CONDUCT AND CRIMES.

We regret to say that, on many occasions during the year, the conduct of the Indians toward one another has been of the worst kind; also that at times it has been bad toward citizens, though not often seriously so. With the increase of drunkenness there has been a corresponding increase of crime. There have been six homicides this year, while during the year previous there were none. One was that of a Mexican, and the remainder were of Indians, all of which were directly traceable to the use of whisky. In every instance there was no evidence other than Indian, and though every proper means was employed to convict the murderers and the whisky-vendors through the courts, the evidence, being contradictory or insufficient, has defeated the object.

CIVILIZATION—OBSTACLES THERETO.

The nature and habits of the Indians here are such as to render the act of civilizing them a very slow and feeble work under the most favorable circumstances. With the present surroundings, advancement, even if at all practicable, will be attended with the utmost difficulty. The mind of the Indian is susceptible of moral impressions, and not unfrequently he becomes convinced of his errors, manifests regret for the wrongs he has done, and sincere desire to pursue a better course in the future; but he is soon carried away by the temptation to strong drink. He is brought almost daily in contact with unprincipled white men, who are ready to tear from his breast any good impression he may have received, and to vitiate and inflame his whole being, and who, before all others, must be held morally responsible for the crimes committed by the Indians, and for their continuance in so low and degraded condition. Remove the Indians to permanent and suitable homes, where they may find profitable employment on their own lands, and under the constant watch-care of those whom you may appoint over them, and you will, at the same time, remove many obstacles to their civilization.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. VOSBURGH,
United States Indian Agent.

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

REPORTS OF AGENTS IN COLORADO.

SPECIAL UTE INDIAN AGENCY,
Denver, Colo., September 1, 1875.

SIR: This agency being off the reservation, and having been established mainly for the purpose of caring for such Ute Indians belonging to the confederated tribes as are allowed to visit Denver and the "buffalo range," it will not, of course, be expected that this report shall treat of agricultural, educational, or missionary work. * * *

In my intercourse with the Indians coming directly under my charge, and especially as relates to the "Pi-ah," or Middle Park band, I have always set forth the great advantages of their reservations in strong, if not eloquent, language, and have urged them to lose no time in accepting and profiting by the great privileges offered them by a beneficent Government; but the attraction afforded them here in the way of bargains for their furs and skins, the glorious annual buffalo-hunt, the *ne plus ultra* of excitement and profit to all semi-civilized Indians, and the attention paid to them while here by tourists, have been hard to overcome. I have, however, by persistent effort, succeeded in inducing Pi-ah and a large portion of his band to remain at the Southern agency during the greater part of the past summer, and I have just received word from him that he is well satisfied. At the same time he states that he was about going to the White River agency to visit some relations, and that, with a few chosen warriors, he contemplated taking a "little" buffalo-hunt this fall.

There are now five lodges of Utes in this vicinity, who tell me that within the next month they expect to be joined by delegations from the different bands for this purpose. In this connection I would respectfully renew the suggestion I have made for the past two years, (of which, by the way, no notice has been taken,) that when these Indians are allowed to go to the buffalo range, a competent and trustworthy person be sent with them by the agent, who shall be directed to see that they do not in any way interfere with the rights of white settlers on their journey, and who shall also use every endeavor to prevent a collision between them and the "plains Indians." Since the attack by the Sioux last winter upon a Ute camp on the Republican, and the retaliation by the latter, in which they captured some three hundred of the Sioux horses, the plains tribes have constantly kept scouts in the buffalo country looking out for Ute hunting-parties. The Utes will go to that region in strong force and thoroughly prepared for a fight, if they go at all; and as the Sioux, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes, (Northern and Southern,) Kiowas, and Comanches roam over that country at their own sweet will in large numbers, it is probable that, unless great precau-

