

SCHOOLS.

We have none, nor indeed has there ever been anything like one, on the reservation; there have been, indeed, no buildings nor arrangements for a school. We however have the material now prepared, and in a few days expect to start the building and finish it before winter sets in. I secured a few days since books to start a school, and expect as soon as possible to get things in shape for proper tuition of those who may be induced to attend.

I judge from what I can learn that the Indians here were never more quiet, and things connected with them in a more hopeful shape, and yet apparently everything almost to make these men such as they can be, and ought to be, is to be done. We have, with some little change in the form of the treaty which is now hoped for soon, and with proper outlay of means and example, labor and patience on the part of those employed to look after them, as well as the same solicitude and evident willingness on the part of the Department that has already been shown since our labor here, the most cheerful hope for the future.

Respectfully, yours,

HENRY W. REED,
United States Indian Agent.

HON. EDWARD P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

38.

CROW AGENCY, MONTANA, *September 28, 1873.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herein my third annual report in regard to the Crow Agency, and the Indians under my charge.

The Mountain Crows now number about thirty-two hundred souls, including half-breeds and remnants of other tribes, who have become incorporated in the Crow Nation. They still continue to conform in all respects, as nearly as practicable, to their treaty stipulations. About fifty lodges of River Crows have remained with the Mountain Crows during the past year, and have been mostly subsisted and clothed out of the Mountain Crow fund. Twenty lodges more have lately joined the Mountain Crows, and the balance (twenty lodges) have notified me that they would soon come to this agency, and remain permanently with the Mountain Crows, thereby making but one tribe. The River Crows, in all, number about twelve hundred souls.

On the 21st of September, 1872, a large war party of Sioux and Arapahoe Indians made a raid upon this agency, running off a large amount of stock, killing one white man, (Dr. Frost,) two Crow squaws, and one Crow infant. Again, this season, on the 3d of the present month, they made their appearance, and tried to run off the agency stock; but being discovered in time by the employés of the agency, they received such a warm reception that they failed to accomplish their undertaking, further than killing Charles Noyes and Joseph Hosea, who were at the time about one mile from the agency buildings, and in getting away with a few head of cows and oxen belonging to the agency.

About two o'clock a. m. of the 30th of October, 1872, a fire was discovered by the watchman in the bastion and laborers' quarters, and although the alarm was promptly given and every endeavor was made to save the buildings composing the stockade, owing to a high gale of wind prevailing at the time, the buildings were all destroyed, together with most of their contents. For further information upon this subject I respectfully refer you to my special report of the fire, soon after its occurrence.

From what material I could use from Indian houses, I succeeded in erecting temporary houses and quarters, sufficient, barely, to prevent freezing during the winter.

On the 10th day of February last I issued to the Mountain Crows their annuities for 1872, in the presence of Capt. L. C. Forsyth, who was detailed from Fort Ellis, Montana, to witness the same.

In regard to the farming operations at this agency for the present season, I have to report almost an entire failure. Owing to the farm being situated in the low bottom-land, near the river, the extreme high flood inundated nearly the whole of the farm for some two months, thereby almost utterly destroying the entire crop. A portion of the cereals would however have matured had it not been that a large and destructive army of grasshoppers made its appearance just before the grain was ripe. For further particulars on this subject, see farming statistics.

In regard to the progress of the schools, I have to report the same old story; the constant warfare between the Crows and Sioux, and the unsettled condition of this agency, being the excuse as usual. But the real fact is, that the Crows have not yet been agency Indians long enough to see and understand the necessity of an English education, or the benefits derived therefrom. In my opinion, the only way to accom-

plish anything in the way of educating these Indians, is by having a series of books published in their own language.

On the 31st. of July last, Hon. F. R. Brunot, Gen. E. Whittlesey, and Dr. James Wright, arrived at this agency with instructions from the Hon. Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the Crows for their present reservation. After fully understanding their business and instructions, and the wishes of the Government in regard to them, the commissioners, on the 16th of August, completed an agreement with them to cede all their present reservation, and to take in lieu thereof what is known as the Judith Basin, comprising about one-third the extent of territory as that of the present reservation, and lying on the south side of the Missouri River. In connection with this matter, I beg leave to state that the supplies not yet having arrived from the East, I have been compelled to purchase sugar, coffee, &c., from N. Story, in order to subsist these Indians in accordance with treaty stipulations. I have also been compelled to purchase supplies for hospital use, on requisition of physician, and by recommendation of the special commission, such as tea, rice, hominy, fruit, and corn meal, to be issued to sick Indians; and hope my action in the matter will meet the approval of the Department.

Having received orders, I accordingly turned over the Crow agency and all property and appurtenances thereto belonging, on the 17th instant, to my successor, James Wright.

Respectfully submitted,

F. D. PEASE,
Agent for Crow Indians.

HON. COMMISSIONER INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

39.

FLATHEAD INDIAN AGENCY, MONTANA,
September 8, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to submit this my first annual report of the condition and management of this agency. I also inclose herewith statistics of farming and education.

On the 1st of January last I relieved my predecessor, Mr. C. S. Jones, and on the same day assumed the duties of agent. The condition in which I found the agency was as poor as could be described; the work-cattle were worthless, three of them having since died, and the balance of the band are not expected to survive the coming winter. There was only one serviceable wagon, no serviceable plow, and the harrow consisted of a few pieces of iron driven through some bars of rotten wood. The only property which could at all be utilized (except the mills) was a span of horses and the wagon, neither of which were first class.

There was not subsistence and forage enough to keep life in employés and stock for one week. The buildings were dilapidated and few, and everything wore an appearance of gloom and decay; even the Indians appeared to have no confidence in any statements made to them.

Of the twenty Indian houses ordered built by General Garfield, August 27, 1872, not one had been finished, nor did the work on the four which had been commenced amount to as much as the completion of one; neither was there any timber on hand or cut for the purpose; and this was used as an argument by the Flatheads in justification of their non-compliance with the terms of the contract made between General Garfield and themselves, (August 27, 1872.)

After a full review of the situation I deemed it advisable to change the condition of things as soon as possible. I therefore immediately commenced breaking and fencing land preparatory to putting in crops, in order that I may thereby infuse the Indians with a spirit of industry and self-sustenance. In order to facilitate the building of the Flathead houses, on the 20th of March I employed additional men and teams and continued to employ additional means according to the exigencies of the service, until their completion, which was effected on the 30th of June last. These houses are 16 by 18 feet, one and a half stories high, well lined and ceiled, with good shingle roofs and adobe chimneys, and one door and two windows each. Six are frames and fourteen sawed logs, (the latter being preferred by the Indians.) Two are for the second and third chiefs, and are double the size described. In addition to those, I have built one large four-room house for use and occupancy by the resident physician, and repaired the shops for present use.

Thus I have built 21 houses, repaired others, erected 1,420 rods of fencing, broken and seeded 140 acres of land, made about 6 miles of irrigating and other ditches, cut about 60 tons of hay, 40 tons of it a distance of 10 miles from the agency and the