

WHISKY TRAFFIC.

The reservations of this agency are located in Kansas and Nebraska and surrounded by a thickly-settled class of farmers, which stimulates, to some extent, the industrious Indians' desire to imitate their neighbors in agricultural ways; but, on the other hand, there are always some among these settlers who infuse bad ideas among the Indians and assist them in a great many cases to secure intoxicating drinks in a way which is very hard to detect.

While we have a prohibitory law in Kansas, it appears to have been a detriment, so far as the Indians are concerned, in securing whisky. I have indicted several parties during the year, and have warrants in the hands of the United States marshal at this time. The only trouble in breaking up the whisky traffic is from the reluctance upon the part of Indians in testifying against whom they purchased the whisky, and in many cases it is procured from itinerant whisky venders, who visit the borders of these reservations, particularly after annuity payments.

There has been more sickness than usual in the past year, particularly with the Pottawatamies.

Very respectfully,

H. C. LINN,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

MACKINAC INDIAN AGENCY,
Ypsilanti, Mich., August 24, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to submit my second annual report.

The Indians of this agency are for the most part Chippewas, with a large sprinkling of Ottawas, and a remnant (about 100) of Pottawatamies. The first-named are scattered widely over the State north of Saginaw Bay, and settled in small communities of from thirty persons up to several hundred. The Pottawatamies are by themselves, located in Calhoun County, upon land owned in common, paid for from means provided by the Government some years since, and surrounded by flourishing communities of whites. The total number of Indians in the agency is between seven and eight thousand. An agency so situated requires more effort to secure results than one where the Indians are all confined within the narrow limits of a reservation. To assist them in their real grievances and dismiss their imaginary ones without injustice, to see to their schools, protect them in their land troubles, and encourage them in their industries has been my constant aim. I have been specially interested in two things: First, urging them to keep and work their land; second, to keep their children in the schools. I have succeeded fairly, not up to the full measures of my desires or hopes, but many Indians have during the last year been impressed with the importance of these matters, and lands are far more difficult of purchase from them than a few years since, as they begin to realize their value. Had patents not been issued in fee, thousands of Indians would have good homes who now have none, having years since parted with their land, in many cases for a mere pittance, while the wise policy incorporated in some treaties of allowing them to sell only by consent of the President has saved large numbers of homes to them.

During the year there has been no epidemic whatever. There is much scrofula among them, and many are consumptive, while owing to poor houses and our rigorous climate many of the children die; but happily the people have escaped epidemics peculiarly fatal among Indians, as they have but little idea of nursing and poor accommodation for their sick.

The Indians of Michigan are mainly engaged for a livelihood in fishing, working at jobs, and farming; there are very few mechanics among them; they are valuable in the lake ports as laborers to load and unload vessels, and are first-class woodsmen, and in these two pursuits hundreds are constantly engaged. Besides these laborers, there are several hundred connected with the fisheries in our great lakes in one way and another, and a few are proprietors of fishing apparatus and succeeding well.

A large number also are engaged in farming, and are succeeding moderately well. Most of the lands occupied by them are well to the north, and will not admit of growing much wheat, but oats, barley, potatoes, and hay can be grown in abundance, and these farm products they are, for the most part, engaged in raising. I have encouraged them as much as possible in these pursuits, and at council meetings have often spoken, as I believe with good effect, upon the great value and importance to them of farming.

While keeping in view my duty to urge them by all possible means to be industrious, I have also kept the schools at work as best I might to assist the children. I

experienced much trouble in keeping up the attendance during the last cold winter, and yet more with some of the teachers whom I found at work when I assumed charge of the agency and who were entitled to a fair trial. I have weeded out the poor ones, as I believe, and having thoroughly repaired the school-houses, and received the promise to send their children more regularly, I am hoping that the current year will see a larger attendance. But the meager cost of these schools is not for a moment, in my judgment, to be compared with their real value. I have eight schools now and hope to be granted permission to open two more. Without these schools 90 per cent. of those in attendance would never see the inside of a school-house, so remote are they from white schools.

The bane of the Indian is whisky; this is the one foe that stands over against his prosperity and future. It is a question of time only when he will disappear unless it can be kept from him. During the year I assisted in prosecuting one Joseph Cook for selling liquor to an Indian. He was tried in the United States district court without a jury, both sides being desirous that the law should be interpreted, the facts not being disputed. Judge Withey reserved his opinion and the case will be reargued in October before a full bench, when the constitutionality of the law will be passed upon, and it is hoped for its affirmation. In this event I will see that the business is made too unprofitable to follow.

In looking over the year's work I have not accomplished all I had in mind and heart to do, but I can see that something has been done; the Indians, many of them, have progressed, many others are striving to do and be something, and I expect to aid them much more during the present year by reason of my experience in the one just gone.

Very respectfully,

EDWARD P. ALLEN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

WHITE EARTH AGENCY, MINN., *August 21, 1883.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit my second annual report of the condition, progress, and prospects of the Chippewas of Northern Minnesota, containing the three reservations of Red Lake, Leech Lake, and White Earth, and under the name of the White Earth Agency.

While the advancement of these Indians towards civilization may seem slow, I am fully convinced that they are improving, and each returning season they are more desirous to obtain the latest improved farming implements, and show much anxiety to become self-sustaining through their farms. My policy has been to impress upon them that their subsistence must soon be wholly the product of their own labor, and to disabuse their minds of the idea that the Government owes them a living.

It is very important that the south and eastern lines of this reservation should be well marked out so as to avoid any conflict between them and the white settlers, and would recommend that this be done as soon as possible. Many Indians have removed to the southeast corner of the reserve, and trouble has arisen in this matter of not finding the exact lines.

The Pembina Indians, living on their own township 18 miles north of this agency, have made good progress in enlarging their farms, and they have every reason to be thankful to the Government for being so liberal to them, as they receive about one-fifth of the appropriation called the Red Lake and Pembina fund.

The Otter Tail Pillagers, living north of the agency about 13 miles, and about 8 miles east of the Pembinas, have not been so bountifully cared for, and consequently their progress is not so marked. They are in need of oxen, wagons, and other implements, and I hope to furnish them out of this annuity fund, intending to make out the estimate soon for those articles.

The band of Indians living here and called the Mississippi Chippewas is the largest in numbers, and as their annuities, according to the present treaty, will expire next year they may be compelled to rely on their own resources. It is unfortunate that the other part of this band, living at Mille Lac, White Oak Point, and Sandy Lake, could not be induced to make this reservation their home, where no better region of country of the same extent can be found in the Northwest adapted to agriculture and grazing purposes. If funds could be appropriated and the proper effort made, it would no doubt start the tide which would bring them all here in a few years.

I have been much gratified with the progress made the past year in our schools. I consider it the most important feature of my work, and one on which the future good of these Indians will depend almost entirely. When the school closed last year the scholars had dropped out one by one until the attendance was reduced to a small number. This year, at the close, we had almost our full quota, and they were all even.