tions are taken by the several agents, a bloody battle between these life-long enemies will take place on the Republican this winter. My reasons for urging that necessary and timely precautions be taken to prevent such a conflict are, first, that I believe I am sustaining the policy of the Department, which is, to discourage this hereditary enmity between the tribes; and secondly, I take into consideration the fact that, in case the Utes are successful, the Indians who suffer are apt, in subsequent raids, to wreak their vengeance upon white men rather than return to their homes empty-handed. The possibility of any such encounter as I have predicted, or of innocent citizens suffering because the *peaceful* Utes happen to be better warriors than the *warlike* Sioux, might be prevented by keeping *all Indians* away from that country; but, as it seems to be permissible, under existing regulations, for portions of all tribes I have named to visit the great buffalo range periodically, and as they *all choose same time for such visits*, I offer, for your consideration, the simplest and surest remedy for the evil apprehended. I would suggest that, in case it should appear necessary to enforce the order restricting Indians to their reservations, the Utes, or a fair proportion of them, be excepted from such order, for the reasons that they are peaceable and well disposed toward the whites, and especially because, in comparison to their numbers, they are more poorly provided for in the matter of subsistence than any tribe on the continent; and this annual buffalo-hunt furnishes a means of support to them without which they would suffer. Perhaps, in this connection, I may be allowed to state that the annual appropriation for provisions for the Utes, distributed upon the basis of the Army ration, and counting the seven tribes at five thousand, would subsist them a little over *half a month*, or, figuring it *finely*, 5,000 rations, at 30 cents, are $1,500; $25,000, divided by $1,500 = 16⅔, the number of days the appropriation would last. Permitting these figures to talk for me and for the Utes, and merely calling attention to the fact that for about the same number of Indians in the Indian Territory (most of whom are on the war-path half their time) $630,000 are appropriated, and that about 15,000 Sioux receive for like purposes a million and a half dollars annually, I make no further comment.

Referring to the sanitary condition of the Utes, I respectfully renew my oft-repeated recommendation for the employment at this agency of a competent physician during such time as the Indians are allowed to visit Denver. It strikes me that in no other item of expenditure can the Department do more good toward this people than by furnishing proper medical attendance to the sick—and nearly all of them suffer from syphilis, rheumatism, and pneumonia, the latter disease being almost invariably fatal, unless prompt and skilled attention is given. Although I have repeatedly and persistently urged upon the Department the necessity of having a physician here, there seems to be a settled objection to incurring the expense (twelve hundred dollars a year) chiefly because provision is made in this respect for the Utes at their regular agencies on the reservation. The argument would be a good one provided said agencies were easily accessible from here, or provided the Indians were *compelled* to remain at or near the agencies; but while hundreds of them come here every year with governmental sanction, and bringing written permits from the agents, and as the nearest agency is 180 miles from Denver, over two high mountain ranges, I do not exactly see the justice or the wisdom of withholding medical care that can so advantageously and cheaply be administered.

The practice of giving whisky and other liquors to Indians has still prevailed here, notwithstanding the severe penalties imposed by law, and in spite of all the precautions I have taken to prevent it. Since my last report three cases of this nature have occurred in Denver to my knowledge, and two arrests have been made; one of the parties accused (J. M. Chavez) was duly convicted and sentenced to fine and imprisonment in the penitentiary. J. R. Chavez, arrested on same charge, was acquitted, the prosecution not being able to establish the fact that *liquor* was given. The third case is that of Jo. Vay, referred to in about a dozen letters from this office as having occurred May 17, 1875, and to which I was an eye-witness. Mr. Vay, for some unaccountable reason, still remains at large. Beyond this disposition of a few of the Southern Utes, Muaches and Capotes, to indulge their appetite for spirituous liquor, I can find nothing in the general conduct of the Indians visiting this place that calls for condemnation; and as regards the White River, Pi-ah, and Tabequache bands, they are singularly free from this vice.

It is perhaps proper that I should, in this report, allude to the killing by an Indian of G. P. Marksberry, which occurred near Florissant, El Paso County, in January last. It is not necessary, however, that I should lengthen this communication by details of the causes which led to the killing, the circumstances attending the capture of the Indian, his incarceration here, his examination and discharge. These matters have been fully represented to you through my official letters. The occurrence was an exceedingly unfortunate one; and had it not been that I was entirely without authority (this agency having been temporarily discontinued) at the time, I could have settled the affair amicably and prevented his death. As it was, I kept the people, his neighbors, from making any attempt at retaliation by my personal efforts and influence, and persuaded them to let the law take its course. The facts elicited upon the examination were such as to persuade me that, had the case come to trial, the verdict would have been justifiable homicide.

