The plan of issuing crackers, at the noon recess, to each scholar in attendance at the schools, has been adopted with great satisfaction to the scholars. It was previously the custom to issue weekly rations of flour, for regular attendance, to the parents of the scholars.

WISCONSIN WINNEBAGOES.

As it seems to be the settled purpose of the Government to move the Wisconsin Winnebagoes, numbering 1,000, to this reservation, I would respectfully urge the necessity, before such a step is taken, of providing more timber-land for them adjoining the present reservation. The amount of timber owned by the tribe at present is barely sufficient for the use of the Nebraska branch of the tribe until they plant and raise timber on their farms; this they should be encouraged to do immediately, by offering them premiums for successful tree-culture.

MINNESOTA WINNEBAGOES.

When the Winnebagos were removed from Minnesota in 1863, about 160 members of the tribe, who were mostly half-breeds, remained; these have since, in accordance with an act of Congress, been naturalized, and paid their proportion of the trust-funds belonging to the tribe, amounting at that time, as the Wisconsin Winnebagoes were not considered a part of the tribe, to over $800 per head. The honorable Secretary of the Interior has recently decided that the Wisconsin branch of the tribe are entitled to and will hereafter receive their proportion of the interest on the Winnebago trust-funds.

Several of these naturalized Indians, who have disposed of all their money, have since moved to this reservation, and no doubt look forward to being again admitted into membership with the tribe. I have carefully avoided showing them favors, and have, as far as possible, discouraged their remaining here.

Very respectfully, thy son,

HOWARD WHITE,
United States Indian Agent.

BARCLAY WHITE,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Omaha, Nebr.

10.

OMAHA AGENCY, NEBR.,
Eighthmonth 29, 1873.

RESPECTED FRIEND: I herewith submit my fifth annual report of the affairs of the Omaha Agency, as follows:

Since my report last year an effort has been made to carry out the provisions of the act of Congress for the sale of a portion of the Omaha reservation, amounting in the aggregate to nearly 50,000 acres. Unfortunately, however, for the prosperity of these Indians, only a small portion of the tract offered for sale was disposed of, owing, it is presumed, to the minimum rate fixed by Congress ($2.50 per acre) being too high to meet the views of those desiring to make investments. The want of success in consummating this sale is more to be regretted on account of the discouraging tendency it has upon the efforts of the Indians to subsist by agricultural pursuits. Many who are disposed to be industrious among them have not the teams, plows, and other necessary appliances for prosperous farming; neither have they the means for purchasing stock, which in this country is the most profitable branch of husbandry.

As the sale of these surplus lands is the principal hope of securing means for the permanent improvement of the farms allotted to the Omahas in severalty, it seems very desirable that additional legislation by Congress should be secured so as to effect that object.

Since it has been decided by the Indian Department to remove the Wisconsin Winnebagoes to the reservation adjoining that of the Omahas, a proposition has been made by the special commissioner appointed to the duty of superintending the said removal to purchase from the Omaha tribe, for the benefit of the Winnebagoes, now being removed, a strip of land two miles in width, lying along the south boundary of the Winnebago reservation, and extending westward from the Missouri River about ten miles, to where the Winnebago reserve widens out from four to eight miles in width, embracing about 12,000 acres. This proposition has been sanctioned by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the price offered for the said tract is at the rate of $2.50 per acre. The substance of this proposition has been submitted to the chiefs and head-men of the Omaha tribe, who are now out on the hunt, and a reply through the sub-agent or care-taker sent out with them has been received to the effect that

they are averse to selling any more land to the Winnebagoes, for the reason that the latter have been addicted to stealing their ponies and other property, for which they have been unable to obtain suitable redress; but if these wrongs can be satisfactorily settled, and a recurrence of them prevented in future, they will consider the proposition and report their decision on their return from the hunt; but they have already decided not to sell any more of their reservation unless they are allowed to go to Washington and confer with their Great Father themselves.

EDUCATION.

A very commendable interest is still manifested by the Omahas upon the subject of the education of their children. Three schools have been well supported throughout the year until the time of vacation, which occurs while the Indians are absent on the hunt. The number of children enrolled is 110, with an average attendance of 75 at the three schools.

A new school-house and dwelling-house for a teacher have just been completed, and arrangements are now being made for opening an additional school at that place, which, with the other schools, will afford facilities for the education of all the children in the tribe. It is very gratifying to report the continued success of these day-schools, and the rapid progress of the Indian children in their studies. The establishment of an industrial school at some future time, when sufficient means are at the disposal of the tribe, would add greatly to the benefits to be secured to the rising generation.

The reports of two of the teachers are herewith submitted; but no report of the day-school at the mission has been received, the teacher of that school having left the reservation since the commencement of vacation.

FARMING OPERATIONS.

I regret to report that in this department success has not, in some respects, been so good as last year. Many of the Indians who have not teams and plows at their disposal have failed to get the usual amount of ground plowed for their corn-crop, for the reason that no funds were at the disposal of the agent to pay other Indians possessing the necessary facilities for plowing, as has been the practice heretofore.

