REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

21.

SAC AND FOX AGENCY, Ninthmonth, 1st, 1873.

I herewith submit my first annual report of the Sac and Fox Indians under my charge.

Numbering about five hundred, they are located on one of the most beautiful reservations in the Indian Territory, amply sufficient in extent to accommodate all the detached bands of the tribe in the various portions of the country. It is claimed, upon pretty good authority, that about two hundred of these Indians, under Mo-ko-bo-ko, a disaffected chief, still remain as regrants in the State of Kansas, being excluded by treaty provision from participating in the annuities of the tribe while away from their reservation. Also a few lodges still remain in Iowa, confederated with straggling bands of Winnebagoes and Pottawatomies, and although the Sac and Fox portion of this confederation cannot number more than eighty souls they are allowed, under this arrangement, to draw annuities from the common tribal fund for about three hundred persons.

That portion of the tribe who have removed to the reservation, and are under my charge, are prospering in their agricultural and educational interests. A mission school and boarding-house, provided for in treaty, have been erected and are ready for use, and competent teachers have been secured to take charge of the children who manifest a disposition to avail themselves of the opportunity of education.

The number of our fields have been increased and their area enlarged during the year, and these Indians are now encouraged in the belief that they are settled upon a permanent home, to which they invite for settlement the straggling bands of the tribe now wandering elsewhere, and particularly that portion confederated, as above stated, with the Winnebagoes and Pottawatomies in Iowa, who are, without benefit to themselves and to the detriment of the people of that State, drawing quite too large a proportion of the annuities of the tribe, and making up their scanty subsistence by a regular system of begging from door to door, among their white neighbors resident in Iowa.

The Absentee Shawnees under my charge are in a prosperous condition. They number nearly seven hundred. They all live in houses provided by themselves, and generally have cultivated farms. They subsist themselves, with the oversight of the agent and some assistance by way of agricultural implements, &c. Their educational interests require attention. A good school, established at the expense of the Government is well supported and is flourishing; but the house and facilities are entirely insufficient to relieve their necessities. I would recommend that $7,000 be appropriated by Congress for the erection of suitable buildings for a mission school for these deserving people, and that $5,000 annually, for a brief period, be appropriated for the support of the same. The effects of an institution of this kind established among a people who appreciate the need of education and will improve every facility afforded them, who have no annuities, no assistance provided by treaty, cannot be overstated upon the wild tribes who surround them. They are peaceable, loyal, and industrious, and a liberal outlay on the part of the Government for their education is but just, and is but a short avenue to the civilization of the wild tribes above mentioned, and will be found to be strict economy in the management of Indians.

Very respectfully,

ENOCH HOAG,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Lawrence, Kans.

22.

OSAGE AGENCY, I. T., Ninthmonth, 1873.

ESTEEMED FRIEND: My fourth annual report of the Neosha agency is herewith submitted.

My statistical account of the population of the Osages taken from the spring enrollment is 2,883. Last year the number given was 3,906; yet I believe the tribe is on the increase, the true number being about 3,500. It is almost impossible to obtain a correct census.

Early in the current year a delegation of the Kaw Indians, with commissioners Stanley and Spray, visited the Osages with a view of selecting their future home in this reservation, as provided in Osage treaty of Thirdmonth, 1872. The requisite amount of land was chosen from the northwest corner of this reservation and the boundaries determined by the commissioners.

Having been to much expense and trouble in procuring a good machine for threshing and cleaning the crop of wheat harvested by the Osages, from the fifty acres sown
in their former reservation, I was much nonplussed to find that a Cherokee named Joseph Bennett had taken possession of the corn and was threshing and wasting it. I notified him to desist and quit the premises, but he refused to do so, claiming the improvements and corn under Cherokee law, which provides that "intruders" shall loose their crops and improvements. The occupation of the Cherokee country by the Osages, for a short time by mistake, yet by authority of the United States Government, certainly should not place them in position of intruders. I trust the Department will instruct the commissioners who are to appraise the Osage improvements, as provided in treaty of Thirdmonth, 1872, to ascertain the probable amount of wheat and its value taken by this Cherokee, and allow the Osages a credit for the amount on the lands purchased from the Cherokees.

Thy invitation to the governor and chiefs to visit thee at Lawrence, was regarded by those who had participated in depredations on persons and property on the plains as a trap to get them into prison. The governor and some other leading men could not be induced to go; fifteen chiefs and head-men consented. This their first ride on the cars, three days’ stay in the city of Lawrence, visiting the schools, shops, and other places of interest, the plain and emphatic talk they had from their superintendent in reference to depredations on the plains, the encouragement they received for good conduct, made so deep an impression upon their minds that they are now the principal leaders in their bands in favor of civilization.

As the reservation is large and very broken, not admitting of dense settlement, I have made five divisions of it, viz:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of divisions</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>No. of acres planted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Creek</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Creek</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Osages</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each division is in charge of an efficient farmer and assistants, who reside at a station most central and convenient for the Indians in his care, where are kept oxen, plows, wagons, and other farming implements for general use in that division.

The agent visits each station often as practicable to see how the work is progressing and advising with farmer and chiefs as to their necessities and future operations.

