

repairs and additions to agent's house and office. We have an Indian engaged in making ox-yokes, ox-bows, and helves for axes and hatchets; an Indian carpenter, who can put up houses with doors, windows, &c.; put on locks, and glaze windows, &c.; we have two drive-wells, made this summer, and now in operation. The greater part of this has been done by the increased labor force of August 9, ultimo. It is a pleasant view where an Indian has his house, stable, and yard, with hay-stack adjoining; and at the Point Village, (Niobrara,) the full-bloods excel the half-breeds in providing for the winter, while the Hu-b-than Village has scarcely a house where the stable and sometimes a plow and wagon shed does not form part of the homestead.

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White Eagle, the head-chief of the full-blood Indians, lives at the Point Village, and was the last to "fall into line" on the labor scheme, but has since guided a mower for grass and a reaper for hay. I have provided him with a large dinner-bell, which he rings just after breakfast and dinner to go to work, and at the quitting times. So much is won from barbarism. Eagle is a young man, not thirty years old, but not physically strong, though broad-shouldered and of commanding presence. Latterly his conduct and manner have been cordial, and have been shaped to aid, instead of, as in the past, to hinder and perplex.

The assets of the tribe, individual property, are about 40 wagons, and about 60 yoke of oxen, which will be increased by 15 other wagons, on the way now, thrasher, 2 drills, large and small, 27 cows, quite a number of cook-stoves and household furniture, chiefly made on the agency. Four have clocks in their houses, beside the usual agricultural tools, 40 hay-forks, 4 horse-rakes, several plows, harrows and drag, hay and wood racks, shovels, spades, grubbing-hoes and garden-hoes, with several ponies, and near twenty sets of harness; and I am very much gratified to be able to report that many, nearly all, are very careful as to the condition and keeping of their goods, and speak with pride of their possessions. The feeling is growing that an idle man is as much to be scorned as the worker *was*, and the Poncas exclaim of a non-worker, "no work—no flour;" and they have now ceased to threaten to break down the doors to procure what the lazy man could not get, food without work.

I am inclined to the belief that there is a very perceptible improvement in the moral, social, and physical condition of the Poncas. They are learning habits of obedience, and gaining confidence in the superior knowledge of their instructors; they are often petulant, like spoiled children, and though not as easily rebuked, yet a stern glance, or a sharply spoken word, generally quiets the most obstreperous. I think it is right, and best for their interests, to gain daily, as much as safely may be, an influence and authority, which can substitute new ideas for their old notions, and command a confidence which insures obedience, not from servile fear, but that their reasoning powers are aroused to action, and can easily perceive the personal benefit to accrue to them from the source of former favors, now estimated at a value, which to lose would not be desirable. Regulations are made and kept, and the "morning rule" of the "get-ready bell," rung 20 minutes before 8 o'clock a. m., arouses the village, while the sharp sound of the "labor-bell" gives a view of the hurrying Poncas at the superintendent's office, where each worker must be at roll-call to get his mark, and allotment for labor, or return disconsolate, with a half day's loss and a short notch on his own record.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES P. BIRKETT,  
*United States Indian Agent, Poncas.*

Hon. EDW. P. SMITH,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

34.

RED CLOUD AGENCY, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,  
*August 18, 1873.*

SIR: In compliance with the requirements of the Department, I have the honor to make the following report of the Indians at the Red Cloud agency the past year:

At the old agency on the Platte farming was not commenced, owing to the uncertain time of their removal to the new place that was selected last season for their home. The removal of these Sioux away from the Platte could not be effected last season, owing to the opposition of Red Cloud and his particular friends, the "Bad Faces." Red Cloud proved recreant to his promises made to the Government by opposing the removal and all the chiefs that favored it.

The agency was removed the first of this month, after much trouble with these same "Bad Faces." It is now located on White River, about eighty miles east of north, in a very pretty valley with good water and all the farming land they will require for the

next ten years. Building material can be had within ten miles of the agency, and good hay-land in about fifteen.

They should be furnished with Ree corn, for seed, as early in the spring as possible. This is best for the altitude, as it is hardy, productive, and is ready for roasting-ears within six weeks after it is put in the ground.

The disposition of these Indians and those of the north toward the whites has changed much for the better within the past year. They show more feeling of dependence, and more anxiety to be at peace; all of which they try to cover up with a greater amount of bravado talk by the soldiers, while the chiefs say very little. Those Indians from the north that spent the winter here were quite well disposed, and spoke well. They were not disposed to dictate or complain as those who had been a long time at the agency. This marked improvement among all of these Sioux is greatly owing to the generous course pursued by the Department in feeding them the past winter.

The northern Indians came to these agencies starving and enemies, and received the same kind care that was given to those who had been here for years, though the chiefs were loth to come to the agency. When they first came in they sent their soldiers to get rations that they might taste white man's food without his knowing of it; but after a few issues they came to acknowledge their dependence.

Those Indians that committed the depredations on this frontier the past year were composed of Bad Face Sioux of the Ogallala band, numbering about forty lodges, and have not been fed at this agency. The head-men of these outlaws are Crazy Horse, Little Big Man, and Little Hawk. It is reported these have headed the war parties that killed the whites. Red Cloud is called the chief of all the Bad Faces by the Indians, and most of his relatives belong to the outlaws. His son-in-law was one of the principals in killing the two women in the Sweetwater country in July.

For the good of the Indians, as well as the peace of the frontier, it is important that these murderers be summarily dealt with. By education the Indian is incapable of appreciating leniency, and to prevent a border war it requires more firmness in their management. To do this the agent must have force to enforce his demands.

The Cheyenne and Arapahoes, for the first time since their treaty with the Government, have all been at the agency the greater part of the year. They behaved themselves well and avoided all bad talk in their councils. These Indians are anxious for an agency by themselves, which is considered advisable if selected on the reservation, as their going south to join their people is impracticable, and they should be away from the Sioux in drawing their rations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. DANIELS,  
*Acting United States Indian Agent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C.*

35.

SHOSHONE AND BANNACK AGENCY,  
*Wyoming Territory, September 17, 1873.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following annual report relative to the progress of the service at this agency.

The Shoshone Indians have, since my last report, deliberately resolved in council to settle down on their reservation and cease their migratory habits. The number at that time on the reservation was 791 men, women, and children, numbering 126 lodges. Nearly all of the families wanted implements, seed, and land to commence farming last spring. There was about 200 acres of land broke in a field of 320 acres, all of which they plowed over with their ponies, assisted with the Government work-cattle, and sowed with wheat, or planted with potatoes and garden-vegetables. Though pretty well prepared for a small beginning, I had not anticipated so many new farmers requiring more plows, harness, and other implements, than I was able to supply. All worked, men and women, old and young, with great good humor and perseverance. It has been necessary to employ additional white men to assist in instructing them, irrigating their crops, &c.

Each family worked a piece of ground separately. It is believed they will cultivate a large amount of land next year, and a new field of about 300 acres has been fenced in this summer by the employés, and a frame building 20 x 40 feet is being erected to store Indian grain and protect farming implements. The aggregate amount of the crop raised by the Indians this year will be from ten to twelve hundred bushels of wheat, from two and a half to three thousand bushels of potatoes, and a considerable amount of carrots, beets, onions, and other vegetables for winter use.