantry, United States Army, the officer in charge of the party. On the following day Sitting Bull, accompanied by his people, came to the agency office soliciting a council, whereupon, with the greatest *sang froid*, he commenced his harangue by announcing a code of regulations by which he and his people desired to be governed, stating that he did not intend to plant anything this season, but would look around and see how it was done, so that he would be prepared to commence next year; that he did not want ration tickets, but would be "big chief" and draw all supplies in bulk for himself and his people. He also asked to be placed first on the rolls of the agency, together with numerous absurdities. He also presented a paper, which

he had prepared in duplicate, asking that his appointment of eleven chiefs and thirteen headmen be confirmed. His request for the appointment of these twenty-four chiefs and headmen out of a total of thirty-five adults which constituted his party did not seem to him unreasonable, as his argument in support of his application, which he urgently set forth in their presence, was that they were all hereditary chiefs, good and true men—true to him and superior to any of the old chiefs of the agency; that the Great Father had written to him before he left Fort Randall to the effect that he, Sitting Bull, was now to return to his own country and to live among his people; that he would be the head man, the big chief of the agency; that a good house would be built for him to live in; that he and his people would have cattle and wagons, horses and buggies; that he might gather his people from all the other agencies and have everything he desired.

I heard his inflated nonsense through to the end, and then gave him some sound advice, telling him that to be honest with him I must be frank, and must therefore say to him that the Great Father never wrote him any such letter as he claimed, in fact never wrote him any letter or made any such promises as he had stated, or authorized any such promises to be made; that the Great Father recognized the most industrious Indian who was endeavoring to benefit his condition and set a good example to his people as the biggest chief, and that he and his people would receive their proportionate share of all goods and supplies that came to this agency for distribution among the Indians; that he would be assisted and encouraged in every way possible with the means at my disposal, and be treated in all respects in the same manner as other Indians of the agency, but that he must not expect anything more than others equally deserving. After hearing my reply he was considerably crestfallen, and replied that he was greatly surprised at the very beginning. I thereupon carefully and clearly explained to him his status, together with the rules and regulations governing the Indian service, which I informed him I should endeavor mildly but strictly to enforce, and that it was better for me to put him on the right path in the beginning than to allow him to labor under such erroneous ideas as he had just expressed. Before he left the office he appeared better satisfied, but did not visit me again for several days.

During this interval I had a field of about twelve acres plowed for his people to plant in, and when ready I notified him that he must commence planting the following day, and at the appointed time he reported with his people ready for work. I sent two white employés to instruct them, staking off a separate piece of ground for each family. Sitting Bull worked with the others, using a hoe, but rather awkwardly, and in two days they had their fields nicely planted. I visited him in the field while at work, and he seemed pleased that I found him laboring, and, in reply to the question if he found planting so very difficult he answered, "No," that he was now determined to become a farmer in earnest.

Sitting Bull is an Indian of very mediocre ability, rather dull, and much the inferior of Gall and others of his lieutenants in intelligence. I cannot understand how he held such sway over or controlled men so eminently his superiors in every respect, unless it was by his sheer obstinacy and stubborn tenacity. He is pompous, vain, and boastful, and considers himself a very important personage; but as he has been lionized and pampered by the whites since the battle of the Little Big Horn, I do not wonder at his inflated opinion of himself. I, however, firmly believe that Sitting Bull will never again cause any trouble, he having been thoroughly subdued; moreover, his influence is very limited now, and I hope to be able to turn what little he has towards the advancement of his people.

Apart from those who were prisoners with Sitting Bull at Fort Randall, the late hostiles at this agency are all doing well, and are among the best disposed and most industrious Indians here, the noted war chief Gall being one of my Indian district farmers. The late hostile element is gradually being absorbed by the association with and the influence of the older agency Indians. They are locating upon claims, cultivating fields, building log-cabins, and doing as well as could be expected with the means at their disposal. They labor under the disadvantage of having no teams with which to advance in agriculture, and of which they stand greatly in need, and I would recommend that a reasonable number of ox-teams be furnished them as soon as practicable.

EDUCATIONAL.

