

SANITARY.

During the most of the year their sanitary condition has been good. For three months past, however, there has been an unusual amount of sickness. Several contagious diseases have passed through the reservation; these, in connection with typho-malarial fevers, have been very difficult to manage. There have been six births and eight deaths during the year.

CIVILIZATION.

But for the curse of the rum traffic civilization with these Indians would be an accomplished fact. For nearly eight years I have been with this people. I know the character and habits of every Indian. During these years my mind has alternated with hope and fear. For weeks and sometimes for months together there seemed to be but one object uppermost in all minds, that of advancement in the scale of civilization; and then, perhaps just as I would indulge in the thought of realizing my desire, that of seeing a temperate and prosperous people, my hopes would be dashed to pieces by some vandal selling whisky to my Indians. I was successful last fall in prosecuting two of these infamous characters and securing their conviction. They were each fined one hundred dollars and sentenced to imprisonment for one year. My course was commended by all good citizens, but the whisky element has been harassing me ever since. I am satisfied nearly all of the Indians desire to be temperate, but they cannot withstand the temptation to drink when one offers to treat them, and after once tasting liquor they become an easy prey to the seducer, and then some of my best Indians spend in a single drunken spree the accumulated proceeds of months of industry. Whisky and civilization with Indians are antipodal.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. G. BELKNAP,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

SOUTHERN UTE AGENCY, COLO.,
August 10, 1883.

SIR: In obedience to instructions received, I have the honor to submit my second annual report of the condition of affairs at this agency.

The Southern Utes are still located on their old reservation in Southwestern Colorado, which is well adapted to grazing purposes. They number 968, composed of Muaches, 269; Capotes, 208; Weeminuches, 491.

The Utes are natural herders, as is shown by the increase of their herds. They have large bands of horses, which, from natural increase and purchase, are increasing very fast. During the past year the Government purchased 4,800 ewes, which were distributed among the Indians at this agency. They take to sheep very well; they have clipped and sold to the trader about 6,000 pounds of wool from the sheep issued to them last May.

AGRICULTURE.

The Utes at this agency are not inclined to agricultural pursuits, although I think with proper encouragement they could be induced to till the soil to some extent. So far they have had no opportunity of seeing what they could do in that direction, as none of their land is under irrigation, and cannot be cultivated without. Last winter I persuaded five of the Indians to commence farming on a small scale. This they agreed to do provided they could be furnished with implements, seed, &c. I asked for and got the approval of \$200 to be expended in this way, but as it was the 7th of June before I received the money, it was too late to make any use of it this year.

EDUCATION.

No schools have been established at this agency. Under instruction from the honorable Secretary of the Interior I made the attempt to secure Ute children to attend school off of the reservation, with little hopes of success, as these Indians have always opposed any move on the part of their agent towards education. At first I met with great opposition from the chiefs and head men, they assigning many reasons why they should not allow their children to go to school; but after explaining to them the benefits they would derive from it, and assuring them that they should have good treatment, I last May succeeded in securing twenty-four boys and three girls, who are now located at the Albuquerque (N. Mex.) Indian school. Reports from the principal of the school show that they are getting along very well, considering the short time they have been there. I consider them an unusually bright lot of children, and expect satisfactory results if they stay two years, as is expected.

SANITARY.

There has been during the year but little sickness among the Indians of this agency, with the exception of small-pox, which raged to some extent. There were some fifteen Indians died with this disease. There have been twenty-four deaths and seven births during the year.

CIVILIZATION.

To an unprejudiced mind there can be but one conclusion. While these Indians live entirely in tents, tepees, and brush houses, and move from one part of the reservation to another, they are fast adopting the customs of the whites in manner of dress. I also consider their present location well adapted for their advancement in this direction. They are surrounded by white settlers, with whom they are constantly thrown in contact, which has a good effect.

INDIAN POLICE.

The police at this agency consist of two officers and eighteen privates. They are not as efficient as is desired. However, they are getting to be of some service to the agent. On several occasions they have brought in horses belonging to white settlers and turned them over, so that the owner could get his stock without trouble.

AGENCY BUILDINGS.

The buildings at this agency are very poor; they consist of two old log buildings, which are unsafe for the protection of supplies, &c., and are insufficient for the accommodation and comfort of the agent and his employés.

SUPPLIES.

The supplies furnished this agency last year were not in quantity sufficient for the number of Indians who receive rations at this agency, and as the appropriation for the present year is largely deficient from that of last, it is hard to tell what the result will be. Owing to the fact that game is very scarce on the reservation, it is natural to suppose that they will subsist on the sheep furnished them by the Government as long as the same will last.

I inclose herewith statistical report.

Very respectfully,

WARREN PATTEN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

CHEYENNE RIVER AGENCY, DAKOTA,
August 15, 1883.

SIR: In compliance with instructions contained in circular from Indian Office dated 13th July, 1883, I have the honor to submit the following as my first annual report of the condition of the Indian service at this agency relating to the Sioux Indians, composed of the Blackfeet, Sans Arc, Minneconjou, and Two Kettle bands.

I assumed charge of this agency on the 22d day of September, 1882, since which time I have endeavored to perform my duties in accordance with such instructions as I have received. If I have failed in any of them, I trust such failure may be attributed to my inexperience rather than to *inattention* to my duties.

LOCATION.

The agency is located on the west bank of the Missouri River, about 8 miles below the mouth of the Big Cheyenne. The buildings stand upon about as unfertile a piece of "gumbo" land as can be found along the river. Above us there is much better land and better locations for agency buildings, and in my opinion they should be moved at as early a date as possible.

The Indians of this agency are remarkably peaceable and quiet. There are among them, as there are among any other people, bad characters; but the proportion is no greater, in fact I believe I am safe in saying that it is less, than in the same number of whites. When I meet a bad Indian I treat him as such until he makes up his mind that it is better and more profitable to be "good," and this he generally acknowledges. I do not speak egotistically when I say I think they have confidence in me. It is very seldom necessary for me to repeat an order or a request. They are not only willing but they seem *anxious* to obey all orders given them, especially such as come direct from the "Great Father." As an instance I will relate the following: In the early part of June permission was given quite a number of the Indians to go on a buffalo hunt (a number sufficient to attend to all their crops were to remain at home.)