My management of the affair between the Utes and Sioux, which occurred on the Republican River, about December 1, 1874, wherein the Utes captured nearly 300 horses from their

old enemies, has been explained and justified in special report dated December 9, 1874. As no answer was ever received from the Department, I take it that the suggestions made by Ouray and their indorsement by myself were approved.

The troubles between Utes and whites on Snake River, in December, 1874, which would have led to war had not my personal attention been given them in obedience to your telegram of December 10, were promptly settled by me and reported upon immediately after my return from that place December 21, 1874. I will merely repeat what I said in that report as to the prime cause of the trouble, viz, that abundance of whisky, furnished the Utes by one of the Snake River settlers, attracted the Indians to that place, and its devilish quality had the effect of making them boisterous, insolent, and sometimes threatening. I do not think trouble will ensue there again from a like cause.

In this connection, referring to suggestions made in my last annual report, to telegram of May 26, 1875, and to official letter dated June 3, 1875, I would herewith respectfully renew my request for authority to employ a detective when deemed necessary to apprehend persons violating the law prohibiting the giving of liquor to Indians.

In concluding this brief report, I wish to thank the heads of the Department at Washington for official courtesies, and to express the hope that each branch of the Indian service may be as peacefully administered as that whose field of labor is in this Territory.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES B. THOMPSON,
United States Special Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

LOS PINOS AGENCY, COLORADO,
September 16, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my second annual report. You urge upon me special care in ascertaining the number of Indians entitled to receive provisions and annuities at this agency. A count is quite impossible. You might as well try to count a swarm of bees when on the wing. They travel all over the country like the deer which they hunt. Even to register those you see would be difficult, for when you ask their names, "No name" is the common reply. From inquiry among them, however, I am satisfied that in times past the number has been overestimated. Instead of about 4,000 in the whole Territory, as reported two years ago, there are probably not more than 3,000, about 2,000 of whom draw from this agency, the others being under the supervision of the White River and Abiquiu agencies. There has been little if any natural increase during the year. In their present transitional state between barbarism and civilization decrease is more probable. It has been impossible to induce the Utes here to work to any considerable extent. They will sometimes labor industriously upon powder-horns and guns, but not very skillfully. We regard every occupation as useful which requires any concentration of the faculties. I proposed to the chief to select a young man as apprentice to the carpenter and another as apprentice to the blacksmith, and offered to board them and to require but three hours' work a day. He spoke to some of the Indians about it, but no one responded favorably. I have still hopes, however, of being successful in this direction.

On the Uncapahgre, Dolores, San Miguel, and La Plata Rivers there are twenty or thirty Utes who cultivate the soil more or less effectively. On the Uncapahgre, in June and July, I saw corn, beans, squashes, and melons looking very well. In August they were suffering from the drought. This might have been prevented by proper and sufficient means of irrigation, which will be secured by the work now going on at the new location for the agency. The stream by which the Indians had irrigated gave out early in the season.

There is a large number of goats, and probably as many as 2,000 sheep owned by different members of the tribe. The sheep and goats are kept for milk and meat. I do not know that any of the wool is secured. These animals are well herded, being easily carried from place to place to suit the nomadic habits of their owners. I have already recommended the purchase of sheep with a portion of the money to be expended for the Utes under the agreement of 1873, and would here express the hope that this recommendation will meet with favor, as I can think of no form of civilized life more likely to be adopted than herding, and am satisfied that the step from herding to agriculture will be taken by many.