There have been two boarding-schools conducted by the Government at this agency throughout the past year, one an industrial farm school for boys, located 16 miles miles south of the agency, and the other an industrial school for girls, located at the agency. There were 51 boys who attended the farm school during the year, with an average attendance of 37 pupils, and 52 girls attended the girls' boarding-school, with an average attendance of 40 pupils, being a total of 103 children who attended these

schools, with an average attendance of 77 pupils for the eleven months for which this report is rendered. These schools have done good service, and the progress of the children, especially of the girls, has been very satisfactory. At the farm school the boys have not been so constant; they have, however, done as well as could reasonably be expected; but owing to the inconstancy of the children and indulgence of the parents, the attendance of the larger boys has not been what was desired, and it can only be remedied by compulsory attendance. Owing to the inadequate building the attendance at the girls' school could not have been increased, as the log building used was not suitable for the purpose, it being old and poorly constructed, and was kept crowded to its utmost capacity throughout the entire school year. There has, however, been a new building erected this summer, with a capacity for one hundred children, which is now being fitted with tables, desks, &c., and which will be occupied during the coming week. There are now, during vacation, 40 girls remaining at the old school, who will move into the new building as soon as it is ready for occupancy.

On November 15 last Right Rev. Bishop Marty established a mission at the Cannon Ball settlement, about 25 miles north of the agency. He stationed an ecclesiastic of minor orders there, who has conducted a day-school in connection with the mission, and who reports that since the opening of the school 45 Indian children have attended, but owing to their irregular habits the average attendance has been only about 10 pupils. The building in use is much too small, but a better and more commodious one is in contemplation. Considerable good is being accomplished, however, by the establishment of this permanent station at that point.

On January 1, 1883, Rev. T. L. Riggs, of the Dakota mission of the American Missionary Association, opened a day-school at Antelope's settlement, on the Grand River, about 30 miles southwest of the agency, and stationed a native teacher there, Mr. Edwin Phelps, a Sisseton Sioux Indian, who reports 54 children as having attended his school, but he also complains that their unstableness brought the average attendance down to about 20 scholars. His building is also too small, but Mr. Riggs contemplates erecting a more suitable one before the winter sets in.

The new school building recently erected will be occupied by girls of all ages and boys up to 12 years of age. This, together with the farm school for the larger boys, will enable us to provide for 160 boarding scholars, but with 870 children of school-going ages at this agency it still leaves 80 per cent. of the children unprovided for. The Indian settlements extend for a distance of 60 miles along the Missouri River, and to give them necessary educational facilities there should be six day-schools established at different points adjacent to the principal settlements, which would give the Indian children an opportunity of attending day-schools near their homes. Many children will attend day-schools who cannot be induced to enter a boarding-school to begin with, and as their prejudices are gradually overcome at these day-schools they could then be brought into the boarding-schools, the day-schools thus serving as preparatory schools for the boarding-schools, through which system of schools for Indian education, where the child is entirely separated from its home and surroundings, it is alone possible to permanently benefit the rising generation.

After the children have attended the agency schools for some time, those displaying the most talent and proper health condition could be sent to training-schools away from their homes, and the beneficial effects which a three years' course (five years would be better) would produce would make itself felt among the masses after a few delegations are returned to their home agencies. When at Washington in the month of February last I visited the Indian training-school at Hampton, Va., where there are ten pupils from this agency, and I was much interested and pleased with the work being done in training the Indian youth. Such system of education cannot help but prove a boon to the Indian race; but in order to make a three years' course beneficial to all the returned student must not be lost sight of after his arrival at his home, but should be bolstered up so as to have strength to work out the leavening process. The work ingrafted should not be allowed to decay for want of proper nourishment, and all necessary pruning should be carefully continued at their home agencies.

CHURCHES AND MISSIONARY.

The missionary work of this agency is under the direction of Right Rev. Bishop Marty, of Dakota, who has three priests, one ecclesiastical student, two brothers, and eight Sisters of Charity stationed here, at an annual expense of about $2,000. In addition to this he has this year made improvements on the priests' residence, at a cost of $820. There are two very nice church edifices here, one at the agency and the other at the farm school, 16 miles south; also a station at the Cannon Ball settlement. The missionaries are zealous workers among the Indians, and their chapels are usually well filled at the Sunday services with attentive and apparently interested congregations. They report 276 baptisms during the year, of whom 60 were adults.

The American Missionary Association have established a mission station at the

Grand River settlement, under the superintendency of Rev. T. L. Riggs, of the Dakota mission, where a day-school is maintained under his direction, expending since January 1, 1883, about $250 in the work.

SANITARY.

The sanitary condition of these Indians has been good. No epidemics have visited the agency, yet the deaths exceed the births considerably, there being 106 deaths to 89 births during the past eleven months. This is attributable to a variety of causes, but chiefly to the present transition state of the Indians, living in log cabins, which are poorly ventilated, together with change of living and imperfectly prepared food; also neglecting to report cases of sickness until after their own medicines have failed.

