

REPORTS

OF

SUPERINTENDENTS AND AGENTS OF INDIANS.

NEW YORK INDIAN AGENCY,
Forestville, N. Y., October 21, 1874.

SIR: In submitting my fifth annual report, I have the honor to state that the Indians in this agency number 5,140, of whom 1,046 reside on the Allegany and Cornplanter reservations, 1,712 on Cattaraugus reservation, 208 on Oneida, 394 on Onondaga, 704 on Saint Regis, 660 on Tonawanda, and 416 on Tuscarora reservation. Of these Indians, 3,060 are Senecas, 506 Onondagas, 704 Saint Regis, 302 Oneidas, 180 Cayugas, and 388 are Tuscaroras. There are on these reservations 1,807 Indian children between the ages of five and twenty-one years. There are thirty Indian schools in the agency, which have been taught on an average of thirty-three weeks during the school-year ending October 1, 1874. Of the teachers employed in these schools in the past year 12 were Indians, who have generally succeeded well. Among them are some successful and excellent teachers. Several of these teachers received aid from the appropriations heretofore made for the civilization of Indians, in securing their education, and in special training to become teachers on the reservations. The money so expended is producing good results.

Of the 1,870 Indian children of school-age, 1,418 have attended school some portion of the year. The average daily attendance during the thirty-three weeks the schools have been taught during the year was 908, being an increase in the daily attendance over the preceding year of 97. An encouraging evidence of the advancement of these people in civilization is found in the increasing interest they take in the education of their children. Each year marks a decided improvement in the regularity and numbers of these children in attendance at school.

An institute for the training of teachers of these schools was held on the Cattaraugus reservation during the first week in August last. Thirty-six teachers attended the institute, which was conducted by Prof. R. H. Sanford, president of the New York State Teachers' Association, and was a success. Lectures were given by Professor Sanford and others to the Indians at different places on the reservation during the holding of the institute, the object being to arouse an increased interest among the Indians in the schools, and to secure greater regularity in attendance. The institute must produce good results. Especial efforts were made to impress the teachers with the important missionary character of their work, not in the school-room only, but among the Indian people.

I attended the annual fair of the New York Indians on the Cattaraugus reservation in the first week of the present month. The fair was conducted by the Iroquois Agricultural Society, which is incorporated, all the officers being Indians. The society has erected upon its fair-grounds within the past year a substantial frame building, 30 by 60 feet, to be used as a hall for the exhibition of grain, vegetables, fruit, and articles of domestic manufacture. The fair was largely attended notwithstanding the weather was cold and inclement. The display in domestic animals, grain and vegetables was, very creditable. The receipts of the fair, which were mostly paid out in premiums, were about \$1,300.

The crops on these reservations have been better this year than usual, and I report a growing interest among the Indians in agricultural pursuits. I estimate their wealth in individual property, not including farm-buildings, at \$381,214. The evidences of their advancement in civilization are unmistakable. Some of the Indians are becoming good mechanics.

The Indians of the Allegany and Cattaraugus reservations have been considerably agitated during the past year about legislation by Congress affecting leases of their lands at the village of Salamanca, on the Allegany reservation. This village is situate at the junction of the Erie Railway with the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad; is wholly on the reservation, and numbers over 2,000 inhabitants, who occupy the lands either under leases made by the Seneca Nation of Indians, or under leases made by individual Indians, approved by the council of the Seneca Nation, and most of them confirmed by laws of the State of New York. Among the leases first named are those

given to the railroad companies for right of way and railroad buildings at Salamanca. The courts of New York have adjudged all these leases void. Since the making of these leases, which were supposed to be valid, \$1,000,000 or more have been expended on the leased property in the erection of railroad-buildings, dwelling-houses, stores, churches, school-houses, and other buildings. The people of Salamanca are entitled to some relief by the legislation of Congress, growing out of this condition of affairs, and the Indians are as yet unable to agree among themselves as to what specific measures of relief to recommend. The village is only of a few years' growth; and the lands, before being used for village purposes, were in part covered with logs and brush, and were but partially cultivated. Some of the smartest of the Indians, seeing that a village was likely to be built up at this point, purchased the improvements on a portion of the lands of the Indian occupants, and they and the other Indian occupants not so selling leased these lands to white men for terms of years, some of the leases covering several acres. The white lessees have sublet to other parties in smaller lots, on which valuable buildings have been erected. The council of the Seneca Nation, which is annually elected by ballot, claims the right to extinguish the claims of these Indian lessors to the leased lands, upon paying them a fair compensation for the improvements upon the lands at the time the same were leased to white men, and upon this being done, to have the rents paid to the treasurer of the Seneca Nation of Indians. I think this claim just, and in legislation by Congress affecting these leases provision should be made accordingly, by the appointment of commissioners, with power to determine the sums to be paid to the several Indian lessors for their improvements and interest.

The Thomas asylum for orphan and destitute Indian children on the Cattaraugus reservation was incorporated by the legislature of New York in 1855, and was by the act of incorporation declared to be entitled to share in the appropriations thereafter to be made to the incorporated asylums of the State. It has fifty acres of land connected with it, on which the orphan boys are required to labor a portion of the time in the summer season. In winter they make brooms and do other work. The girls are instructed in household duties. An appropriation of \$2,500 was recently made by the State of New York for the repair and enlargement of the asylum buildings, which have been greatly improved thereby. It can now accommodate one hundred Indian children, and over that number has been kept the past year. This asylum is practically a boarding and manual labor school of the best kind. It is under judicious management, and has done a most excellent work in the civilization of the Indians in this agency. I respectfully recommend the continuance of the annual appropriation of \$1,000 for its support, from the fund for the civilization of Indians. I inclose herewith the last report of this institution, which was delivered to me on the 19th instant.

The Friends' boarding-school for Indian children, on land adjoining the Allegany reservation, under charge of Mr. A. P. Dewees, superintendent, has had an average daily attendance of twenty-five children the past year. It has a farm of about 300 acres connected with it, on which the male Indian children are required to work some, and the girls are trained to do house-work. This manual-labor school is wholly supported by the Society of Friends at Philadelphia, and is doing a good and humane work for the Indians of the Allegany reservation.

I have been unavoidably delayed in making this report by the delay of the local superintendents of the Indian schools in the agency in forwarding to me copies of their official school-reports. I desired to embrace reliable statistics in relation to the schools, which are contained herein.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. SHERMAN, *Agent.*

Hon. EDW. P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

OFFICE OF MICHIGAN INDIAN AGENCY,
Lansing, September 14, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to present my annual report of the Michigan Indian agency for 1874.

The status and condition of the Indians of this State have undergone no particular change since my last annual report. The religious and civil instrumentalities engaged in their improvement in Christian civilization are too few and feeble to justify a reasonable expectation for any very marked improvement. I deeply deplore the fact that the largest tribe, viz, the Ottawas and Chippewas, are very destitute of educational facilities. Having no more treaty-funds with which to maintain schools among them, they are retrograding in the matter of education. This, of course, darkens the prospect of the coming generation, and seriously affects their progress in the scale of their social and civil well-being. Their material prosperity, however, is gradually advancing, but is not sufficient as yet to enable them to sustain schools among them. The "annuities" to this tribe having ceased, no general enumeration of it has been made, so that I cannot definitely state its number; but from their general condition I would