

grief consoled. In my efforts to benefit and civilize these Indians I am pleased to say that I find in the two reverend gentlemen mentioned steadfast and wise counselors, and ever ready and willing co-workers in the civilization and advancement of the Indians of this agency.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In reviewing the work of the past year connected with the special and various duties which are assigned to and required to be performed by the agent and his corps of employes within the limits of his agency the task seems at times perplexing, but all questions, however complicated, will always find an intelligent solution. In this connection I would be doing an injustice to the employes of this agency did I not state that their intelligence, capacity, and willingness to comply with any project connected with the welfare of the Indians under my charge deserve honorable mention and due recognition from me. Entering into my plans with hearty good will and spirit, their example must be salutary to the Indians.

The statistics of the different reservations have been very carefully collected, the census is correctly reported, and all the information contained in this report can be relied upon.

The Indians through me return their warmest thanks to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the furnishing to them of 300 bushels of seed wheat and 100 bushels of seed potatoes to complete the seeding of their lands last spring, and also for the late authority granted me for the purchase of \$500 worth of provisions with which to aid the Indians in carrying on their haying and harvesting successfully. With many thanks to the honorable Commissioner and the Bureau in general for the many official courtesies extended to myself the past year,

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

T. J. SHEEHAN,
U. S. Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORTS OF AGENTS IN MONTANA.

REPORT OF BLACKFEET AGENCY.

BLACKFEET AGENCY, MONTANA,
August 22, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herein the annual report of this agency for the year ending June 30, 1888.

In the month of February, 1887, a treaty was entered into with these Indians, together with the Indians belonging to the Belknap and Fort Peck Agencies, whereby they ceded to the Government the great body of the Blackfeet Reservation, then held in common by said Indians. In May of this year said treaty was duly ratified by Congress, and is now in force and effect. This treaty gives to the Indians of this agency as their permanent home and reservation substantially all that part of the old reserve lying west of a north and south line drawn from the Canadian boundary to the mouth of Cut Bank Creek, a mountain tributary of the Marias River, being a tract of land about 45 miles square. This reservation gives them sufficient land for all their wants. It is chiefly valuable for stock-grazing, the creek bottoms and hay coulees only being adapted for agricultural purposes. The uplands are very much broken and hilly, but being covered with a luxuriant growth of nutritious grasses, and the nearer the mountains, even to their summits, the same attains its greatest perfection.

The white people who have been successful in making a living in this country out of its natural resources are either miners, who have brought forth the hidden wealth of these gigantic hills by their industry, or stock-growers, who have literally covered its hills and plains with cattle, horses, and sheep. Cattle and horses here are apparently free from disease, and while the weather is severe for about two months in the year, viz, January and February, the business is profitable, and the returns sure. The cold climate and manner of living require for the subsistence of these people a large quantity of beef. This is now, and probably always will be, their principal article of food. They can and ought to raise their own supply of beef. To do this would require the purchase of about 2,000 head of heifers or cows; the increase of which would, in a few years, furnish them not only all the beef they would need for food, but would make them sellers instead of buyers of beef. These Indians like the free, open life of herding. They take good care of their ponies, and if they become, as they ought to be, self-supporting, they must engage in such pursuits

as the country they live in is best adapted to, and that is stock-grazing. Any other means of obtaining a livelihood is uncertain. Early frosts are fatal to the wheat crops about every other year. Oats and barley do well, especially the latter crop, but the nearest market is distant 100 miles.

These Indians are nearly all desirous of owning their land in severalty; they want their houses and lands inclosed with good, substantial fences. Many of them have put up good hewed-log houses, which is a marked improvement over the log cabins heretofore put up by them. They are also building stables for their ponies. Their old habits and customs are disappearing.

This year they wholly abandoned the medicine-lodge. It was a partial failure last year. In issuing the brood mares last fall, purchased by the Department for them, the Indians receiving the same were required to pledge themselves to give up this institution, which has proven in the past such a stumbling-block to their progress in civilization. Heretofore these Indians would, late in the spring, commence beating the tom-tom, a kind of a drum, the sound from which goes a long distance. These tom-toms would be heard throughout the different camps, and this noise was kept up most of the nights, together with dancing, the principal dance being the sun dance, in which none of the females were permitted to participate; all of this drumming and dancing culminating in the assemblage of all the Indians at a certain point, and the putting up of a very large wigwam, which they term a medicine-lodge, the word medicine used in the sense of religious. This lodge represents their religion or manner of worship.

In the past they have been worshipers of the sun, and would make what they call sun offerings in the way of clothing, blankets, skins, etc., which they would fasten to the trees, or on some high rock, where they would remain until the destructive forces of nature would dispose of same. Their mode of burial has heretofore been to wrap the deceased in skins and blankets, and fasten the same in the tops of trees, or upon some high butte, or upon a frame above the ground. Now this is changing, and they are adopting the burial of the whites.

These Indians have made commendable progress in their agricultural efforts. Heretofore their farm work was confined to Birch and Badger Creek bottoms. This season about 150 acres on the Two Medicine Creek were plowed and sown with potatoes, oats, and barley. On Cut Bank Creek about 70 acres were broken and planted with like seed, and on both forks of the White Tail Creeks a number of patches of ground have been plowed and planted, all of which promises a fair return for their labor.

The disposition to separate and live apart from each other is constantly increasing, and also the intention to own their own homes is evidenced by the large amount of land by them fenced. They realize that a good fence, built by their industry, puts them in the actual possession of a certain quantity of land.

In the work of farming and fencing they have been materially aided by the farmer and assistant farmers, without whose aid but little progress could have been made. Their services should be continued; their work and example are the best kind of object lessons.

There have been 8,000 rods of fence constructed by these Indians during the past year, and they have plowed and planted 340 acres of land with oats, barley, and potatoes. This year these Indians will cut and put up 300 tons of hay to feed their ponies, and now they are all desirous of so providing for their stock.

SCHOOLS.

A boarding-school has been maintained at this agency throughout the year with an average attendance of 30 pupils, while 40 pupils attend day school, both of which have made commendable progress.

The want of accommodations for a greater number limits the benefits. A new school building is demanded, and inasmuch as this is contemplated by the terms of their late treaty, it is hoped that this want will be supplied at an early day. These Indians do not want their children to leave this reservation to attend school, but they seem anxious to have better school facilities here. A few years ago quite a number of these children were taken to a mission school across the mountains, and it is said that most of them died, and they are reluctant and unwilling, in fact, to have their children go away to school.

The boarding-school children raise all of the vegetables required for the use of the school. The past year they raised a fine crop of potatoes, rutabagas, cabbages, beets, peas, and turnips. They also milked, fed, and properly cared for twelve cows.

More clothing ought to be allowed these children to keep them plainly and cleanly dressed.

The blacksmiths' and carpenters' apprentices are daily becoming more useful. They learn readily and like mechanical work. As this work is constantly increasing, there should be more apprentices in the shops.

THE INDIAN POLICE.

Were it not that this organization exists, the general advancement of these Indians would not be so great. When well organized and composed of good men, their example and restraining power are the most potent factors in the production of orderly and industrious habits among the Indians. The police force of this agency is well organized and composed of the best men of the tribe. Its influence is manifest throughout the camps; order prevails in and around the stockade and business places of the agency. The police of this agency have largely overcome the delicacy existing in making arrests and imprisoning members of their own tribe, and it is only necessary for them to know that a crime or act of violence has been committed to arrest and bring the offender before the proper tribunal. Among Indians, arrest and imprisonment of one another is and always will be distasteful. Their habits of life brook no restraint, nor fetter the licentious ambition of another.

While much good results from this branch of the service, poorly paid as it is, were their salaries such as to make the position desirable, how much more effective would be their work and greater the general advancement of the Indians in the avenues through which they have, in a small way, achieved success. A well-trained force (as a sequence a well-paid force) is demanded by the service as a protection to life and property of the Indians and employés against marauding bands of hostile Indians that are liable to visit us at any time. It is demanded by the citizens living near and even remote from the agency, for without which, situated as we are, it would be unreasonable to expect orderly camps and law-abiding Indians. Hence I would suggest, as I have often suggested to the Department, that the police should be better paid for their services.