This method has worked admirably, bringing all the Indians to some extent under the influence of the agent. These divisions are being provided with necessary dwellings for the employees at the stations, none of which are nearer the agency than fifteen miles, and some of them are fifty miles from each other.

Immediately after the payment in Tenthmouth the tribe went on their winter-hunt, except those who had no ponies and a few who staid on the reservation to try and acquire civilized habits. To these I agreed to pay $2.50 per hundred for rails split by them and laid up in a good stacked and rided fence inclosing prairie suitable for cultivation, I promising to break all they would thus inclose for their own use. It was necessary to pay them in order that they could obtain means to support their families, otherwise it would have been necessary to issue rations, to them, which would have destroyed all incentive to labor. Fifty-eight blanket Indians accepted and went to work on the above proposition, splitting and laying up in fence about eighty-one thousand rails, thus supporting their families and acquiring skill in labor; but what is still better, they have now a spot of ground they call “home,” which they prize very highly, and have no thoughts of again returning to the chase.

It was quite late in the spring when the Indians returned from their winter hunt. Almost every family then selected a claim and desired to have prairie broken for farming purposes. Although I purchased several more breaking-teams and hired others to break and plow, I was unable to meet their urgent demands. At least eleven hundred acres have been broken and eight hundred acres plowed for them. There are about 530 families in the tribe; of these 200 have now plowed land from one up to eighty acres each; the remainder should be similarly provided for next spring. The corn and vegetable crop this season far exceeds that grown by the Osages in any former year. The governor, and some of the head-men who have been very conservative, now finding their people almost unanimously in favor of farming, are advocating the same in council and in private.

There are about twelve thousand ponies in the tribe, and a proposition to exchange some of them for stock-cattle is favorably entertained by those desiring to quit a roving life. During the extreme cold of the past winter many of the Indians suffered a great deal from pneumonia, caused by their scanty clothing and their custom of wearing mocassins, which, during the wet weather, are scarcely any protection to the feet, but, by being constantly wet, engender pulmonary diseases. I have secured the services of a good shoemaker, and a number of them are now wearing boots and shoes, the demand for which far exceeds the supply.
The large number of Osages and their scattered condition when on the reservation make it impossible for one physician to visit all the sick and administer to their wants. A young half-breed of fair education and intelligence is now studying medicine with the physician, and renders good service as assistant and interpreter. The physician furnishes his own conveyance and forage. Most of his patients are twenty miles or more from the agency in different directions, rendering his labors very onerous. The increasing demand for his practice can only be met by the erection of a hospital at the agency. I inclose his views on that subject.

The labor in the blacksmith-shop so increased that it became necessary to put up an additional forge, which has been in constant use; two of the workmen are Osages. One or more wheelwrights (Osages) have been busily employed the greater part of the season.

The services of the gunsmith (an Osage) have proved indispensable. The saw-mill was put in operation in the latter part of Thirdmonth, and has since been running almost constantly in order to supply the native lumber required in the agency buildings, and by the Osages for finishing their log houses, and making rude furniture for them. Excepting the sawyer and engineer the labor at the saw-mill is performed by blanket Osages. The machinery is of the best quality, and the building, 41 by 70 feet, is a substantial frame structure with stone foundation. The grist-mill machinery has been purchased, but the building has not yet been erected. A substantial and commodious barn with stone basement for stables has been built for agency use. The other agency buildings are being put up by contract. The agent's, physician's, and blacksmith's dwellings, the warehouse and blacksmith-shop are all inclosed, but none of them yet completed. About half of the work is done on the church and school-house. The last-named buildings are of good quality of sandstone, an inexhaustible supply of which is easily obtained at the agency.

Kanawha, the Indian spelling, and Christian worship have been carefully fostered and attended by most of the employés and some of the Indians. Last Sabbath fifty-four persons took part in the scriptural exercises, forty-five recited texts, and about one hundred attended religious service. The moral tone at the agency will compare favorably with the most refined neighborhoods in the States. Every employé is expected to perform missionary work. Among them are found ministers, elders or deacons, and active lay members of various religious denominations. Thirty-three Osage children have been in attendance at the Catholic school at Osage Mission, Kansas.

The boarding-school building at the agency will soon be in readiness for pupils.

A superstitions custom prevails among the Osages of taking the life of an enemy soon after the death of a friend or relative, founded on the belief that the spirit of the departed cannot rest until a sacrifice has been made for them. A son of one of the head-men of the tribe went in mourning on account of the death of his wife, and led a party of young men to the plains seeking for a victim. They met Es-ad-da-ua, chief of the Wichita Indians, hunting buffalo, near the salt plains. They professed to believe he was designed by the Great Spirit for them, killed and scalped him, then returned to the reservation, when the customary scalp-dance was had, then the mourning ceased.