The cattle belonging to the agency, now numbering over 900, have cost the Government a good deal to keep, and I would recommend that they be given in charge to the Indians, if Ouray or other chiefs will be responsible for their proper keeping. In the Uncapahgre Valley they will be so far from white settlers and the herds of white settlers that the care of them will be much reduced as soon as they become wonted to the range. Having been originally wild Texas cattle, and being now improved by the introduction of only a few American bulls, they are entirely unfit for their original purpose, namely, domestic use. Probably few of them could ever be trained to become good milkers. Perhaps a hundred or more may be culled out for beef during the next year. Not a single cow has yet been taken

by the Indians for family use. Our present herders will have to keep charge of the cattle through the coming winter, if not longer.

Much work has been done at the agency, repairing guns, shoeing horses, and keeping buildings in repair, and cutting cord-wood, besides what was needful in issuing goods to the Indians and keeping records and accounts. Much of the work for the last three months has had some connection with the removal of the agency. I have regarded the removal as very important, on account of the great amount of travel directly through the present agency, and the consequent and frequent contact of the two races. Yet I must acknowledge there has not been so much annoyance grown out of this as I anticipated. As we are not on the reservation, of course I could place no restrictions on traveling, or even settling in the vicinity. I have had knowledge of Indians getting spirituous liquors but once, and then through some Jacarilla Apaches who were visitors.

The saw-mill was to be in operation at the new location, and the contractor is already at work erecting the new buildings. If we have no serious delays in securing our winter supplies, we shall move during the last part of October and first part of November. Very few if any of the Utes will go to the plains the coming winter, but large numbers are talking of going to the Uncapahgre. Many have gone already. I am glad to report that the annuity-goods have nearly all arrived. They reached here on the 6th September, nearly a month earlier than last year.

The school has been as successful as could be expected, taking into consideration how low down in acquirement the scholars commenced. The improvement of several of the pupils is very marked. Quite a victory has been gained over the prejudices of influential members of the tribe. Members of Ouray's family and of the families of four other prominent chiefs have attended the school. The English language is taught by constant and persevering conversation on things of which the senses take cognizance, or acts which the children can perform or see in others. Thus they learn the use of the words while they become accustomed to the sound and look.

Among the new agency buildings will be a school-house with rooms to accommodate a few boarders, which I hope to be allowed to keep. I have visited the Uncapahgre three times to attend to removal matters, and must go again within a week. It took twelve men with four wagons, with three yoke of cattle each, and one wagon with a pair of mules, three weeks to remove the mill. They had to make the road a great part of the way. Transportation must be slow and expensive until more money is spent upon the road than can be spared from the present appropriation.

The boundary question is still agitated among the Utes with a good deal of feeling. They have always declared that they never intended to part with any farming-lands. This is evident also from Agent Adams's report for 1873, in which he says: "They all understand that they will be obliged to do so [till the soil] at no very distant day, and they become more and more accustomed to this idea, and for this very reason they positively refused to sell their farming and grass lands at the late council." They complain that their right to certain lands which some of them have occupied and cultivated for years is contested by the whites, and Mr. Gardner, of Professor Hayden's exploration parties, and Mr. Miller, the authorized surveyor of the San Juan district, report lands on the Animas and La Plata Rivers north of the division-line suitable for cultivation. I have always counseled red men and white men to abstain from any contest or controversy about the matter until the lines were established; that is, not to quarrel until they knew what they were quarreling about. The time has come when there can no longer be a question as to what is whose. It is possible that even now, two years after the cession of land was agreed to, an offer of the delayed compensation may pacify the Indians and make them contented to surrender what they much value. It is most likely that a year ago such an offer would have answered the purpose. It has been impossible for me to give the Utes any reason for this long delay on the part of the Government which they would accept as satisfactory. They now declare that they will not receive any compensation until the boundary-line is settled. This matter will be more fully explained by Agent J. D. Miles, whom you commissioned to make special inquiry into it, and who left here a few days since.

