

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

My observation and experience during the past two years in this work among the Indians of Nebraska puts at rest all doubts in my mind respecting the possibility of civilizing Indians.

Three of the tribes of this State, viz, the Santees, Winnebagoes, and Iowas, have made as rapid progress in this direction as could be expected under the circumstances; and I do not hesitate to say, that if the same liberal support is granted to them in the future, and the same guarded care is extended with respect to the appointment of agents and employés who are sent among them—every one of whom should be a missionary in the true sense of the word—that the time is not far distant when these tribes will become useful, industrious, self-supporting citizens, and fitted to exercise the elective franchise with at least as much judgment as many of the whites who now enjoy that privilege.

With respect to the remaining tribes in this State, who have made less progress, I am confident that, with the necessary funds to compensate the Indians for their labor, the same good results would follow.

It is impossible in the very nature of things to change the habits and thoughts of a whole people in a year, or even in several years; the old cannot be expected to make great changes in their mode of life. It is only from the minds of the young and rising generation that we can hope to eradicate the plants of superstition and ignorance which now so darkly shadow the intellect, and to plant there instead the seeds of virtue, knowledge, and truth. Whatever is thus accomplished must be done through patience, perseverance, and forbearance, keeping in view the divine injunction, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them."

Very respectfully, thy friend,

BARCLAY WHITE,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

Hon. EDWARD P. SMITH

Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

8.

SANTEE AGENCY, NEBRASKA,
Ninthmonth 9th, 1873.

RESPECTED FRIEND: I herewith respectfully submit this my third annual report: I think I can truthfully say that each year marks an advancement in the condition of these Indians.

The health of the tribe is improving some, but there are retarding causes which will require years to overcome, one of which is syphilis, in its varied forms, and not unfrequently terminating in scrofulous consumption.

The Indians have received a fresh impetus to engage in farming operations since the honorable Commissioner's visit here, and his officially notifying them that their subsistence would be discontinued after this present fiscal year. So far, with few exceptions, they neither complain nor seem discouraged, but accept it very cheerfully, expressing their determination to show by their efforts that they intend to make a living. I have grave doubts, however, about the propriety of discontinuing altogether their subsistence. I would suggest that the flour ration be continued for one year longer, for this reason: Many of them will not have enough ground broken to commence raising wheat the first year. It need not be issued regularly, but might be left discretionary with the agent, to be given to the able-bodied ones for actual labor performed in lieu of money, and the old, infirm, and sick to be cared for as they are now. Unless something of this kind is done, I am satisfied that there will be considerable suffering, especially among the latter class.

The past season, like the one previous, has been remarkably good; plenty of rain to keep crops growing nicely, although it was too wet early in the spring, retarding planting to some extent on the bottom-lands, and during the "June rise" of the Missouri some of these lands were so badly overflowed that in a few places the crops were entirely destroyed. The migratory grasshopper threatened the crops at two different times. They came over in the Sixthmonth, and again in the Eighthmonth, but did not alight in sufficient numbers to do any particular harm, although large clouds of them passed over at each time. For a full statistical account of the farming operations, I refer thee to the farmer's report.

The manual-labor school-building is progressing satisfactorily, with a fair prospect of its being completed within the time contracted for.

For the purpose of carrying on this institution, (manual-labor school), including board of scholars, salary and board of employés, about the sum of \$6,000 will be required. If there are no funds applicable for this purpose, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of obtaining the aforesaid amount to be used for that purpose, believing

that when the Government takes into consideration that hitherto the Santees have been educated almost, if not entirely, by benevolent aid and missionary enterprise, it will become apparent that such an appropriation is but a simple act of justice.

The missionary schools are in a satisfactory condition. The accompanying reports will show the number of scholars, average attendance, number of teachers, &c.

The grist-mill has been running pretty constantly, except a brief time in midwinter and a short time in the spring, when the dam was impaired by heavy spring freshets.

The saw-mill was operated up to about the middle of Fourthmonth, when the great snow-storm came and demolished the building. It was also ascertained by inspection that the boiler could no longer be used with safety. It has been replaced with a new one, and is now in running order.

There have been thirty additional log-houses put up this summer, mostly by Indian labor.

The carpenter and his apprentices are kept busy making door and window frames, cupboards, benches, tables, and chests, repairing machinery, &c. The object is to furnish each house with a cupboard, table, and chest. There are about half of them thus furnished.

The blacksmith and his apprentices find plenty to do shoeing horses in winter and repairing machinery in summer.

The physician complains of the lack of hospital accommodations. A few hundred dollars would supply the necessity.

Hoping and trusting that the Government will continue its bountiful care over this tribe a little longer, not in a degree to spoil them, only to render material aid in completing a work which is promising so fair to produce good results,

Very respectfully, thy friend,

JOSEPH WEBSTER,
United States Indian Agent.

BARCLAY WHITE,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Omaha.

9.

WINNEBAGO AGENCY, NEBRASKA,
Eighthmonth 21, 1873.

MY DEAR FATHER:

It is very gratifying to me, in presenting my fifth annual report of the condition of affairs on the Winnebago reservation, to be able to record the great advancement of the tribe in civilization during the past four years. In order the more readily to show what has been accomplished during that time, I have arranged the following statistical information to exhibit the relative conditions of these Indians in 1869 and 1873:

	1869.	1873.
Population	1,343	1,445
Wealth in individual property	\$20,000	\$100,000
Number of schools	2	3
Number of scholars enrolled	135	225
Land cultivated by Indians (acres)	300	1,500
Frame houses occupied by Indians	23	75
Log houses occupied by Indians		40
Wheat raised (number of acres)	10	600
Wheat raised (number of bushels)	200	9,000
Corn raised (number of acres)	300	800
Oats raised (number of acres)		50
Potatoes raised (number of acres)	2	50
Hogs owned		500
Chickens owned		1,000
American horses owned		40
Ponies owned	411	900
Wagons and sets of harness owned	3	100
Fencing (number of miles)	2	25

This improvement, though extending through the whole period, has been greatest during the past year, when fifty frame houses were constructed, and the Indians nearly doubled the amount of their tillage.

The general health of the tribe has been good, and there has been a small natural increase in the population during the year. There are now, according to a recent census, 1,522 Winnebagoes on the reservation. Seventy-seven of these have recently moved from Wisconsin, and expect to make this their permanent home.