It has been customary for a portion of the annuity money of the tribe to be set apart, with the consent of the chiefs and head-men, to meet these contingencies; but, owing to the meddlesome interference of certain designing individuals, the chiefs have been induced to object to the usual appropriations for this branch of their business, with the result as above stated. About 180 acres were sown in wheat this year, and a good crop has been harvested, notwithstanding some injury by grasshoppers. Potatoes planted by the Indians have also been depredated upon, to some extent, in the same way; but in many cases a good yield will be obtained. The season has been very favorable for grass, and a good supply of hay is now being put up for winter use.

To sum up the prospects in this department, notwithstanding some unfavorable features, there seems to be ground for hope that the coming winter may be passed without material suffering on the part of the Indians, particularly if the hunt should prove successful.

STOCK AND FARMING-IMPLEMENTS.

The cattle owned by the Omahas are now in fine condition and rapidly increasing; and it is only to be regretted that they are too poor at present to add materially to their stock of hogs, cows, &c., by purchase. In respect to wagons, plows, harness, &c., they are very deficient, and great embarrassment in agricultural pursuits necessarily results therefrom.

They own a large number of ponies, which are of little use except in the hunt; and when that is abandoned, which of necessity it soon will be, they must be disposed of, and the proceeds used to furnish them with teams adapted to the purposes of agriculture.

BUILDINGS, ETC.

The agency buildings have been kept in good repair during the past year, and a new council-house has been built by the Indian carpenters. The school-house and dwelling-house for the teacher have also been built, as before stated; but for want of means the building of cottages for the Indians has been necessarily suspended since my last report.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Being now about to retire from the field of my labors among these Indians, in which I have been engaged for more than four years, I leave them with the full assurance of their capacity for civilization, self-support, and the enjoyment of the rights of citizenship; and though the chief reliance must be upon the rising generation now undergoing the necessary process of intellectual training, yet much can be done to improve the condition of those now on the active stage of life, by judicious appropriation of means

to stimulate them to present exertion in adapting themselves to new modes of procuring subsistence. There is also an urgent need of additional legislation to protect them from the encroachments of those of their own race, as well as occasional depredations upon their timber and other property, by white settlers contiguous to their reservation. The Omahas continue to maintain the most friendly relations with the Government, and are at peace with all the Indian tribes.

As far as heard from they have not been molested by the Sioux or other depredating bands of Indians while on the hunt, though the recent attack upon the Pawnees has led to some apprehension on their account.

The health of the Indians on the reservation is generally good. By a recent census the population of this tribe is found to be 1,001; an increase of 32 over last year.

Very respectfully, thy friend,

E. PAINTER,
United States Indian Agent.

BARCLAY WHITE,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Omaha, Nebr.

11.

PAWNEE AGENCY, GENOA, NEBR.,
Ninthmonth 20, 1873.

RESPECTED FRIEND: In presenting my first annual report of the condition of this agency, I can only speak of my personal experience during the few months I have been in charge, viz, since the 10th of first-month last. At that time the Pawnees were just returning from their winter hunt. They had caught but few buffalo, and were attacked by the Sioux, who killed one man and captured over one hundred of their best horses. Being thus deprived of their accustomed and needful amount of subsistence, on application, $3,000 was placed at my disposal to procure provisions, nearly all of which was expended in the purchase of flour, beef, and other necessities for their relief.

In the spring, as soon as the state of the weather would permit, the new mill-race was pushed toward completion, and the prospect seemed fair of soon having our mill at work; but about the first of the Fifthmonth heavy rains and a very destructive freshet succeeded the great snow-storm which visited this region, and completely destroyed the labors of the past year, leaving the water-power of the mill in a state of hopeless ruin. A similar loss from the destructive elements was felt in a wide region of country around us, and in the view of all competent observers it was beyond the power of human skill or foresight to prevent. Wind power has since been suggested, and after considerable attention to the subject, from the successful experiments and tests of others, I feel quite favorable to its application. A safe, reliable, and inexpensive motive power to keep in repair is a desideratum, and a good mill is one of the greatest needs of the agency.

The continued spring rains in this region retarded all planting-labor, and some of the Indian fields and patches were too wet to be planted in season; but their corn has yielded an average crop, and they have cultivated various other edible plants. From the agency farm we have just threshed 1,100 bushels of oats, 312 bushels of rye, and 760 bushels of wheat. The oat crop was much injured by the grasshoppers, and the potato crop will be very light owing to the ravages of the potato bug and drought. Our heaviest crop is corn and the yield promises fair; and a stock of hay, thought to be ample to last through the season, has been securely housed or stacked. I trust by the end of the calendar year we can show that the manual-labor school depends as much upon the farm as the farm depends upon the school-fund, not excepting the expense of harvesting and threshing the crop. I see no good reason why the farm should not be self-sustaining and at the same time aid the school and other departments of the agency materially in the carting of supplies, provision, and fuel. Being twenty-two miles from the railroad and nearly eight miles from the timber-tract, much time and expense are necessarily involved in transportation.

One new day-school has been erected near the Indian villages, and this, as well as the other day-school, is now in successful operation. The whole number of scholars at these two schools is 70; and the average attendance during the past year has been 55. The manual-labor school, under the present corps of employés, is making satisfactory progress. Twenty additional pupils have recently been added thereto. The only death in the school during the year is that of one boy, who recently died of consumption. The whole number of scholars is now 70, of whom 16 are girls. The number of children in all the school is 140.

Various needful repairs have been made upon the agency buildings, within our limi-