

AGENCY OF THE SAC AND FOX INDIANS IN IOWA,
Toledo, Iowa, September 19, 1874.

SIR: In obedience to the requirements of the Indian Department at Washington, I have the honor to submit herewith my second annual report of the condition of the Indian agency under my care. I have no very important changes to note in regard to the Indians in my charge since my last report. This part of the tribe of the Sac and Fox Indians of the Mississippi, embracing almost one-half of the whole remaining tribe, reside on lands in Tama County, Iowa, which they purchased from individuals, and the settlement was made by permission of the legislature of Iowa. This tract of land, which is not very valuable, is situated along the Iowa River, and embraces an area of 419 acres. About 110 acres of this land are under cultivation; the balance is used for pasturage for the ponies. Nearly all is inclosed with a substantial fence. Most of the Indians have been located this summer as last summer on from three to ten acres per family, and have cultivated, under the direction of the farmer, well, what was assigned to them. The number of Indians is about the same as reported last year, an increase of three. The number at this time is as follows: men, 103; women, 86; boys, 78; girls, 71; total, 338. Several old Indians and a number of children have died during the past year. The health of the tribe, as a general thing, is good; they have had no epidemic diseases among them, and very little scrofula or venereal disease, that prevail to such an alarming extent among some tribes of Indians. They have had plenty of good food and clothing during the past year. In this respect there has been a manifest improvement lately.

With few exceptions I am not able to report any very great progress in the way of civilization during the past year. These Indians cling with great tenacity to their old ideas. They follow their natural instincts, and regard these instincts as the voice of the "Great Spirit" to them. They are an intensely religious people in their way; they observe the ceremonies of their system of religion with the greatest punctuality and fervor. Only a few have or seem to have a disposition to adopt the "white man's way of living." If they are to be civilized they must be educated, and this cannot be done as long as they roam about more than half of the year, engaged in hunting and trapping. I am of the opinion that there should be a system of compulsory education inaugurated in the case of this tribe, if they are to remain in Iowa. I contemplate asking the legislature of Iowa for some legislation on this point. It is of the highest importance that something be done that these Indians be put into a condition that they can be reached by missionaries. As long as they persist in roaming over the country at their pleasure it is utterly impossible to accomplish much in the way of their civilization and Christianization. To-day you may be able to induce them to send their children to school, but the next day, in order to prevent their children from attending school, they are off on a hunting expedition with their squaws and children.

About the usual number labored faithfully during last harvest for the neighboring farmers, binding wheat and making hay. The statistical returns of farming for the year ending August 31, 1874, (which I herewith transmit,) show the individual wealth of this tribe to be nearly \$13,000, not including their lands. They have too many ponies. They are a detriment to them. I have been trying to induce them to exchange some of their ponies for cows; I trust I will succeed by and by.

In conclusion I have only to say that such is the unsettled condition of these Indians at present, owing to the almost constant agitation of their removal to the Indian Territory, that but little can be done to civilize and Christianize them under these circumstances. It is a matter, therefore, of great importance that the question whether they shall be allowed to remain in Iowa or go to the Indian Territory should be speedily disposed of one way or the other. If they are permitted to remain where they now are, the buildings necessary for educational and missionary purposes should at once be erected. If they must go, the fact should be communicated to them distinctly, and measures taken to accomplish the end without delay.

Yours, respectfully,

A. R. HOWBERT,
United States Indian Agent.

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

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY,
 OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Omaha, Nebr., Ninthmonth 23, 1874.

RESPECTED FRIEND: The Indians of the Northern Superintendency have, during the past year, been orderly, peaceful, and in most of the tribes inclined to industry. No Indian belonging to the superintendency has been charged with the murder of a white person. Crime has been rare, and, with one exception, confined to the lesser grades. The Indians have been generally free from the use of intoxicating drinks.

More attention has been given to agriculture than in previous years, and the crops were