It is but due the police to say, that during the year no acts of violence nor crimes have been committed, and but few misdemeanors (principally intoxication), the offenders being promptly punished; that their manly position in refusing to participate in or encourage the "Medicine Lodge" does them honor and largely influenced others to regard it as a thing of the past. Red Head, one of the most efficient men on the force, died during the month of June from hemorrhage of the lungs, contracted in the active discharge of his duties. Many of the police of this, will not be found on the roll of next year, for the reason that they find much more desirable and lucrative work.

MARRIAGE.

There ought to be a better arrangement as to the Indian marital relations. A matter of so much importance to them, their posterity and future welfare should receive proper consideration, and there ought to be some evidence of record of their marriage contracts. Vesting in agents authority to execute Indian marriages would benefit them very much in this respect. It is impracticable to have them conform to the Territorial marriage laws, which would require a couple to travel 250 miles accompanied by an interpreter to comply therewith, whereas a simple form could be adopted, and it is desired by these Indians. The present loose method is wrong in every sense of the word, and is calculated to make anything but a moral people of them. It is, however, gratifying to observe that plural marriages have ceased.

SANITARY.

The Indians of this agency being so remote from white settlements and military posts, are comparatively free from most of the diseases commonly found among other Indians, but many of them are affected with pulmonary complaints, and most of the deaths are from consumption. Their confidence in the agency physician and his remedies is increasing. A good, active physician has the means and opportunity of doing great good to these people.

GENERAL.

The depredations alleged to have been committed by these Indians in the past have ceased. Their industry and interest in other pursuits have operated for their general good, and as a preventive of many crimes and misdemeanors of which they were heretofore guilty. Not a single instance of horse stealing has occurred during the past year, this crime in the past being their favorite pastime. There has not been a depredation claim filed against them by any one for losses occurring during the past two years.

The present employés have been faithful and efficient in the discharge of their respective duties. Their willingness to meet the exigencies of the service in the performance of other duties not in their line, as well as their conduct and example, have aided much in making the progress which I am able to present in this report.

Better dwelling accommodations are needed for their use; their present quarters could be used to advantage as warehouses and are really better suited for such purpose.

For the prompt consideration given to their requests, as well as for the uniform kind treatment shown them, these Indians are grateful, and unite with the employés and myself in tendering thanks to the Department. Herewith find statistical report.

Respectfully submitted.

M. D. BALDWIN,
U. S. Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF CROW AGENCY.

CROW AGENCY, MONTANA,
August 15, 1888.

SIR: I have, as agent for the Crow Indians, the honor to submit my annual report for your consideration. This agency was transferred to me May 10, 1888, by H. E. Williamson, since which time I have endeavored to familiarize myself with the various duties of the office, nature of the reservation, and habits, disposition, and wants of the Indians intrusted to my charge.

It has been impossible as yet to take a census of the tribe; as soon as practicable it will be taken and forwarded. The last census, taken by Agent Williamson, shows over 600 families, aggregating nearly 2,500 Indians. Owing to their constant procurement of abortion the deaths are in excess of births; so that now, from the best information I can get, I consider 2,300 about a fair estimate of their numbers. Hereditary diseases and the abrupt change from a nomadic life and an all-meat diet to living in houses and an almost vegetable diet is causing the enormous death rate.

In disposition the Crows are peaceable, and will make no trouble for the Government if kindly and firmly treated by the agent and his employés. No events worthy of note have occurred since I assumed charge.

Most of the crops were planted before my arrival. Some of the Indians have worked well and made good gardens. Some of the best workers, however, have had their gardens completely destroyed by hail-storms—potato vines, corn, melons, wheat, and oats beaten into the ground and the garden spots left absolutely bare of vegetation. Some of the finest hay meadows were also ruined. This is very discouraging and, I fear, will make them reluctant to plant again next spring.

The scattered condition of the farming makes the duties of the additional farmers employed to teach the Indians how to farm very onerous. Most of the districts are very large, requiring a ride of from 50 to 150 miles to go over them. This renders it impossible for the farmer to give the Indians under his charge the attention that is absolutely necessary in order to teach him to support himself by farming.

Well disposed Indians, desiring to work and better their condition, are subjected to all manner of ridicule from their comrades who compose the idle, shiftless class. These latter will not work, and try to prevent others from working.

The allotment of land to each Indian is too large. In my judgment, the Crow Indian will never use 40 acres for agriculture, yet he is given 160 acres, with an additional 80 acres for each child. If he were given 40 acres of land he could be made to fence it, and if not more than fifty families were put under the charge of each farmer, they could soon be made self-supporting. Arranged in this way, the idle and vicious could be made to work.

A system of irrigating ditches should be put in the valleys of the "Big Horn" and "Little Big Horn" rivers. The cost of ditching would be small in comparison with the benefits derived therefrom.

On the subject of education I herewith inclose report of the superintendent of the agency school, marked "Exhibit A." This school is unfortunately located. Being at the agency, the coming of the "camp" every week for rations has a demoralizing effect on the pupils, practically undoing in one day all the good of six days' teaching. As the building is badly constructed for school purposes and in a dangerous condition, I would suggest removing the school at least 2 miles from the agency and locating it on a section of land set apart for school purposes. With plenty of land for the pupils to work, it could be made almost self-supporting in the way of food.

The Unitarians are doing some good near their location, but the superintendent in charge of their school does not seem to have the knack of getting along with the Indians.

The Catholic school, situated on the "Big Horn," 20 miles from the agency, is doing much good and will prove of great assistance in civilizing this tribe. They are rapidly increasing the capacity of their buildings and filling them with pupils. They are

contemplating the establishment of a branch school on Pryor's Creek for the benefit of the "Plenty Coos" wing of the tribe. I shall do all in my power to encourage and assist them in this work.

The Jesuits are doing the only missionary work now being done on the reservation. As reported a short time since, we have no "court of Indian offenses" on this reservation. I do not deem such a tribunal at all necessary, and will not organize it unless so directed.

Many of the Indians are learning industrious habits and are becoming civilized enough to understand the advantages of having money. Wood and hay contractors are employing them in their business of cutting and hauling wood and hay for the military post. They (the Indians) also make good herders and freighters. Some of the cattlemen grazing stock on the reserve are regularly employing Indians as assistant herders, and I expect to haul from the railroad with Indian teams all the supplies for this agency not under contract to be delivered. This will not alone give employment to the Indians but will enable them to buy sufficient supplies to last them through the winter. This last sentence may seem superfluous, as the Government is supposed to feed the tribe, but in point of fact the amount of meat given them (5½ pounds per week) but keeps them in a half-starved state. They actually need and should have at least 7½ pounds of meat per week. If that is impossible from the annual appropriation, adopt the Indian's own suggestion; that is, use a portion of the money derived from grazing permits in buying more beef. Half-starved men are always dissatisfied and can not and will not work.

The cattle issued to Indians by my predecessors were branded with individual brands and herded by the agency herder with the beef-cattle. In June I rounded up the herd, branded all the calves that were old enough to brand, and put each Indian in possession of his own cattle. I particularly instructed them in regard to taking care of their cattle, and so far they are carefully caring for and herding them. In some few cases hunger has driven them to kill a beef or yearling. Early in September I expect to have the "fall round up" and will clear the range of all cattle except the beef herd. This may be a wrong move, as the pangs of hunger may drive the Indians to slaughter many of their cattle this coming winter. In anticipation of this I have issued orders to my police to report all cases of cattle killing, and shall try, by promptly punishing the first offenders caught, to "nip it in the bud."

The fuel supply is a serious question to be considered. The number of persons necessarily here require a large supply of fuel, and its long distance from the agency renders it extremely difficult to keep on hand a good supply. Measures should be taken by the Department to open some of the coal banks within 20 miles of the agency, or permission should be given the agent to buy fuel from the Indians. This latter plan would be the best, as the Indians have plenty of ponies and wagons and it would encourage them to habits of industry. The agent should also be authorized to buy hay and oats from the Indians. The Indians living within 10 miles of the agency could easily furnish a sufficient quantity of oats at a cost not exceeding \$1.25 per 100 pounds, and hay at a cost not exceeding \$6 per ton. This would not alone save money to the Government, but would encourage the Indian in his farming experiments.

