

were it not for the curse to the red man—whisky and hard cider—would become useful citizens.

I would earnestly urge that legislation be had so that hard cider be placed by the United States statutes among the list of intoxicants. There is, I believe, hundreds of barrels of hard cider sold every year to the Senecas, on the Cattaraugus Reservation alone, and under the present decisions of the United States courts it is almost impossible to stop it.

The season of 1883 being a cold, wet one the corn did not ripen and was a complete failure; consequently there was a great deal of suffering on the Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Tonawanda Reservations, but through the energetic work of the Rev. Mr. Tripp, the missionary in charge on the Cattaraugus Reservation, assisted by his wife, and the hearty co-operation of Mrs. Laura Wright, the venerable widow of the late Asher Wright, who has spent her life among the Senecas, there was no actual starvation. Through the assistance of benevolent friends, especially in Buffalo, seed-corn was furnished, and the present season promises an abundant harvest.

The Indians under my charge are making fair progress. They are improving their farms and stock. Their cattle and horses will compare favorably with their white neighbors.

The financial affairs of the Senecas of Cattaraugus and Allegany Reservations are in a bankrupt condition. The funds received from lands leased are squandered by the councilors in useless legislation, and are largely used in bribery and corruption, and have been the principal cause of the election litigation for the past year.

The nation is in debt thousands of dollars, their orders selling at 50 per cent. discount, and there is no prospect of their paying their debts, unless there is some change in the manner of collecting rents and accounting for moneys received. I would recommend that the collecting of rents be taken out of the hands of the Indians entirely; but to do so will require additional legislation, *i. e.*, an amendment of the act of February 19, 1875, as that act makes it the duty of the treasurer of the Seneca Nation to collect the rents in the villages on the Allegany Reservation.

Very respectfully,

W. PEACOCK,
Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

NORTH CAROLINA CHEROKEE AGENCY,
Nantahala, N. C., September 3, 1884.

SIR: In accordance to your order I beg leave to submit this my second annual report.

I am of the opinion that the Indians of this agency are not going backwards, but are advancing slowly towards that civilization so much desired by their friends. The customs peculiar to the Indian are now almost things of the past as regards the North Carolina Cherokees; though at times some of them are induced and persuaded by white men to have an Indian dance or ball play, but in these things they get no encouragement from their head men.

A large majority of these people are firm believers in the Christian religion. The schools, conducted by the Society of Friends for these people, have been quite successful during the last year, and so far as I have been able to judge the Cherokee children in the boarding schools at Hendersonville, N. C., and at other points have all made considerable progress, and will, no doubt, be a great advantage to their people in the future.

The grain crop raised by these Indians this year is hardly a full crop, but this is on account of the unfavorable season more than the lack of industry. Yet I assure you that if this people could get to believe that they must make their living by honest toil, and the expectation of almost fabulous amounts of money from the Government was eradicated from their minds many of them would do better than they are now doing; and in my humble opinion the sooner the North Carolina Cherokee gets his dues from the Government, be it much or little, and is made to know that the world owes him a living provided he will go to work and make it, then he will begin to move alongside his white brother.

The greatest annoyance to this people is the unsettled and complicated condition of their titles to portions of their lands which have been entered and settled by white men, and so far we have been unable to get up title papers sufficient to eject them.

There has been some sickness and a few deaths among this people during the last year, but no serious epidemic has prevailed among them. This people are much in

need of a good physician, as there are none among them, and many of them are unable to pay doctor's bills and consequently they get but little medical treatment.

The statistical report, so far as I have been able to make it, is inclosed herewith.

For the courtesies extended towards me from your Department during the last year I shall ever feel grateful.

I am your obedient servant,

SAM. B. GIBSON,
Agent North Carolina Cherokees.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

GRANDE RONDE AGENCY, OREGON,
August 19, 1884.

SIR: In conformity with instructions from the Department, I have the honor to submit this my thirteenth annual report.

The Indians of this agency for the past year have been peaceable, quiet, and as a rule, industrious. These Indians no longer live, two or more families huddled together in one hut, as they once did. But each individual family lives in their own house, upon the small tract of land allotted to them, which they cultivate and improve to the best of their ability, and in a manner that would do credit to any community. All of the Indians of this agency wear citizens' dress, and make a commendable effort to conform to the customs of life and mode of living of the white people with whom they sometimes work. Many of them are experts in the management of farm machinery and frequently get jobs through harvest from whites outside the reserve. A few of them own threshers, reapers, and mowers, which they run at their own expense and for their own benefit. These Indians are purely an agricultural and stock-raising people. There are a few head of young horses on the reserve, owned by Indians that are as good as any in the country. Their small bands of cattle are of such quality that they are sought by the Portland and Salem markets. If a good young stallion for breeding purposes could be allowed these Indians the result would be that the pony would be, in a few years, replaced by a good serviceable farm horse.

I feel confident that when the land embraced in this reservation is surveyed and allotted to the Indians, as contemplated by the letter of the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the honorable Secretary of the Interior, under date of 16th November, 1883, that they will by their industry improve the same, and by their frugality and economy soon become an important element in the community.

The yield and quality of the Indians' crops will be much better this than last year.

The condition of, and operations at, this agency for the year past has not materially changed from former years, but gradually improve each year. The mechanics in the shops and the miller and sawyer have all been busy in their respective positions during the entire year. The agricultural pursuits of these Indians require the constant employment of one blacksmith and one carpenter to keep the Indians' plows, harrows, wagons, and other farm implements in repair, thereby assisting them in sowing and harvesting their crop. From the mills they are aided to the extent of having their grain ground into flour, and such saw-logs as they may cut and haul to the mill sawed into lumber, with which they build houses, barns, fences, and otherwise improve their farms.

The agency physician is quite busy all the time attending to the sick, as the influence of the native medicine man is a thing of the past. The sick are at once reported to the physician; he informs me that the efforts made by the Indians to follow his instructions in the manner of attending the sick will compare favorably with that of white people.

The school at this agency is this, as it was last, year under the management of the Catholic Sisters of the Benedictine Order, whose efficiency and untiring zeal in the work is resulting in much good to the Indians in general, and to their pupils especially. I have every reason to believe that the school will continue to increase in number of pupils in attendance and efficiency of the work accomplished.

The missionary work of this agency is under the supervision of Rev. Father Croquet, who has devoted his entire time and energies for the spiritual and moral benefit of the Indians of this agency. Each year the reverend father makes frequent pastoral visits to the Indians on the coast, and also to those of his faith who are residents of Siletz Agency, for the last twenty-two years.

I respectfully call attention to the condition of the public building at this agency. With but two exceptions, the buildings for use of the service at this agency are by reason of decay unfit for the purposes for which they were originally designed. The dwelling houses for employes, shop, and barns are almost untenable. Attention is respectfully called to my estimate of funds, and letter of transmission dated 8th January, 1884, in reference to the subject of public buildings at this agency.