

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.

There is a growing interest felt in schools, though some difficulties still to overcome; superstition and want of parental authority are perhaps the greatest. The teacher is laboring with commendable zeal, and about forty boys have been instructed during the past year. Those that attended with some degree of regularity have advanced rapidly.

Houses for the Indians to live in would not only conduce to more regular attendance at school, but would have a civilizing influence over them in many ways. They speak of houses and cattle as their greatest want not yet provided for. They have been comfortably subsisted during the past year. This has been dealt to them by a regular system, by which every man, woman, and child get their exact rations, and the tally-paper of each issue, giving the number of Indians and the amount issued, is filed away for reference.

Treaty stipulations on the part of the Government have in the last three years been strictly complied with at this agency; perhaps the only exception is the continued and persistent effort of white men to crowd upon the reservation, the bad result of which may be severely felt at some future time.

The general appearance of the Indians has very much improved. Instead of the dirty, squalid, sickly people they once were, they are now becoming much more tidy in their dress and cleanly in their persons and habits; they are cheerful and healthy, and say that there are about two births for one death in the tribe, whereas they were heretofore rapidly decreasing.

Neighboring tribes of Indians have sent runners to this agency to see if it was true that the Shoshones had settled quietly down on their reservation and commenced farming. The Crow Nation has sent, congratulating the Shoshones on the favorable change in their affairs. Shoshones who left the tribe long ago, and other Shoshones, mixed bloods, numbering 46 lodges and 216 souls, have lately come into the agency, and ask that they may be permitted to stay and learn to farm; and it is reported among the Indians that many more desire to come, and I have no doubt will be here in due time.

Many difficulties have to be met and overcome, yet there is no reason known to me why these Indians shall not be self-subsisting in a very few years, and a secure foundation laid for civilization.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES IRWIN,

United States Special Indian Agent.

HON. EDWARD P. SMITH,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

36.

OFFICE INDIAN AGENT, NEZ PERCÉ INDIANS.

Lapwai, Idaho, September 9, 1873.

SIR: In compliance with the requirements of the Department I respectfully submit the following as my annual report:

THE TRIBE.

During the past year the Indians have been unusually quiet; those living on the reserve having engaged largely in farming, manifesting greater interest than ever before, and the results of their labors showing greater progress in the art of husbandry; and if they continue to progress as rapidly as appearances now indicate they will, it will not be long before they will be in reality a civilized people and worthy of becoming citizens.

Those living outside the reserve are mostly non-treaties, and do not make much progress or advancement. They have given no trouble during the past season, and seem to have made up their minds to get along as easily as possible with all.

Joseph and band have spent the greater part of the summer in the Wallowa Valley and will remain there until snow falls.

FARMING.

The crops are much better this season than last, and those Indians who cultivated their fields will have plenty and to spare. Many such will find a good market for their surplus, having from fifty to one hundred bushels of grain for sale. The products of lands cultivated for the agency is in excess of that of last year. Will have an abundance of vegetables for the schools and nearly enough wheat for one year. The table of statistics will give details of farming.

There are many old Indians that have been cast off who will have to be cared for during the coming winter; a part of their subsistence will come from that raised at the agency.