The presence of a large military post, with its numbers of "hangers on" in the way of sub-contractors and teamsters, and the fact that unlimited quantities of beer and wine are allowed to be there sold, is detrimental to the moral and industrial advancement of the Indian.

The marriage of white men to Indian women on the reservation is another evil which should, if possible, be checked. The white man who would now marry an Indian woman is low and degraded enough to commit any crime. With the exception of Thomas Steward, the interpreter, all "squaw men" should be ordered off the reservation. With their superior advantage of civilization and education they have selected the choicest places of location, and without the consent of the agent or the sanction of the special allotting agent, have caused their lands to be surveyed and platted, putting the whole amount allowed to the head of families and each child, grazing and tillable, in the most fertile agricultural valleys, and then making a vigorous protest against any Indian settling near them. One of these "squaw men" claims the right, by virtue of the interest of his wife and children, to pasture 20,000 sheep on the reservation.

The boundary-lines of this reservation is another important subject and should receive immediate attention. The east line is merely a nominal one, and if protest is made against trespassing the reply is, "show us your boundary-line." The condition is even worse on the south and southwest, where the "grangers" and miners are located. On the southwest there is a strip of land 6 miles in width in dispute, private surveys on the part of the miners placing the line 6 miles north of the point claimed by the Government under the "Blake survey." These points, causing much worry to the agent and the loss of considerable revenue to the Indians, should be settled at an early day.

I would respectfully call attention to the subject of a ferry or a bridge across the Big Horn River. At most times it is impossible to ford this stream, and large numbers of the Indians are necessarily compelled to cross it in coming to the agency. The military, having possession of the desirable point of crossing, have established a ferry, and there is much complaint from them because they have to cross the Indians without pay. The establishment of a ferry across the Big Horn at or near the mouth of Beauvais Creek, that being the most direct route to Pryor's Creek, would be of much benefit.

It would also be of advantage to establish a telephone line between this agency and Fort Custer. I can, without cost to the Department, put in the necessary posts. The Signal Service will furnish the wire, and it would only remain for the Indian Bureau to furnish the telephone instruments to carry the scheme into effect.

Trusting this report will meet the requirements of the honorable Commissioner, I am, very respectfully,

E. P. BRISCOE,
U. S. Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF FLATHEAD AGENCY.

FLATHEAD AGENCY, MONTANA,
August 16, 1888.

SIR: In accordance with instructions, I herewith submit my twelfth annual report, with census and accompanying statistics.

The confederated tribes of this reservation consist of the Pend d'Oreilles, the Flatheads, and the Kootenais, Charlot's band of Bitter Root Flatheads, and Michel's band of Lower Kalispels, who removed here last year, making a total in all of Indians under my charge 2,018, under the following

RECAPITULATIONS.

Confederated tribes: Total number.....	1,767
Males over eighteen years.....	535
Females over fourteen years.....	623
School children between six and sixteen years.....	428
Charlot's band of Bitter Root Flatheads: Total number.....	189
Males over eighteen years.....	56
Females over fourteen years.....	68
Children between six and sixteen years.....	42
Lower Kalispels: Total number.....	62
Males over eighteen years.....	21
Females over fourteen years.....	22
Children between six and sixteen years.....	14

THE PEND D'OREILLES

Are the most numerous tribe of the confederation, and are, as a rule, well behaved and industrious. They are fast advancing in the various paths of civilization, education, and industrial habits. Their homes are principally in the vicinity of the Mission Valley. They have well-cultivated farms, comfortable dwellings, herds of cattle, and a number of them take great pride in cultivation of orchards and gardens. Their chief is an old man, of good character, who cultivates the soil and leads a quiet and unobtrusive life among his people.

THE KOOTENAI INDIANS.

Of the Kootenai Indians who reside on the reservation and who are of the confederated tribes of the reserve, very little can be said in the way of advancement, either in civilizing pursuits, morality, or religion. They live on Dayton Creek, on the border of the Flathead Lake, and are, as a rule, inveterate loafers and gamblers. It is a distance of about 70 miles from the agency to where the Kootenai tribe make their home. They have some land under cultivation, but are so far from the agency that their efforts at improvement can not be well seconded by the employés or the agent.

The missionaries at Saint Ignatius are building a church at the Kootenai settlement, and through them and the efforts of the chief, who is himself a progressive

Indian, I hope to report an improvement this year. A resident farmer should be sent to Dayton Creek to aid, direct, and encourage the efforts which are already being made to elevate this tribe from their present condition.

CHIEF ARLEE.

This is the Flathead chief who entered into an agreement with General Garfield on the 27th of August, 1872, to remove from the Bitter Root Valley to the Jocko Reservation, which he did, and was followed by about twenty-two families. The head chief, Charlot, refuses to sign the agreement and also refused to remove from the Bitter Root Valley. Arlee is now an old man, and respected by the families who followed him from the Bitter Root Valley to this reservation. Those said families are settled around in the vicinity of the agency, and although they have farms and houses and cultivate the soil and raise cattle, are not as well off as they should be. Arlee was second chief when the Garfield agreement was signed, and upon his removal to this reservation was recognized by the Government as the head of the tribe and with his people received all its bounty. This is the great cause of Charlot's bitterness and his refusal to remove to the reservation.

CHARLOT'S BAND OF BITTER ROOT FLATHEADS.

On the 12th of August, 1884, under orders from the Secretary of the Interior, I met Charlot's band of Bitter Root Indians at Saint Mary's Mission, in the Bitter Root Valley, and after a careful census found the following result :

Married men	79
Unmarried males above 16 years.....	25
Boys under 16.....	68
Total number of males.....	172
Married women.....	100
Marriageable girls.....	9
Girls under the age of puberty.....	61
Total number of females.....	170

In all, 342 individuals, of whom 101 were heads of families.

At this date, August 12, 1888, there remains of Charlot's band living in the Bitter Root Valley :

Total number of Indians.....	189
Males above 18 years.....	56
Females above 14 years.....	68
Children between 6 and 16 years.....	42

By above figures it will be seen that the band of Charlot's are gradually removing from the Bitter Root Valley and are settling on the Jocko Reservation.

In January, 1884, Chief Charlot and four of his head-men, accompanied by the agent and an interpreter, visited Washington under orders from the Indian Department. Nearly a month was spent at the National Capital, and during that time several interviews were held with the Secretary of the Interior, but no offer of pecuniary reward or persuasion of the Secretary could shake Charlot's resolution to remain in the Bitter Root Valley. An offer to build him a house, fence in and plow a sufficiency of land for a farm; give him cattle, horses, seed, agricultural implements, and to do likewise for each head of a family in his band; also a yearly pension to Charlot of \$500, and be recognized as the heir of Victor, his deceased father, and to take his place as head chief of the confederated tribes of Flatheads, Pend d'Oreilles, and Kootenais Indians living on the Jocko Reservation, had no effect.

After returning to the reservation the agent was instructed to use his best judgment in regard to inducing the removal of the tribe. Under the following offer seventeen families removed and settled on the reservation :

First. Choice of 160 acres of unoccupied land.

Second. Assistance in the erection of a substantial house.

Third. Assistance in fencing and breaking up a field of 10 acres.

Fourth. The following gift: Two cows, a wagon and harness, plows, with other necessary implements, seed for the first year, and provisions until the first crop was harvested.

Having taken advantage of the opportunity, they removed and were settled as agreed, and most of them are now selling a surplus of the productions of the soil.

Other families followed afterwards, but authority has not yet been granted to extend to them the same facilities as were given the original families who took advantage of the offer.

If Congress would give the Indians the right of alienation and to sell and dispose of their possessions in the Bitter Root Valley for their own benefit, or to let the land revert back to the Government, and let it be sold for the benefit of the rightful owners and heirs, with a view of expending the money in giving them homes on the reservation, the question would soon be settled, and the Flatheads would remove to the Jocko Reservation, including Chief Charlot, who has lived to regret his refusal of the generous offer made to him by the Government.

