

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.

anxious to remain during vacation. The teachers have enforced good order, and more than ordinary interest has been shown in their studies. With the energy and good management of our principal, the boys have worked well and raised such a bountiful supply of all kind of vegetables as never had been seen here before, and our school garden of five acres, besides its usefulness, is highly ornamental and the admiration of all visitors.

Our new school building, when finished and furnished, will give us all the room necessary for many years. I think it wise to conduct the school independent of any sectarian influence, as the children attending are from families of both denominations.

The police force has been a strong arm this year to the agent in the enforcement of law and order. I am sorry that men so faithful cannot receive better remuneration.

The judges of the court on Indian offenses selected from the police force have given much satisfaction in the decision of cases among their own people, and have done much to aid me in producing peace and harmony.

The Indians at Red Lake are not rapid in their improvements. The soil is not adapted for agricultural purposes, but on the western part of their reserve there is plenty of prairie of the best quality, and they should be induced to labor there. I have urged them to take up homes on the prairie lands, but the older men are disinclined to listen to such advice.

The Leech Lake Indians should be removed to this reserve. There is no hope for much advancement while living around Leech and Winnebagoshish Lakes. Their soil is unfit for farming purposes and scarce in grass. These Indians are much troubled because there has been no settlement of damages for building the dams. They have made threats as to what might occur if their claims for damages were not heeded soon. I think a new effort should be made, and the only feasible way in my mind is that of arbitration.

During the last winter the small-pox did much havoc with the Chippewas at the head of the Mississippi River: seventy-two of their number died from that dreadful disease. Dr. Walker, who was the physician at Winnebagoshish Dam, at the onset of the disease began to combat it, and did so at the peril of his life. I think the Government is greatly indebted to him for his valuable services.

I have to thank the Department for the patience exercised and the assistance rendered me in the many complex questions which have arisen during the past year.

Very respectfully,

C. P. LUSE,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

BLACKFEET AGENCY, MONT., August 6, 1883.

SIR: I have the honor to forward my seventh annual report of the transactions at this agency, and that a correct understanding of the present condition of the Indians under my charge may be had, a brief retrospect is necessary.

These Indians are part of the large nation known as Blackfeet, Bloods, and Piegans, and their reservation extends along the northern boundary of this Territory for 300 miles. The division line, when established, left about equal numbers in charge of each government, and as children of the same family or nation the intercourse has been continued and has its effects on their habits and civilization. Until within the past two or three years the Canadian Government issued no supplies to their Indians, and as a natural consequence the Indians from north of the line made use of their family relationship to gravitate towards the agency that issued food and annuities, thus swelling the number on the agency roll and drawing from its supplies. Since the commencement of the Dominion Government to issue food and money to their Indians this usage is reversed, and the movement is assisted by the reduced rations this agency has now to give, many Indians, especially those not having houses, artfully trying to belong to and draw rations from both sides of the line, but without much success. From these causes a steady reduction of the numbers on our record has been going on.

AGRICULTURE.

Since the first efforts at farming and house building were made, some six years ago, the work has made moderate but steady progress. There are now nearly 200 log cabins, substantial and comfortable, with, in most cases, small patches of cultivated ground attached. They are scattered over the reservation where there is tillable land. Last fall there was a fair crop of potatoes raised, and as no Indian had cellarage frost-proof, they were instructed to bring into the agency cellar a portion to be preserved