The want of a suitable place to treat the sick is also an impediment in the way of successful treatment, as was recently demonstrated here in the case of one of the late hostile chief, Crow King, who is one of our best Indians. He was taken sick with pneumonia early in June last, and was treated by the agency physician at his home without any very satisfactory results. One afternoon his wife came to me for permission to take her daughter, who was at school, to visit her father, whom she said was then dying. I immediately went to his camp, which is situated about 3 miles from the agency, the doctor accompanying me. On our arrival there we found several "medicine men" in his lodge, who had given him up as past recovery, and who were evidently waiting for him to breathe his last that they might possess themselves of what property he had left. Crow King was very low indeed, but the doctor thought by having him where he could be properly nursed that there was a possible chance for his recovery, but that he would certainly die if left where he then was. I had a wagon prepared, with a mattrass in it, and brought him into the agency, where he was kept in the doctor's office, with a white man remaining constantly with him until he was convalescent, and in ten days he was up and well. This wonderful cure, as the Indians considered it, has had such a good effect that a young man about 30 years of age who has been suffering some years with an injured foot, growing constantly worse, was prevailed upon to come into the agency and have the limb amputated below the knee. The operation was successfully performed on the 8th instant, and the patient is now doing well. I have cited these facts to show the necessity for a hospital at this agency, where the sick could be more successfully and humanely treated, and where the services of a physician would be rewarded by more satisfactory results.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this report I desire again to call attention to the evils wrought to the service by the "free-ration" system, which the Indians of the Great Sioux Reservation are entitled to under the existing treaty, the treaty providing without any distinction for indolent and industrious alike. The Indians, however, are only receiving about three-fourths of the ration stipulated in the agreement, but they demand the whole and are by right entitled to it. This system, however, encourages idleness and perpetuates pauperism, which, together with the holding in common of such a large tract of land as contained in the Sioux Reservation, with the claimants located at and subject to five distinct agencies, cannot but be detrimental to the service and prolongs the work of civilization. The claim of the Indians to this reservation, believed by them to be an absolute title vested in themselves, but held by the Government to be a tenure in legal effect equivalent to a tenancy for life only, affords but little encouragement to the industriously inclined, by offering no inducement to individuals in so far as obtaining titles to lands occupied and improved by them, with no avenues of escape by which they might with their own exertions be recognized as men entitled to the rights of citizenship whilst enjoying reservation privileges, together with the protection of direct laws which is accorded to the people of all nations coming to our shores, of whom there are many whose language and customs when they arrive are as different from ours as the Indians are, but the influence which the privileges of citizenship exert soon amalgamates them into the body politic. And is it not possible that the slow progress of the Indian race is as much due to their segregation from the privileges of citizenship as to all other causes combined? There is a powerful uplifting influence in the consciousness of equality and independence before the laws, and that the Indian is capable of better things has been clearly demonstrated; yet the vast majority of our Indians are still held under special circumscribed laws and deprived of the rights and privileges so freely enjoyed by all others. Thus the Indians, "the original native Americans," are the only people debarred by our otherwise beneficent Government and liberal national laws.

The solving of the Indian problem lies in appropriate legislation which should observe faithfully the fulfillment of all treaty promises made to the Indians. The Indian

will not be the first to break an engagement that he has made if the conditions are carried out with a moderate degree of fairness. But I am forced to the conclusion that it would be much better for both the Government and the Indians if there were no treaties in existence, as the Indians would not then be expecting the fulfillment of promises which are rarely ever realized as they understood the conditions to be. Moreover, as the Government has the care of the Indians and is in duty bound to provide for them, and as insufficient appropriations are yearly made by Congress, regardless of many existing treaties, would it not be better that all existing treaties with the Indian tribes be abrogated and have annual appropriations made to provide for the wants of the different tribes, without the Indians being enabled constantly to complain that the promises made in their treaties have not been fulfilled?

Recognizing the necessity for some more direct and definite laws for the Indian, and with their ultimate civilization in view, I would add that in my opinion no special or intermediate code of laws should be enacted. There should be no halting short of equality and independence before the law, and they should not be any longer circumscribed by special laws that have to be surmounted before the desired end can be attained. To advance the Indians, with a view to making each step permanent gain, the reservation boundaries should at least be contracted so as to give but sufficient lands for the actual requirements of the respective tribes residing thereon; then sell the residue of the reservations, creating a sinking fund of the proceeds for educational purposes and other beneficial objects; make the issue of rations contingent upon industry and good behavior; encourage all in their efforts to better their condition; and, finally, extend the protection of direct laws, with the rights of citizenship made possible under certain conditions, for while some will doubtless fail to realize this expectation, yet I believe that the larger majority will eventually become useful and respected citizens. The enfranchisement of the Indian would awaken for them a keener interest by the different political parties of the entire country as well as in their immediate neighborhood, who would become more interested in their welfare, and which would be a powerful factor in their advancement as well as in protecting them in their rights as citizens of the United States.