THE LOWER KALISPELS

On the 27th day of April, 1887, the Northwest Indian Commission on the part of the United States and the chiefs and head-men and other adult Indians of the confederate bands of Flatheads, Pend d'Oreilles, and Kootenai Indians entered into a certain agreement at this reservation. It was there and then announced that it was the policy of the United States Government to remove to and settle upon Indian reservations scattered bands of non-reservation Indians, so as to bring them under the care and protection of the United States. As the Lower Pend d'Oreilles or Kalispel Indians expressed a desire and entered into an agreement under certain promises of assistance to be guaranteed by the agreement to remove to the Flathead Reservation, the said confederate bands of Flatheads, Pend d'Oreilles, and Kootenais agreed with the commission to allow the Kalispels to remove to and settle upon their lands. It seems, up to present date, the United States Congress has not confirmed or passed upon said agreement and it leaves the Indians in question in a very undecided and unsatisfactory condition.

On the 25th of September, 1887, I reported to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs that Michael, one of the chiefs of the wandering bands of Lower Kalispels, who met the northwest Indian commission at Sand Point, in Idaho Territory, and who signed the agreement to remove to this reservation with the families who acknowledged him as chief, was at the Flathead Agency; that he came to request transportation, by railroad or otherwise, for fifteen families from Idaho to the Flathead Reservation. The chief at the time fully understood that the agreement with the northwest commission, which he signed should be ratified by Congress before it could go into effect, and that there was no means at the disposal of the Indian Office to pay for transportation or to take care of those families until such provisions were made by Congress. But he appealed to the honorable Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, through my office, to grant them the aid and facilities he desired to remove his band while they were anxious and willing to come to the Flathead Reservation, where it was expected they would cultivate the soil for a living and abandon their wandering and vagabond life. The appeal was listened to, and the Indian Office furnished means to bring the band to this reservation, and also provided means of support until the close of the fiscal year, which ended June 30, 1888. During the year this band, with whatever aid could be afforded them from the agency, commenced farming in a small way, and gave ample evidence that with proper attention and the assistance promised in the agreement in which they entered with the northwest commission, they would soon become tillers of the soil and placed on the highway to civilization and self-support. The number of Michael's band removed from the Kalispel Valley to this reservation under such circumstances are as follows:

Total number	62
Males over 18 years	21
Females over 14 years	22
Children between 6 and 16 years	14

VICTOR, HEAD CHIEF

of this band, after the commission left talked to his people against removal to the reservation, but, as events show, is now solicitous and urgent in his appeal to the Government to carry out the provisions of the agreement with the northwest Indian commission, and to remove his people at once to the Flathead Reservation. In fact, he has asked, and I have made the request from the Indian Office to provide the means of transportation for himself and his band from the Kalispel Valley, in Idaho Territory, to this reservation.

BUFFALO, ON THE RESERVATION.

In 1878, one year after I took charge of the Flathead Reservation, believing that in the manner in which buffalo were being slaughtered by white hunters for their

hides, and by travelers and would-be sportsmen, who shot the animals down and left their carcasses to taint the atmosphere where they fell, I conceived the idea that this noble beast, which is now almost extinct on the American plains, might be saved from total annihilation by getting some of them on an Indian reservation, where they could be bred, herded, and cared for by the Indians. There were no buffaloes west of the Rocky Mountains, and the nearest herd was on the eastern plains in the vicinity of Fort Shaw, in the Territory of Montana. At my suggestion, Indians undertook and succeeded in driving two young buffalo cows and a bull from a wild herd, near Fort Shaw, through Cadotte's Pass, and across the main divide of the Rocky Mountain range into the Flathead Reservation, on the Pacific slope. The buffalo have increased from three to twenty-seven head. Besides, several males were slaughtered by the Indians for their feasts, as it was deemed better for propagation not to have too many bulls running in the herd. The buffalo are now owned by two individual half-breed cattle owners of this reservation. Tempting offers have been made to them to sell the herd, but I advise a continuation of ownership. It seems to me that the Government should take steps to secure these buffalo, which are among the last remnants of the millions that roamed the great American plains in former days. They could be herded, cared for, and the number increased in proportion to that of similar herd of stock cattle.

AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PURSUITS.

The average of planting has vastly increased this year, and every agricultural valley on the reservation is dotted with Indian homes, well-fenced farms, comfortable houses, cultivated fields and gardens. A majority of the Indians also have herds of cattle, for which they have individual brands, and herd and care for them with the same ambition for increase and profit as the white farmer and stock-raiser.

THE COURT OF INDIAN OFFENSES.

Since the establishment of this tribunal on the reservation there has been a marked change. Before its inauguration the chiefs were head and front, and their decision and action went unquestioned among the tribes. A small bribe from a cattle-owner secured the right from the chief, without consulting anybody, to drive cattle and herd them on the reservation. Questionable characters in the same way introduced themselves among the Indians in various occupations; gambling and the introduction of whisky with all their attendant excesses and crimes was the rule. But after the court of Indian offenses became established and the induction into office of Indians of character with the elevation and advancement of the tribes in view, a curb was put upon the action of the chiefs, who at first opposed the rulings of the court of Indian offenses and the action of the Indian police. But by promptness and firmness the court was sustained and the chiefs as well as the Indians were brought under its rulings.

It gives me great pleasure to learn that provisions have been made to allow the judges compensation for their service, as their duties entail a loss of time which should be rewarded, as each of them at this agency are tillers of the soil and stock-raisers.

STOCK KILLED AND INJURED ON THE RAILROAD.

Since the opening of the Northern Pacific Railroad through this reservation a great number of Indian stock has been killed or injured. I kept a careful list of the stock so killed or injured, with the names of owners, their residence, the date of killing, the value thereof, etc., and on the 11th of November, 1884, D. K. Ford, the general claim agent of the railroad, visited the agency and allowed sixty claims to individual Indians for the killing and injuring of stock, amounting to the sum of \$3,155. Since that date, including the sum allowed for the first sixty claims, the sum paid to the Indians on this reservation for killing and injury to stock to July 1, 1888, is \$11,469.50. The company have made arrangements to put up a wire fence along the most dangerous part of their line running through the reserve. The settlements with the Indians by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company have been most honorable and the Indians were satisfied, as they received the full market value of their animals killed or maimed; but it will be a great benefit to the Indians to fence the railroad, as the money paid to them for the killing of cattle or horses is generally spent in frivolous ways instead of replacing the stock killed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER RONAN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF FORT BELKNAP AGENCY.

FORT BELKNAP AGENCY, MONTANA,
August 31, 1888.

SIR: In compliance with instructions, I have the honor to submit my second annual report of affairs at this agency, with accompanying statistics.

CENSUS.

The census taken this year shows:

Gros Ventres:	
Males over 18 years	245
Females over 14 years	259
School children between 6 and 16 years	223
Males under 6 years	121
Females under 6 years	116
	964
Assinaboines:	
Males over 18 years	193
Females over 14 years	266
School children between 6 and 16 years	160
Males under 6 years	130
Females under 6 years	81
	830
Total number of Indians of both tribes	1,794

The utmost care was used in the enumeration of the census, and valuable aid was rendered in its preparation through the efficiency of Charles Ohlerking, agency employé, and William Bent, interpreter. The census shows an increase of about four per cent. in the population of these tribes. This increase is due to the births outnumbering the deaths.

THE RESERVE.

The agreement made by the northwestern commission with the Indians, ratified and confirmed by Congress and approved May 1, 1888, throws open to settlement several million acres of land, including the site of the present agency, and necessitating at an early date the removal of the Indians and the establishment of agency buildings upon the reduced reservation, the boundaries of which are described per treaty as follows, to wit:

Beginning at a point in the middle of the main channel of Milk River, opposite the mouth of Snake Creek; thence due south to a point due west of the western extremity of the Little Rocky Mountains; thence due east to the crest of said mountains at their western extremity; thence following the southern crest of said mountains to the eastern extremity thereof; thence in a northerly direction in a direct line to a point in the middle of the main channel of Milk River, opposite the mouth of People's Creek; thence up Milk River in the middle of the main channel thereof to the place of beginning; and estimated to contain about 840,000 acres of land.