The information soon came to this office of the murder of the distinguished chief, which was supposed by his people to have been done by the Osages. The Osages, fearing the consequence of this rash act of their young men, and apprehending an attack from the Plains Indians, collected together for defense, thus greatly impeding the operations of those who were endeavoring to put in crops. The chiefs and leading men severely condemned the act, and wrote a letter to the Wichitas, offering sat, and an apology. A delegation of thirty-eight Wichitas visited this agency soon after, and accepted from the Osages money, ponies, blankets, guns, &c., to the amount of fifteen hundred dollars, as compensation and satisfaction. One of a similar mourning party soon after killed a white man on the plains, but was also mortally wounded himself. This custom has, with the Indians, all the sacredness of a religious duty, and I apprehend more victims have been sacrificed by them than was heretofore supposed. Information can now be obtained through the employés at the different stations and confidential Indians, of the forming of these parties, which require several days' ceremony to perfect, and, by persuasion, gifts, and threats, all of them have since been broken up. The usual amount of depredations by the Osages on persons and property have not been committed on the plains this summer, which can be largely attributed to the presence of B. K. Wetherill in their camps and on their lines of travel; a part of his duties being to keep informed of the location of the different bands while they are on the hunt, and investigate any depredations they may commit, so that remuneration may be promptly paid by the guilty party, and to make them feel that the eye of the Government is constantly upon them.

The Osages returned from their summer hunt prematurely some weeks since, on account of one of their men being attacked and severely wounded by a small party of Arapahoes; his horse was killed. They are waiting to hear from the chiefs of that tribe whether the act is condemned or not, and are willing that friendly relations
should still exist if satisfaction is offered; otherwise they propose to retaliate. I have no doubt the difficulty can be peacefully adjusted.

The Osages regard the recent valuation of their reservation at seventy cents per acre as a plain violation of the promises of the Government which guaranteed to them a home in the Indian Territory on lands that should not cost them more than fifty cents per acre. I presume this will not be questioned by any citizen who attended the various councils held with Osages by the Indian commissioners on that subject; but, aside from obligations plain and implied, the land would certainly not be valued above fifty cents per acre by competent persons after seeing it.

At the payment in Sixthmonth two prominent Cherokees, C. N. Vann and W. P. Adair, were in the camps of the Osages for several days, counseling them to sign an order on the honorable Secretary of the Interior for the sum of three hundred and thirty thousand dollars as payment of a claim for alleged services rendered the Osages in procuring the defeat of the treaty made by the Osages with the L. L. & G. Railroad Company; also for procuring the passage of the act whereby the Kansas Osage lands were taken in trust by the Government to sell at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Those who have a right to know attribute the defeat and success of these two measures to other agencies. The treaty was withdrawn from the Senate by the President upon the report of the superintendent of the Central Superintendency after a council with the Osages on the subject. The act referred to was a part of the Indian appropriation bill, passed July 15, 1870, having the approval of the President, his board of Indian commissioners, Secretary of the Interior, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on Indian Affairs, and all of the leading men in Congress, and all the philanthropic and earnest friends of the Indians, because it was an act of justice, plain and uncoerced, requiring no corrupting influence to make for it hopeful and constant supporters.

I interviewed these Cherokees to ascertain the nature of their services. Not obtaining the desired information, I requested them to desist importing the Osages, interfering with the business of the chiefs at the agency, and give me an opportunity to investigate their claim, and, if it was just, I had no doubt the Government would authorize the payment of it. This was met with an implied threat that if I would let them alone they would let me alone. I openly advised the chiefs in council not to sign any agreement nor commit themselves to any amount until the officers of the Government could ascertain whether these Cherokees had performed any services for them or not. Several of the chiefs refrained from counseling with them afterward; but through persuasive influences, that were generally believed in camp to be improper, several chiefs were induced to sign such an order, after the Cherokees had reduced the sum to two hundred and thirty thousand dollars. No member of the Little Osage tribe of any position signed the order, thus preventing the document having any binding force on the tribe. A half-breed of known integrity has left on file in my office an affirmation stating that fully one-half of the names affixed to the paper were not present; and many of them have since informed me, after hearing their names had been attached, that they had not authorized any one to do so, and it was done against their will.

After these Cherokees had left the agency, the half-breeds proceeded to get up a remonstrance which the masses of the tribe appear to have signed, including all the head-men of the Little Osages and most of the smaller chiefs of the Great Osages. At a subsequent council held about the 25th ultimo, Watanka, the leading spirit favoring the payment of the Cherokee claim, informed me that he understood the sum to be two thousand three hundred dollars instead of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars, and desired those who had not signed the order to sign the remonstrance and prevent the payment of the claim. At that, four out of the six principal chiefs of the bands signing, did sign a revocation of their order, and requested the Department to authorize their superintendent and agents of the Cherokees and Osages to investigate the claim of those Cherokees for services, and pay what they deemed just and right; which request I hope will be regarded, such being the cool and unbiased wish of the tribes.

Respectfully,

ENOC HOAG, Superintendent Indian Affairs.

I. T. GIBSON, Agent.

23.

KIowa AND ComANCHE Agency, INDIAN TERRITORY,

Eighth Month 30, 1873.

Dear Friend: In accordance with the Department requirements, I submit my annual report, which is necessarily fractional, as I have only been in charge of this agency five months. I arrived here late in the Third Month, and took charge the 1st of the