All statistical information connected with this agency is contained in the reports herewith transmitted.

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

JAMES McLAUGHLIN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

YANKTON AGENCY, DAK.,
August 10, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to submit this my second annual report of the condition of the service at this agency.

The Yanktons have occupied this reservation since 1859. The reservation contains 430,000 acres, three-fourths of which is susceptible of cultivation. The other fourth is bluff land, making excellent range for stock and protection from the storms of winter. The principal part of the reservation is rolling prairie, dotted with small lakes.

The Yanktons are gradually turning their attention to farming and stock-raising, and the interest taken in farming at this agency this year is in advance of anything we have ever had, and the result of a persistent effort is very satisfactory. Many acres of the wheat harvested this year will yield at least 20 bushels per acre. Corn and garden vegetables are very promising, and will yield the greatest crop ever gathered on the reservation.

Our agency is located on a high bench land, on the east side of the Missouri River, furnishing a very pleasant location for a healthful home.

The industries carried on here are no small part of the agency work. The herding is under the management of Indians. The work of the carpenter, tin, blacksmith, wagon, and repair shops is done by Indian labor, under the supervision of a white superintendent and a white blacksmith.

The religious instruction and influence upon this people has been as beneficial as the most sanguine could expect. Rev. J. P. Williamson, the Presbyterian missionary, has been with them for many years, in fact since his early boyhood, and holds the entire confidence of the tribe. The Episcopal mission has done a grand work. They have a boys' school, where the youths receive instruction under the direction of Bishop W. H. Hare, who makes his home here. The Episcopal mission church is in the charge of Rev. Joseph W. Cook, who speaks the Sioux and holds his day service in the Dakota.

The agency boarding-school during the last year had a very fair attendance, con-

sidering the fact that it was only the second year of the school. The education of the children of this people is of no little importance. Every one engaged either in mission or Government work feels a deep interest in this subject, and a united and harmonious effort in that direction is doing great good.

To break up the old Indian notion of marital relations is one of the most stubborn and ugly features of Indian work at this agency. Until within the last month we have had no place to confine and punish the disobedient.

On the 9th of July I commenced remarking the land of the reservation, with a view of making individual allotments. Some of the older people of the tribe opposed it, and a council was held, at which I explained to them the object, and that it was the work of the Government. This satisfied them, and now a majority of the men are anxious to take allotments. One hundred and twenty-five persons have selected and been assigned land, and the work of allotment will be completed as soon as action by the Department has been taken.

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Much distress exists among these people on account of pulmonary and scrofulous trouble.

While it is true a great many have gone to work and made rapid advance in civilization, it is equally true that a large per cent. have not made the desired improvement. Many of the young men yet stroll about the camps dressed in the original Indian costume, and do but little work during the year. A great drawback to our Indians is the want of oxen, plows, and machinery. I very much hope that before another annual report is due from this agency the necessary machinery may be furnished them, and that their miserable hovels, covered with dirt, will be made more healthful and cheerful by being furnished with board floors and shingle roofs.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM M. RIDPATH,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

FORT HALL AGENCY,
Ross Fork, Idaho, August 20, 1883.

SIR: Among the Indians under my charge, consisting of 1,085 Shoshones and 471 Bannacks, there exists a peaceable and friendly feeling. There has been no drunkenness, nor drinking, nor any disturbance on my agency during the year, except some petty differences which were easily settled.

HABITS AND DISPOSITIONS.

I find a great difference in the disposition of the two tribes under my care. The Shoshones are an industrious, good-natured, and quiet people; but the Bannacks are restless and roving, and much more difficult to control.

PROGRESS.

The condition of the Indians has very much advanced during the year, and would have been more so if greater facilities had been at hand for their use and encouragement. They have built four log houses and purchased some agricultural implements, which shows a disposition to civilization.

EVENTS.

Nothing especially has transpired during the year except the burning of the Government flouring-mill. There were 1,500 bushels of wheat and 12,000 pounds of flour, belonging mostly to the Shoshone Indians, in the mill at the time of its destruction. This circumstance created considerable excitement at the time and was a serious loss to the Indians on this reservation. It occurred on the morning of December 6, 1882. The day previous a Bannack Indian boy about 10 years old while idling about the mill was caught in the shafting. Before he could be released he was so badly injured that he died in a few minutes after being removed to his father's lodge. It created great excitement. The boy's father was absent at the time. One of his wives fled to the agency for protection. She said her husband would kill her and all he could find to avenge the boy's death. The miller also became frightened and dare not leave his house alone. The father on coming home talked very reasonably. He said his heart was bad when he found his boy dead, but he knew that no one was to blame and his