The land on this reservation consists of prairie or bench lands, second to none in Montana for stock-raising purposes; fertile river and creek bottoms, susceptible of producing in abundance all agricultural products adapted to the Territory.

In July, authority was given me to have broken or plowed several hundred acres of land, that it might become mellowed by time and the frosts of winter, thereby rendering it available for crop-raising purposes for the Indians the coming season. In using this authority, I have had the land broken in small farms of from 5 to 10 acres each, with a view of an early allotment of the lands in severalty, and had these farms so scattered as to give the heads of each family and their children the requisite number of acres to which they would be so entitled.

Nearly all of the selections made were chosen by the heads of families in person, under the supervision of the additional farmer. A majority of these selections have been made by the Assinaboines. The Gros Ventres, as a tribe, are slow in making their selections of locations. When the subject is discussed with them, as a rule they desire to know where the agency is to be located before selecting sites for their new homes; hence, as the selection of agency site has not been definitely settled and approved by the President, very little land has been broken for them.

When the Indians are removed to their new homes on the reduced reservation, and supposedly to be theirs for all time to come, I believe that their best interests will be served if located upon the lands as selected in severalty. They will be better prepared

to acquire their severalty rights at this period than at any other time. Such a course would at once break up the village life for which they have been noted, and give them the idea of ownership, and if carried out would be a rapid stride towards their prosperity and self-sustainment.

AGENCY LOCATION.

As soon as I was officially advised of the ratification and approval of the treaty, thus necessitating the early removal of the Indians, I at once communicated with you, urging that early action be taken; that settlers were pouring in on all sides, and I believed that the best interests of the Indian service could only be served by the early removal of the Indians to the reduced reservation. In July, Special Agent Henry Heth reached this agency, for the purpose of accompanying me on a tour of inspection looking to the selection of an agency site, making necessary estimates for buildings, etc.

Upon that trip every possible available point was visited, and as I had heretofore thoroughly familiarized myself by personal visits and inspection, justice to the Indians, as their agent, compelled me to differ with Special Agent Heth as to location of agency site. When taken into consideration that the cost of erection of all agency buildings, improvements, etc., comes from the treaty fund of the Indians, as per treaty, this location should be so centralized as that the greatest good will accrue to the greatest number. I am satisfied that an agency location properly centered would be a great incentive towards inducing the Indians to settle upon their lands in severalty and selecting for their homes such portions of their reservation as to enable them to become "tillers of the soil" and eventually self-supporting citizens.

Special Agent Heth recommended that the agency be located upon Lodge Pole Creek, near the foot-hills of the Little Rocky Mountains. The water on this small stream within a few hundred yards of the mountains sinks or disappears beneath the rocks, to reappear three-fourths of a mile below, and it is well known by those familiar with the situation that in 1836 this stream was dry, from one-half mile below its reappearance to its mouth. The bottom land is not susceptible of being utilized for Indian farms for more than one-half dozen families, and the same may be said of most of the so-called creeks issuing from the Little Rocky Mountains. The timber resources of this mountain are limited. Forest fires of recent years have comparatively denuded it of timber, and the timber-bearing qualities of the same are, and have been, greatly exaggerated.

My recommendation was that an agency site be selected on Milk River, at a point nearly half way between Peoples Creek and Snake Creek. Such location would be convenient to the Indians, and they can locate their farms both east and west of agency; successfully propagate as farmers all cereals adapted to this climate. This valley is 25 miles long and from 3 to 10 miles wide, where, for all time to come, they can find ample land for agricultural purposes and an abundance of hay for stock feeding and utilizing the bench lands in the rear as a summer feeding-ground for stock. I consider the subject of timber a secondary consideration; all "coolies" in the foot-hills are teeming with an abundance of Montana's best coal, giving assurance that for all time to come they will have an abundant fuel supply.

Three-fourths of the Indians will from choice locate upon Milk River, and seven-eighths from necessity, that they may become individual owners of farms and agricultural people, will so locate. It would be an injustice to them to have the agency located at or near the Little Rocky Mountains, and compel the large proportion of Milk River settling Indians to travel the barren, snow-covered, bench lands for twenty-five miles or more, between their Milk River homes and the mountain agency, if so located, for the purpose of receiving their weekly rations (which by treaty they are entitled to) for at least five months in the year. It would be a physical impossibility for even the strong and vigorous ones to make this trip. Justice to their interests urgently demands that I reiterate my former recommendation, "that the new agency be located on Milk River, with a sub-agency situated near the Little Rockies, that supplies may be issued during the winter months from that point to those locating there."

AGRICULTURAL.

The past year shows a decided improvement among the Indians as farmers. They are beginning to realize the results of their labors, by finding a ready market for oats and vegetables grown upon their farms. As a rule the Indian farms have been well cultivated, and will yield this season abundant crops. Their present farms were broken for them in large fields, necessitating to some extent co-operative farming, with as many as twenty families with gardens in the same field, and, as a result, at harvest time, the so-called "chief" usually gets the lion's share. As a consequence many of them have become dissatisfied and are expressing a desire for individual

farms, which are being broken for them at present as heretofore noted, and will greatly aid in obliterating this chieftainship.

STOCK RAISING.

During the year, under the authority of the Department, I have issued to individual Indians 370 cows, calves, and bulls, as a beginning for their future stock-raising purposes. As a rule this stock has been well cared for. Many of them have domesticated their cows and greatly appreciate the milk for family use, and in a few instances they are making butter. I believe it would be a wise investment to purchase and issue to them 1,000 cows, the increase of which in a few years would be such as to render the annual beef-supply purchase entirely unnecessary.

POLICE.

The police force consists of one captain and thirteen privates. As a rule they are efficient and are quick to respond when called upon to perform the services for which they are appointed.

CRIMES.

The year has been comparatively free from crimes. I have had occasion to arrest but three Indians, and they were placed under arrest and punished for "borrowing" twenty-three horses from their neighbors across the international boundaries. Having no guard-house at the agency they were sent to Fort Assinaboine, where Colonel Otis, commandant, kept them confined in the post guard-house thirty days, with a daily intermission of a few hours at wood-sawing and other labor, as a punishment for the offense. The stolen horses were turned over to the military and through the kindness of Colonel Otis sent to the international line and there delivered to the northwest mounted police, for return to their owners.

Two raids have been made by the Canadian blood Indians upon these Indians this season, and about one-half of the horses stolen by them have been recovered.

SANITARY.

The general health of the Indians has been good and the medicine-man is gradually losing his influence. A lack of proper transportation greatly hampers the efficiency of the agency physician. The necessary transportation should by all means be furnished him for his use at the earliest date possible, that he may make at least weekly visits to the different settlements. Many of the progressive Indians who have no faith in the medicine-man have expressed this desire to me.

The births during the year exceed the deaths, by quite a large number, which speaks well for the sanitary condition of the tribes and their healthfulness.

SCHOOLS.

An agency day school has been in operation for the past year. The teachers have been efficient and satisfactorily performed their duties. The average attendance has been twenty-three scholars per day, but like the majority of Indian day schools it does not meet the necessary requirements for the education of the Indian youth.

MISSION SCHOOL.

The advancement made by the pupils at the St. Paul's Mission School, located upon the east fork of Peoples Creek, near the Little Rocky Mountains, under the able management of Rev. F. Eberschweiler, superintendent, assisted by the Mother Superior and sisters, is gratifying. Large additions have been made to the buildings and new ones erected, thereby increasing facilities for the education and training of an increased number of pupils. I am pleased that the contract has been increased to fifty scholars for the ensuing year.

SURVEY.

The boundary lines of the reduced reservation should be surveyed and properly marked by mounds or otherwise at an early date. The ceded lands are being rapidly settled, rendering this survey all the more important. If delayed I greatly fear that trouble may ensue on account of encroachments of white settlers upon Indian grounds.