You are aware that the Utes objected to Messrs. Gardner's and Gannett's surveys in the outset, and that the parties of these gentlemen have lately been actually driven in from their work. A few days since Mr. Gardner was here, and, in conversation with Ouray, was assured that the attacking Indians, according to his description of them and of the place of attack, must have been a well-known band of outlaws, formerly Pi-Utes of Utah, now acknowledging no authority, though perhaps some disaffected Utes had joined them. It is not known that there were more than ten, no more than that number having been seen at once. The first attack was near Sierra La Sal, in Utah, the pursuit into Colorado and on to the reservation. Three mules belonging to the surveyors were killed, but no men, unless, perhaps, one Indian. It is reasonable to suppose that these hostile Indians were emboldened by the well-known dissatisfaction of the Ute tribe with the Brunot agreement. Two of the surveying party at the supply-camp, detached from the main body, were threatened by a little band of Indians recognized as from the White River agency. I hope the time will come when by some police force, composed of the Indians and under direction of the chiefs, the members of the tribes will be made personally responsible for the crimes they commit Such

a police force, as long as faithful, might be favored, through the chiefs, in the distribution of Government supplies.

I am glad to mention that at Ouray's suggestion the beef has lately been issued and killed in a corral, instead of allowing the Indians to give chase to the cattle outside. I now think we can make arrangements at the new agency to catch them with a lariat and draw them to a slaughter-pen where they shall receive wounds sure to kill instantly and not to torture, and where everything will be convenient and cleanly for dressing them.

We have been visited at this agency by four surveying parties, those of Mr. Gardner and Mr. Garnet, both under Mr. Hayden; Lieutenant Marshall, under Lieutenant Wheeler, and Mr. Miller, who surveyed the boundary-line.

Respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

H. F. BOND,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

WHITE RIVER, COLORADO, *September* 20, 1875.

SIR: Agreeable to the instructions of the Indian Department, I have the honor to submit the following as the annual report of the White River Indian agency, Colorado, for the year ending August 31, 1875.

The Ute Indians who make their headquarters and home at this agency number about nine hundred; of this number about 650 have been accurately counted; the remainder has been determined by estimate, they not having remained at the agency sufficiently long at any one time for me to obtain an accurate count of the children of those who received rations from me and signed my receipts. The average number of each family is five and a half, and of the entire number the division is about equal between male and female. During the month of August two hundred Indians not included in the above number, (nine hundred,) chiefly Muaches, came into the agency and have since been staying here. They express a purpose of remaining at White River. In case they do this, the number which will have to be looked after and provided for at this agency will be increased to eleven hundred. Many of these will, however, visit the agency, and that irregularly, for their rations.

The Indians here are very largely self-supporting, but not by any of the pursuits of civilized life. They receive provisions from the Government to feed them about one-third of the year, and blankets, clothing, &c., about one third, perhaps, of what they consume; the remainder of their support is obtained from the hunt.

A constant effort has been made throughout the last year to induce the Indians to settle down in their pleasant valley, to till the land and herd their cattle, it was thought last spring with considerable promise of success. I anticipated that another year would see quite a number of them engaged in these occupations; but a number of their young chiefs violently opposed this change in their life, while those who have recently come here strongly oppose and ridicule it also. It is almost impossible to induce any individual among the Indians to stand out by himself, oppose the sentiment of the tribe, and engage in anything they do not favor, however well convinced he may be in his own mind that it is for his interest to do so. I can report but six separate families who have engaged during the year in pursuits that might be called those of civilized life. Four families in the Grand River Valley till the land to some extent, raising corn, potatoes, melons, and keeping cows, goats, and sheep, and two in this valley have raised a few potatoes. But I am satisfied that if some six hundred of those who are more properly White River Utes could be kept from contact with others from different quarters who go wandering about the country, who are more idle in their habits and more unruly and unmanageable than themselves, they would settle down, and many of them adopt the course of life proposed for them. An effort will be made this fall to induce the Indians to receive and care for their herd of cattle, numbering about one thousand, which up to the present time, has been in the care of the agent and looked after by the employés of the agency.

The relations which the Indians have sustained to the white settlers in the neighborhood of their reservation have been universally friendly. I do not know of a single act of violence committed by an Indian upon any white person, nor of a single case of downright theft of which they have been guilty. The affair on Grand River, where one pony was taken from a party of white men, I do not consider such, and in it the Indians figured to much better advantage than the white men, and the fact that the pony in question has been given up, and that to the female teacher during the absence of the agent, is much to their credit. Last year some trouble was anticipated should white people settle in the Bear River Valley. Now there are between twenty and thirty settlers there, some with families, tilling the land and herding cattle, and neither they nor their property has been molested.

