

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

judge they are gradually on the increase. Their reservations are located in an extremely healthy part of the State, and no general sickness or epidemic has prevailed among them for many years. Their dwellings are mostly quite comfortable log-houses, and they wear the dress of citizens. The patenting to them of their lands has stimulated them to labor and improve their farms. Their religious advantages are better than their educational. The Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches are doing the principal work in this regard.

CHIPPEWAS OF SAGINAW, SWAN CREEK, AND BLACK RIVER.

This tribe is the most prosperous in every particular of either of those in the State. About one-half of the tribe only reside on the reservation. The balance reside in seven or eight different settlements, where they have purchased lands and are doing, I am of the opinion, better in every respect than those located on the reservation. This is owing to the fact that they are more contiguous to, and have the benefit of the example of, the whites.

The agricultural statistics of this tribe for this year show a most gratifying advance beyond any previous year. By special application for a portion of their educational funds to be expended for seeds, cattle and farming implements, I was furnished with the means of giving them the best supply of these articles last spring that they had ever had. I took great pains to suitably distribute these among them just at the time required for putting in for a spring crop, and the result has been very satisfactory, and I am convinced that money thus expended for them is five times more advantage to them than it would be to be put into their hands. I am nearly convinced that money disbursed to Indians is, on the whole, a damage to them.

In the matter of school facilities they are very well furnished. The tribe is nearly all Protestant in faith, and under the missionary care of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They are a peaceable and law-abiding class of citizens, gradually rising to a better and higher condition in intelligence and respectability. Many of them are men of sterling Christian integrity.

THE CHIPPEWAS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

are located on their reservation, which is on the upper peninsula of the State, and on either shore of Keweenaw Bay. They have a beautiful and excellent tract of land, furnishing them good fisheries and agricultural advantages. They are a peaceable and improving tribe of Indians, numbering about twelve hundred.

In religious character they are about equally divided between the Catholics and Methodists. The present generation shows a vast improvement over the former. They have two Government schools and two missions.

During the month of July I made an allotment of their lands as provided in the treaty of September 30, 1854. This pleased them very much, and I think will call out extra exertions in the improvement of their circumstances. This fall they receive the last of twenty annual appropriations in money and goods.

In reviewing the year I can see a considerable degree of progress has been attained in the moral and material condition of the Indians. Being very much scattered and far removed from each other in their settlements, it is impossible for me to be with them: as much as I could if they were collected upon one reservation, and the clerical duties of my office requiring my personal attention, (not being allowed a clerk,) I am not able to devote that personal attention to their instruction that I could wish, and that I believe would aid them very much in improvement in the arts of civilization.

For further particulars I respectfully refer to my statistical report.

Very respectfully submitted.

GEO. I. BETTS,
United States Indian Agent, Michigan.

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

UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENCY,
Keshena, Wis., September 1, 1874.

DEAR SIR: The following report of this agency, for the year ending August 31, 1874, is respectfully submitted:

The statistics of the tribe have not been completed, and I cannot therefore refer to them.

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This tribe receives from the Government only \$800 in annuity and about \$1,000 in support of schools, and the agent has been accustomed to give them little attention. Their reservation is completely surrounded by whites. A large portion of them speak English, and many