CONCLUSION.

In reviewing my work for the past year, I am pleased to report there is to be noticed in all directions evidences of progress and improvement on the part of these Indians. They are better workers, better farmers, and are showing an increased disposition to help themselves.

Thanking you for the kind assistance rendered me by the officers of the Department, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWIN C. FIELDS,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF FORT PECK AGENCY.

FORT PECK AGENCY, MONTANA,
August 15, 1888.

SIR: In compliance with your circular of July 1, 1888, I have the honor to submit my annual report for the last fiscal year.

THE DIMINISHED RESERVATION

for the Indians now attached to and receiving rations at this agency, consists of about 1,700,000 acres, and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a point in the middle of the main channel of the Missouri River, opposite the mouth of Big Muddy Creek; thence up the Missouri River, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to a point opposite the mouth of Milk River; thence up the middle of the main channel of Milk River to Porcupine Creek; thence up Porcupine Creek, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to a point 40 miles due north in a direct line from the middle of the main channel of the Missouri River, opposite the mouth of Milk River; thence due east to the middle of the main channel of the Big Muddy Creek; thence down said creek, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to the place of beginning.

These Indians are already beginning to enjoy the benefits arising from this treaty by which in lieu of lands surrendered they are to receive annually \$165,000 for ten years, to be expended for them by the honorable Secretary of the Interior, in the purchase of subsistence and supplies. The treaty was ratified by Congress and approved May 1, 1888, and the few Indians who were somewhat opposed to signing the articles of agreement at the time of presentation to them by the Commissioners, in December, 1886, are now highly elated over the result.

THE CENSUS

was to be taken very carefully this year. Every house and tepee was visited by the commissary clerk, agency interpreter, and police, and particular inquiry made to ascertain facts, so much so, that I believe the report as nearly accurate as it is possible to be, with present facilities for making the count.

Yanktons:

Whole number of Indians.....	1, 178
Males over 18 years of age.....	294
Females over 14 years of age.....	370
School children between 6 and 16 years of age.....	230

Assinaboines:

Whole number of Indians.....	713
Males over 18 years of age.....	192
Females over 14 years of age.....	248
School children between 6 and 16 years of age.....	124

In addition there are perhaps two hundred Indians who are off the reservation (without leave) some roaming around hunting game and picking berries, and others employed during the summer on the cattle and sheep ranches and elsewhere. As suggested in my last report, I believe midwinter, when all are at home, the best time to take the census.

FARMING.

No lands have been allotted among these Indians. They are not yet prepared for allotment, but a majority of them have taken small farms and patches, built cabins,

and made other improvements quite commendable for a people who two years ago were nearly all living in tepees and shifting about from place to place, on the reservation and off, manifesting no interest whatever in tilling the soil. The agency farms were this year abandoned and the time of the farmers and other employes given in instructing and assisting the Indians in cultivating their farms and patches. Owing to the backward season, planting was not begun until the first week in May, finishing the work on the 20th of that month.

The Yanktons put in 200 acres between the Big Muddy Creek, the eastern boundary of the diminished reservation, and the Toulees, 12 miles west of Poplar River; and the Assinaboines planted 225 acres between the Toulees and Milk River, the western boundary line. The crops consist of two-fifths potatoes and the rest of corn and garden truck—all Indian cultivation. Last year there were 613 acres cultivated, but 95 acres were in agency farms, and perhaps 100 acres more was land outside the present diminished reservation. In many places Indians removed late in the spring to permanently locate, and no land, save a garden spot, was broken. Many having no oxen or ponies, were dependent upon agency stock to break ground, and we found it impossible, with six head of horses, to prepare fields for all this season.

These Indians are very greatly in need of work cattle and wagons. Among the Yanktons there are only eight yoke of oxen, and the Assinaboines, twenty-six yoke. Both tribes own about seventy available pony teams for light work. One hundred yoke of oxen and as many wagons are needed, and I am glad to say that steps are being taken to purchase one-half this number this season, so that next spring farming and other work by Indians will not be so much an uphill business.

There are 2,000 acres under fence on this reservation; 3,200 rods of fencing being made this season. One hundred and ninety-seven heads of families are engaged in cultivating the soil this year—half of them working with hoes only, as they have no work cattle, ponies, or farm implements.

CIVILIZATION.

It is generally conceded in this vicinity that these Indians have perceptibly advanced the past year in the manners and customs of the white man. They manifest a greater disposition to reside in houses, to wear clothing, to till the soil, to do freighting, to encourage the school, and to work when opportunity offers. Morally, little can be said. Among some of them there has been an improvement, but a majority have made little or no change, and the loafers have rather retrograded, in my opinion. Every effort is being made by all hands to improve the morals of these people, but so far it seems a difficult undertaking.

STOCK-RAISING.

Very little attention has heretofore been given to this industry. The census shows 555 ponies, 761 head cattle, including cows and calves; 8 hogs, 305 sheep, and 1,000 chickens. The heavy loss of stock in the winter of 1886-'87 so discouraged the few who had been induced to raise cattle that they gave it up in the spring of 1887, and only here and there have I succeeded in getting an Indian to take hold of this industry, even on a small scale. They are, however, taking more interest this summer, and have stables and sheds now where they had no shelter heretofore, and I believe they will make a better showing in this important branch hereafter. Their ponies are generally small, inferior stock, and of little value. The cattle are good common stock. Three hundred are owned by J. A. Culbertson, an intelligent and industrious half-breed, who has given special attention to cattle raising the past few years. These Indians more than ever appreciate the value of cattle, and are beginning to take much better care of the little stock they own. They seem anxious to possess oxen, and begin to understand how useless their small, weak ponies are. Much good would be accomplished by distributing a few hundred heifers and 100 yoke of oxen among them. It must not be expected that an Indian will become self-supporting in this country by tilling the soil, as there are too many dry seasons; but, if given a start, there is no reason (if looked after by agent and employes) why he should not succeed as well in raising stock as the white man and largely become, in this manner, self-supporting. This reservation is naturally adapted to rearing cattle and sheep, and it should be so utilized.

THE AGENCY BOARDING-SCHOOL

has been successfully conducted the past year. The average attendance was 193.17. In January last there were 216 pupils enrolled, all of whom were in actual attendance. The employes consisted of superintendent, matron, one principal teacher, two teachers, one industrial teacher, seamstress, laundress, cook, baker, and night-watch-

man. The entire expense of the school was sustained by the Department, the average cost of each pupil, including salaries paid employes, being \$111.38. As a rule, the children have made gratifying progress.

Regular work in addition to study and recitation is provided for the various "details" each day, the usual assembly exercises in the evenings, and Sabbath school every Sunday. The boys are required to care for the oxen and cows, haul water, cut wood, cultivate the garden and farm, consisting of 15 acres planted in corn, potatoes, cabbages, beans, onions, etc., while the girls are taught sewing, kitchen and dining-room details, laundrying, and general house-work. Four boys are apprentices at the carpenter and blacksmith shops, where they devote one-half the time. I do not anticipate these children will become statesmen to out prominent figures in the great national council at Washington, but I confidently believe they will acquire such habits of industry and gain advantages at this school that will enable them to become self-sustaining when they arrive at maturity.

The school buildings are too small for so many children and the facilities generally inadequate. The superintendent and all employes have labored under many disadvantages, which I hope to see obviated when the new school building is up and other contemplated improvements are made. The present buildings consist of a two-story frame, 35 by 97, intended to accommodate 75 pupils; a one-story frame, 16 by 40, used as a recitation room—in bad repair, an old, old log building, 16 by 160, originally intended for 50 pupils, but now almost worthless; log barn, 16 by 18, log cow stable, 14 by 16, and a log ice-house. Nearly all the log structures are unfit for use, but we can not dispense with them until something better is provided, which we hope for next year.

POLICE.