The health of the Indians has been fairly good during the year. About twenty-five, so far as I have been informed, have died; none have been killed by accident, and no one injured in any personal quarrel among themselves.

The progress made by the teacher in the school with the children, and in modifying the conduct, manners, and dress of older ones, has been very encouraging, especially considering the facilities for regular work in this direction which has been at her hand. About thirty-two children, altogether, have been under her influence, with an average daily attendance at the school of nine. Some two hundred garments have been made by them under her direction. Most of the thirty-two have learned to understand and talk English. Five boys have learned to read, write, and reckon in simple numbers, while they have received and answered letters in written characters. Many of the older ones have learned to understand English tolerably well from their intercourse with the teacher, who is with them more or less every day, visiting their camp and giving out their medicines. Up to the present time there has been neither a school nor boarding-house for the Ute children. This has been a serious obstacle in this work, which will, however, be removed soon, as I have a boarding-house for the accommodation of fifteen or twenty boys nearly completed. Shall commence upon a separate school-building immediately. It should be borne in mind that nothing but a boarding-school, at which the children shall remain, can be of any advantage to them at present; and it is a slow and difficult work to induce the Indians to leave their children in our care, even for a few months at a time. Some good friends of the cause have contributed between $300 and $400 to procure an assistant to the teacher, and enable her to carry out the work of the school, in which they have faith, although the numbers reported are small, the Department being unwilling to contribute any more money for this purpose until a better showing can be made.

The year has been as favorable, perhaps, for agricultural pursuits as the preceding one, although a long period of dry weather in May and June threatened, for a time, to render useless our efforts in this direction. Had not the irrigation of the crops been attended to faithfully, nothing would have been realized. As it is, I am inclined to think, from the experience of two years, that intelligent farm-labor on the irrigating plan would bring from this valley-land, which, however, is very limited in extent, fair returns in crops. Owing to insufficient seed, I was unable to plant any more land than was tilled last year. About three and a half acres of wheat, superior to that of last year, yielding about 25 bushels to the acre; two and a half acres of oats, not more than 30 bushels; about one acre of potatoes, which I estimate will yield 250 bushels; one-third acre of turnips, at the rate of 600 bushels. Eighty tons of good hay have been cut. A few garden vegetables have been raised, sufficient to assure me that with proper attention, which it is impossible to give here, the culture of hardy vegetables would be successful. Seven or eight acres of new land have been broken up, and will be sown in a year.

The agency herd now numbers about one thousand. The cattle are fine and in good order; not so wild as last year. In the spring I had the entire herd branded, a matter which has been neglected by the previous agent. The summer range for these cattle is fair; the winter range not so good, relatively. One herder is now allowed for these cattle, which is insufficient. Other employés assist in this service. It is hoped that the Indians will receive and care for their cattle during the coming year.

The agency buildings remain located in their old positions, the matter of their removal not having been considered by the Department, and no appropriation for the erection of new ones having been made. Such improvements as their time and facilities afforded have been made by the employés without any outside expense to the Government. A frame building, 32 by 24, has been erected over the engine and boiler of the saw-mill, and a very fine new stone furnace has been built around the boiler. One small Ute house has been built; a good warehouse, 20 by 16; a shed, 34 by 17; a corral, capable of holding 2,000 head of cattle; a roof cellar, 20 by 16, partially completed, and a boarding-house for Indian children, 54 by 16, with an L, 18 by 15, nearly finished, and a few repairs made on the old buildings of the agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. H. DANFORTH,
United States Indian Agent.

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

REPORTS OF AGENTS IN DAKOTA.

CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,
September 1, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to submit this my third annual report of affairs at this agency for the year ending August 31, 1875.

The Indians under my charge at this date number 7,586 souls, composed of Two Kettles, 2,261; Sans Arcs, 1,778; Minneconjoux, 2,817; and Blackfeet, 730; all of the Sioux tribe.