

who have nearly always been the aggressors, without just cause, in these thieving raids and inhuman massacres. In all other respects I feel well pleased to report a favorable and harmonious state of affairs at the agency.

Very respectfully,

BARCLAY WHITE,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Omaha, Nebr.

WM. BURGESS,
United States Indian Agent.

12.

GREAT NEMAHIA AGENCY,
Nohart, Nebr., Ninthmonth 1, 1873.

RESPECTED FRIEND: I herewith submit my fifth annual report of affairs within this agency for the year ending Eighthmonth 31, 1873.

The Iowas have evinced an increased disposition to work, and since the date of my last report many of them have extended the area of their farms, and nearly all of them have diligently attended to their crops. The weather during the past summer has been very dry and unfavorable, yet their corn and other crops will compare well with those of their white neighbors generally. It is said by many that throughout this section of country corn will not average more than half a crop, and yet I think it safe to estimate that the corn-fields of the Indians will yield from thirty to forty bushels to the acre. The amount of produce raised is shown in the accompanying statistics of farming.

The stock belonging to this tribe has been well cared for during the past year. Hay and corn were plentiful through the cold weather of last winter, and spring found their oxen and horses in good order and ready for work. At present the Iowas are actively engaged in securing hay, and they have already harvested a much greater quantity than during any former year.

Perhaps no evidence of their progress is more encouraging than the almost universal desire among them to possess and live in houses. Their carpenter is kept steadily at work, and several new houses, either finished or partly finished, attest his efficiency. The school has been properly maintained during the school-year, and the attendance and progress of the pupils has been very satisfactory. The industrial home, established in connection with the school for the board and industrial training of a portion of its pupils, is an institution that deserves ample support and maintenance. It has heretofore labored under the disadvantage of inadequate buildings, but the recent erection of a frame addition, 18 by 33 feet, and a slight enlargement of the old building, have remedied that evil, and now, with increased facilities for accomplishing its purpose, its usefulness has increased proportionately.

Since my last report the sanitary condition of the Iowas has been comparatively good. The Society of Friends have continued to furnish us with the means wherewith to administer to the sick, and they have also clothed the infirm and indigent. On the whole, so far as the Iowas are concerned, there is much to encourage, although evil influences around still lead them to intemperance and its attendant evils, which is a drawback much to be regretted.

The Sacs and Foxes of Missouri have made little if any progress during the year. Drawing as they do a very large annuity in money, and having neither school nor employes among them, it is not strange that they continue as idle and intemperate as ever. They desire to remove to a new home as soon as possible, but have not yet ascertained where it shall be.

A visit on the part of their chiefs and myself to the Osage tribe, and a council with its chiefs, resulted in extinguishing all prospects of a purchase of territory from them, and they now desire to buy a home in the Indian Territory of their kindred tribe, the Sacs and Foxes of Mississippi. Unfortunately the enactment of Congress enabling the sale of their lands was made to apply only to that portion lying in the State of Nebraska, and until a supplementary act including under its provisions their lands in Kansas can be obtained, I fear there is little prospect of either a sale or their removal.

With the sanction of the Indian Department I conducted the chiefs of this tribe to Washington, D. C., shortly after they had assented to the provisions of the law touching the sale of their land, and they there formally requested that the proceeds of one-half of their entire reservation should be invested for educational and other beneficial purposes. It is hoped that this request will be complied with.

In conclusion I will only say that in the present unsettled condition of the Sacs and Foxes of Missouri, their early removal is evidently important. The urgent necessity of a supplemental act to enable the sale of their lands in Kansas demands action,

and delay in the sale of their lands, and consequent delay in their removal, must continue them in an unsettled and unsatisfactory condition.

With respect, thy friend,

THOS. LIGHTFOOT,
United States Indian Agent.

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

13.

OTTOE AGENCY, *Ninthmonth 4, 1873.*

ESTEEMED FRIEND: In submitting this, my first annual report of the condition of Indian affairs on the Ottoe reserve, I shall not be able to make it as full and comprehensive of the work being done within the past year as might be desired, from the fact that my connection with the agency began only with the second quarter of the present calendar year, and hence can but commence with the condition in which I received it at that time.

After reporting at thy office, on the 19th of Fourthmonth last, I came directly to this place, and received from former agent A. L. Green all the books, papers and other articles of property then shown as belonging to this office, the reception of which was duly acknowledged. On the 23d instant was held a formal council with the Indians, in which I was presented to the leading characters of the tribe, and at the same time witnessed the closing ceremonies of my predecessor in office, taking leave of his charge.

At the time of my coming among them I found a considerable portion of the Indians in a state of perfect apathy as relates to any idea of improvement, and at the first regular council I held with them the burden of their desire, as expressed, was to sell out their entire reservation and "seek a new home." I listened to their earnest expressions with interest, but without giving an opinion, told them I had heard what they had said, would give the subject due consideration, and help them do what I thought would be to their best interest. Upon subsequent investigation I was satisfied, however, that the desire to remove was by no means a universal one; that it was entertained principally by a class who wanted a wider range of country, not circumscribed by white settlements, in which to continue the pursuit of their old Indian customs, and that it simply meant opposition to civilization.

These being ruling members in the tribe, others feared the loss of popularity by expressions, or even actions toward improvement, that showed a contrary sentiment. Hence they were, and, as I was assured, had been for some time, in an unsettled and dissatisfied condition, tending rather toward retrogression than advancement, and that this feeling was being continually fomented by a class of scheming white men, who were desirous of getting possession of the Indians' lands. I also became satisfied that the sentiment of the tribe, if numerically expressed, would be largely in favor of remaining where they are, and which sentiment has since been gaining strength to a very noticeable extent.

At a second regular council, held the 25th of Fifthmonth, I brought the subject of their situation fairly before them, and pointed out what I thought their best plan to adopt, telling them that they could not long remain as they now are, that they must do something, and that if the present officials of the tribe could not act so as to do business, we would have to have those that could. A time was given them to deliberate upon it among themselves, when the unanimous expression was to accept the provisions of an act of Congress approved June 10, 1872, providing for the sale of a portion of their land, and the proceeds to be applied to the improvement of their condition. The council closed under strong manifestations of the best of feeling, and I am gratified that truth permits me to state the same has continued to this writing.

What had formerly been fenced and cultivated as the agency farm I found neglected and the fence entirely destroyed. Owing to the lateness of the season, the unsettled condition of the tribe, the absence of agricultural appliances, and the need of funds applicable thereto, I did not deem it advisable to attempt refencing for cultivation this year, but urged the Indians to use what means they had and cultivate all they could, in order to provide as far as possible a winter's subsistence. They nearly all planted more or less of corn, beans, potatoes, and pumpkins, an aggregate of probably 200 acres, mostly in the creek bends, where they could easily protect their patches from the depredations of ponies and cattle. They are now about preparing their corn for future use. Many of them will have plenty of that kind of food, but owing to the unfavorableness of the season their crops, as a whole, are not good, and they must know a great scarcity before the return of another season.

They did not go on their summer hunt, as has heretofore been their custom, which I regard as a step gained in the right direction, that will result to their advantage; for although the hunt may have gained for them a temporary supply of meat, yet this