The police force, consisting of 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, and 13 privates at Poplar Creek for service among the Yanktons, and 1 captain and 5 privates at Wolf Point subagency for service among the Assinaboines, have not been as efficient as I could wish, and several changes during the year became necessary. Their intentions are good and will do anything, if told and directed, but some of them failed to take proper interest in the discharge of their duties and were not sufficiently aggressive. The force is distributed in the various neighborhoods throughout the reservation, and no doubt their presence has a beneficial influence in preventing crime. It has been difficult to obtain suitable policemen who own ponies, and it is useless to enlist one without a pony. Many do not care to enter the service and furnish and feed a pony for \$8 a month. They have recently been supplied with new revolvers, and belts and holsters, to take the place of arms and accouterments practically worthless. They feel encouraged and there is prospect for the betterment of this service.

FREIGHTING AND LABOR.

These Indians hauled with their own teams 160,000 pounds of Government supplies from the agency warehouse, at Poplar Creek, to Wolf Point subagency, 25 miles, and 125 tons of hay from the Toulees, 10 miles east of Wolf Point, to agency and school at Poplar Creek. For this service they were paid \$900. They were also employed by contractors and others to freight supplies and goods from the Missouri River steamboat landing and from the railroad station to agency warehouse, military post, traders' stores, etc., also to haul wood for contractors, and other transporting, amounting in all, to perhaps, \$2,500. Indians have been paid during the year for labor about the agency \$1,230.25, and I estimate they have received for various kinds of work about the railroad and for individuals not less than \$2,000 more.

AGENCY BUILDING.

There are forty-seven buildings, so called, carried on the rolls at this agency. Eighteen of these are frame, the rest log structures; one-half of the log buildings are of little or no value, save the timber in them suitable for fuel. Some of them I shall ask to have condemned this season. Those needed and of some value I have repaired and put in shape. The frame buildings (those needing it) have been painted and otherwise improved. A new dwelling should be erected for the agency farmer, as his house is an old tumble-down log building, unfit for occupancy.

MISSIONARY WORK AND RELIGION.

Rev. George W. Wood has been at this agency nine years, engaged in missionary work. He conducts an interesting and instructive English and Dakota service every Sabbath, but I can not say that his efforts are converting many of the natives. These Indians trouble themselves very little about religious matters. Many are Mormons,

with a strong belief in polygamy, not, however, because they have any profound religious convictions. Polygamy suits their tastes. The medicine men have lost their hold and there are few cases of killing ponies and destroying property of deceased Indians. The practice of burying blankets and presents with their dead still continues. The great hope of overcoming these superstitions is in the education of the young, which is being realized to some extent already.

SANITARY.

Fully 30 per cent. of these Indians are afflicted more or less with rheumatism, scrofula, consumption, and constitutional diseases of a venereal character. They are learning the value of the white man's medicine and have patronized the agency physician much more this year than last.

It is noticeable that the "medicine man" is rapidly losing his grip. His tom-tom is not heard about the sick so frequently. He is consequently becoming despondent, a chronic grumbler, and imagines the red man and his wild West are going to the "dickens."

One thing greatly needed is suitable hospital accommodations at the agency for the benefit of the school pupils and others whose cases can only be properly treated at such a place.

EMPLOYÉS.

The employés have generally been faithful and rendered good service, as good, according to report, as ever had at this agency. Most of the exceptions have been in the police force.

I take great pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy and kindness with which I have been treated by my superiors in the service, and the faithfulness and industry of employés.

I herewith transmit agency statistics.

Very respectfully,

D. O. COWEN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF TONGUE RIVER AGENCY.

TONGUE RIVER AGENCY, MONTANA,
August 18, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my annual report for the year ending June 30, 1888.

The Indians belonging to this agency are located in Montana Territory, about 50 miles north of the Big Horn Mountains, 40 miles south from the Yellowstone River, and 30 miles east of the Little Horn River, on the Rosebud and Tongue Rivers, and some small tributaries of those streams. The general face of the country is very much broken, comprising a part of the Wolf Mountains. The northeast corner of the reservation is one of the best timbered sections of this country, being covered with a good growth of pine. A saw mill is located and in operation near the line of the reservation. In the absence of maps of the surveys made in 1886, I am unable to decide whether it is on the reservation or not. Where the land is not so broken as to show the bare rock, it is covered with a growth of blue-joint, bunch, and buffalo grasses, all of exceedingly nutritious character, which cure on the ground, thus becoming a species of standing hay, which, when not covered by too great a depth of snow, affords pasturage to cattle, horses, and sheep, and with ordinary winters the appearance of stock in the spring on the range astonishes people who live in the South and East.

The soils of the narrow valleys is generally of a yellow color, containing a considerable amount of alkali; produces good root crops, and is thought capable of producing good crops of small grain. Corn with good seasons produces well, but with the short period between frosts does not always mature; the stalks growing very small afford but little fodder. A portion of this country south of the reservation and north of the Big Horn Mountains, near the Wyoming line, is irrigated, pretty well settled, and is said to produce fine crops of small grain and all the root crops and garden stuff usually grown. The little valleys on the reservation, however, are too narrow to afford much cultivatable land, and in dry years, without irrigation, would probably produce nothing even with the best cultivation. I am unable to form any correct

judgment of the amount of land which can be irrigated by the Rosebud, Muddy, and Lame Deer, all small streams.

The want of a market for any agricultural products is a great drawback to the reservation. Without a market and with little taste for vegetable food, there is very little incentive for these Indians to do any very laborious farm work. When there is a prospect for a speedy and certain return in money or its equivalent, they, or many of them, work very well, as is evidenced by the labor in cutting and hauling and building for the agency.

These Northern Cheyennes would care for stock, and with proper means make a success of the business of raising cattle and horses. If supplied with a number of good stallions and cows, and given a sufficient ration to keep away the temptation to kill the cattle for food until the increase in cattle would furnish them beef, and the proceeds of sales of horses provide other necessities, they would become self-supporting much earlier than by any other course in this country. This plan would have a much better prospect of success (though it might not meet with it as early as expected) than an entire reliance on agricultural pursuits for that object.

There are generally plenty of applicants for any Government work which I may have on hand. The Indians have hauled from Rosebud Station during the fiscal year 167,434 pounds of freight, for which they were paid the sum of \$1,265.64. The freight came in good order, not a single article missing.

These Indians were located on the Rosebud and Tongue Rivers by the military authorities about the year 1851. The buffalo had not then been wiped out. The reservation was set apart November 26, 1854, by Executive order. Several settlers had previous to the date of the order settled within the boundaries of the reservation and occupied some of the best lands.

These Indians have been affiliated with the Sioux in many of their operations, and have many of their characteristics, but their language is entirely dissimilar. They have for some fifty years ranged from the Black Hills to the Little Horn, and south to the North Platte, following the buffalo. Many of those from thirty to thirty-five years old were born on Tongue River and the Rosebud. They are very much attached to this country.

My observation of the characteristics of these Indians for the past two years and a half has not materially changed my opinion of them, as expressed in former reports. They are generally lazy, headstrong, hard to control, dirty in their habits and persons; will pay their debts better than any people I ever saw; and the women are chaste. Dr. Burgen, agency physician, does not report a single case of venereal disease among them. Promiscuous intercourse does not exist among them; and I know of only one half-breed whose legitimacy, according to their ideas of the marriage relation, is questioned. These are cases of bigamy, and they have not yet been convinced of its evil effects on their social relations. This, I trust, will appear to them upon further teachings by the priests.

The men are brave, easily excited, and, being well armed and living in a country admirably adapted to guerrilla warfare, could hold a considerable regular force at bay for a long time. An outbreak would, however, hardly occur, unless precipitated by some excited fanatic committing an overt act, who would be joined by his relatives, and in the end by the tribe. The removal of all who are disposed to foment trouble to some remote point whence they could not communicate with the tribe, seems to me the very best possible means to dispose of the wordy demagogues who retard progress and lead to most of the troubles we have. One or two such Indians can, by producing dissatisfaction, organizing Indian public sentiment against schools, steady labor, and other civilizing influences, and fostering feeling in favor of dances, Indian medicine, and other debasing influences, do more harm than can be remedied by the best management for years.

Their improvement has not met my expectations, which were, perhaps, too sanguine. The amount of patience necessary for intercourse with them is beyond the comprehension of any one who has never been subjected to the necessity.

I believe that a small military force near the agency as a support for the Indian police until they have become accustomed to discipline and the Indians to submission to their authority would be of immense advantage.

Since my last report three store-rooms, a school building for a day school, a house for physician's quarters and dispensary, and a slaughter-house have been erected, principally with the labor of Indians. Quarters for farmers, additional farmers, herders, and school employes are needed, and in the construction of which Indian labor could be advantageously employed at very small expense.

The materials for plow harness were not received until after the season for breaking land had passed, and, in consequence, the acreage of cultivated land has been increased but little. The mowing machines came in time, and there has been a considerable increase in the amount of hay cut and cured, estimated at 237 tons. The potato bug injured the small crops planted very much; one or two, however, saved theirs by the use of Paris green. A very severe hail-storm passed through the

north end of the reservation, extending to Tongue River, sweeping away all the crops in its track; otherwise the season for cultivated crops has been very favorable, more rain having fallen than has been known for years. A late frost killed all the wild plums and choke cherries on the Rosebud, Muddy, and Lane Deer, thereby depriving the Indians of one small source of sustenance. The small amount of game on the reservation is reduced to still smaller proportions, and it is almost impossible to keep the Indians in the limits while the ration is so small and the temptation to seek game outside is so great.

The number of visitors from other agencies has been very much reduced, with decided benefit to all concerned, but I am besieged with importunities for passes, and they feel very badly treated in not obtaining them, no reasons for not granting them being accepted as good, and when a positive denial is given they return to the charge with the pertinacious reiteration of the boy begging to go swimming, as if no denial had been made with the best of reasons for it, until patience is exhausted by the demands of the unreasoning creatures.

The religious instruction of these Indians has been conducted by Rev. Father Vanderfelden, a Jesuit priest, for the greater part of the year, but he has been called away, and there is now no one in his place. I am quite anxious that he may return at an early day or be replaced as soon as possible, and that a coadjutor be given him; one man can not attend to all their wants. I am of the opinion (though a Protestant) that the Roman Catholics have more influence and better success with these Indians than any other denomination, but they need more priests to make their work effective here.

The boarding-school conducted under a contract with the "Bureau of Catholic Missions," in charge of the Ursuline Sisters at "Saint Labrè's Mission," on Tongue River, with a capacity for 50 boarders and 20 day pupils, has not progressed very favorably; the attendance not exceeding, if equaling, that of last year and a very great falling off having taken place this spring, a vacation of quite a period was taken. Every effort is being made to fill the school to the maximum allowed by the contract. The personnel of teachers is the same as last year, to wit: Sisters St. Ignatius, "Mother Superior," Sisters St. Angela, Santa Clara, and St. Ursula, and Mr. John Mahoney, industrial teacher. The sisters receive no pay, Mr. Mahoney \$40 per month and board.

The day school at the agency was organized, with Mrs. Mary P. Cox as teacher, on the 1st of May last. The attendance so far has been very meager, but the improvement of those who have been anything like regular attendants has been marked. The school has been in operation so short a time that recommendations as to its improvement would be premature, but I think there should be two teachers, one for the boys and one for the girls. The Indians have an aversion to mixing the sexes in school, and the subjects should be different. There is ample room in the school building to make the separation very conveniently.

I am decided in the opinion that some method of compulsory school attendance will have to be resorted to. The parents of children, when they send them to school, speak of giving their children away, and expect compensation and demand it, never recognizing the great boon they receive in the education of their children, for whom they in other respects evince the greatest affection, never punishing them.

No whisky or alcoholic liquor is sold on or near the reservation, and I have not had reliable information of any being sold to these Indians at any place. Their white neighbors deserve great credit for this exceptional state of affairs.

At the fall term of the United States court at Miles City, Big Back, a Cheyenne, was convicted of resisting a United States marshal and given a term of three months in the penitentiary. He served his time, has returned, and makes a better Indian now.

No other offenses against the laws have been reported to me, though there has been some little trouble between the whites located on the reservation and some of the Indians in regard to land lines which have not been settled on account of the want of maps of the surveys made in the summer of 1886. When they come to hand all such disputes may, I think, be readily settled, though there may be some friction, and some cases may have to be referred to Washington or the courts for final adjudication.

A "court of Indian offenses" has not been organized for want of proper material, who would act without pay. An act providing for the pay of such a court having become a law, a selection of members will be made as early as possible; but where the only communication possible with the body of these Indians is through an interpreter, the selection will be a grave matter and requires great consideration.

Until the 1st of last November, the agency has been without a physician and I have been without a clerk. At that date Dr. W. M. Burger reported to me by order of the Indian Office to fill both positions. I find him capable and industrious. The Indians apply to him for treatment and are gaining confidence in the white man's medicine. But we are sadly in need of a hospital for the care of chronic and other cases requiring continuous treatment; for many reasons, among which is the fact that if an Indian does not receive immediate relief from the medicine administered by the physi-

cian he or she will allow the Indian medicine-man to treat her, who will, if he does no other harm, in many instances destroy by his nostrums the effect of the medicine given by the physician, the physician has so very little opportunity to observe the effects of his medicines and no power to take any of the sanitary measures usually adopted for the sick by civilized people even without the order of the physician. Many of these Indians certainly die for the want of the small expenditure necessary for the erection and sustenance of a small hospital.

The Indian police is not as efficient as might be; being few in number and having no support near them, they are timid in the execution of unpopular orders. Several changes have been made with a view to increase their efficiency, and it is confidently hoped they will improve. One of the best, if not the best member of the corps was unfortunately killed by a stroke of lightning a few days ago.

Dr. Burger having now become acquainted with the methods of conducting the clerical business of the agency, I shall have an opportunity to give my attention to many matters outside the office which have been heretofore necessarily neglected.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. L. UPSHAW,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORTS OF AGENTS IN NEBRASKA.

REPORT OF OMAHA AND WINNEBAGO AGENCY.

OMAHA AND WINNEBAGO AGENCY, NEBRASKA,
September 10, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my second annual report. A careful census shows:

Males above eighteen years of age.....	384
Females above fourteen years of age.....	417
Children between six and sixteen years	256
All other ages.....	150
Total.....	1,207

The past year has been one of partial success, but has had its discouragements and serious drawbacks. Adverse circumstances affect these people more than their white neighbors. It is not a subject of wonder that they are not prepared to battle with adverse circumstances with less than a generation of real development while a hundred generations of advancement enables the white farmer to look beyond temporary discouragements and rally from partial defeat.

Our season for planting was very unfavorable on account of continuous rains and cold beyond the average of this latitude. When planting was done, much of the seed was washed away by dashing rains. This must be replanted. The consequence was that most of the planting was later than it should have been. Notwithstanding this the cultivated land was nearly all planted and fine crops are the result, except the wheat, which promised fair until near maturity, when it rusted badly, resulting in about a half crop. The acreage of corn is larger than last year by at least 10 per cent. and the aggregate will be equal to last year. While the spring was backward the growing season was excellent and the fall has been all that could be desired for ripening. Much of the corn is now safe from frost with everything favorable for ripening. The foregoing includes both the Omaha and Winnebago tribes.

The Winnebagos have suffered on account of the suspension of allotment. While many of them knew where their land was to be, others did not, and many disputed claims were unsettled. Under these circumstances new improvements could not be pushed as we had hoped. Few indeed realized that they were finally settled. Under this condition there was not so much new land broken as I hoped for. Frequent changes of farmers during crop and breaking season was also a serious drawback. When a competent farmer is found change is always to be regretted, as much time is lost while a new man is acquainting himself with his business, the Indians, their lands, etc.

I was authorized to expend \$3,000 in purchase of oxen for breaking new land. This was a timely aid, although on account of the lateness of the season and difficulties stated above we did not get as much breaking done as I desired; yet many have made a good start, and when the people get settled, I hope to demonstrate fully the wisdom of this expenditure. For the \$3,000, I purchased twenty-six yoke of