

improvement in agriculture would be more rapid. And yet they are making constant progress.

During the year a number of stump machines have been procured for the Seneca Indians, by direction of the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs. These have proved a great help to the Indians. They are kept in almost constant use, and many fields, which before were filled with large numbers of unsightly stumps, are now smooth, and the whole surface is brought into cultivation.

Many of the Indian women keep up the old custom of working in the fields, planting, hoeing, and harvesting, either alone or with the male members of the family. But among the more advanced this practice is rapidly becoming obsolete, and as the women learn the art of housekeeping more perfectly, they find their time fully occupied with household matters, and abandon the field work to the men.

The fight against the sale of intoxicating liquors to the Indians has been kept up during the past year. But the work of suppressing this evil is truly Herculean. The appetite is so strong in many cases that the victim will procure the drink at any cost, and too many stand ready to furnish it. Fine and imprisonment are risked unhesitatingly, and the difficulty of procuring evidence sufficient to convict is such that but few can be punished.

The schools upon the various reservations in my charge have in general been well sustained through the year, and the attendance has been good.

Upon the whole I think very satisfactory progress is being made by these Indians toward that citizenship which they all look upon as inevitable at some not very distant time.

Very respectfully,

BENJ. G. CASLER,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

NORTH CAROLINA CHEROKEE AGENCY,  
*Nantahalal, N. C., August 20, 1883.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit my first annual report of the Indian service of this agency.

One thousand members of this tribe live within the Qualla boundary situate in the counties of Swain and Jackson, North Carolina; these are mainly of full blood. In the counties of Graham and Cherokee about 600 reside, half of whom are full blood, and the other half being more or less mixed. In the counties of Buncombe, Yancy, Madison, and Clay, are near 400, none of whom are of full blood.

The Qualla boundary contains about 50,000 acres, mostly mountain land. Through it pass two beautiful streams—Ocona Lufty and Soco. Along their banks and at their confluence some fine bottom land is situated, nearly all of which is under cultivation, and yields abundantly of corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, and garden vegetables. The mountain portion of this land, which is by far the greater portion, is an excellent range for cattle and sheep. The Indians, however, are but little benefited by this, as only a few of them own stock except for farming and dairy purposes. The mountain portion also has an abundance of excellent timber on it.

These Indians own about 30,000 acres in detached tracts outside of the Qualla boundary, the larger portion of which lies in the counties of Cherokee and Graham, much of which is occupied and cultivated by them. The title for these lands is held by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in trust for the tribe. Some of these lands have been entered by white men and are now occupied by them, they claiming that the grantor to the Indians had never acquired a title from the State of North Carolina for the same. This has thrown a cloud upon the title of a portion of the lands belonging to the Indians and has given them much annoyance.

The condition of the persons composing this tribe compares favorably with their white neighbors. There are nine ministers of the Gospel, full-blood Indians, in this band, who "break the bread of life" each Sabbath to well-attended congregations at some eight or nine different points. Denominationally they are Baptist and Methodist. Well-attended Sabbath schools usually precede church services. They use no instrument of music in their churches, the human voices constituting this part of their devotion, which is rendered in a most beautiful manner. Among them there are some intelligent minds, and had they enjoyed our civilization earlier would probably now have been occupying higher spheres in life; but what the fathers have failed to achieve can be reasonably looked for among the children of the present generation, who are now enjoying excellent educational advantages, through the beneficent acts of Congress, and a fund of their own set apart for this purpose by the wise forethought of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Of the members of this tribe there is only one demented person, and suicide is

seldom if ever heard of among them. The physical condition of this people may be regarded as at a standstill, and the increase, especially among the full bloods, is very slight. None of the full-blood Indians residing in this State are wealthy. A few of them, however, own individual farms outside of their lands in common, and all of them are self-sustaining and producing sufficient for support, except a few lazy ones. There is much room for improvement in their social order of things. Taken as a whole they are orderly, peaceable, sober, law-abiding, and tolerably industrious. The State dockets of our courts present only a few cases of violations of law by these people.

The crops of this year will not exceed those of last year except in wheat, which is probably double that of any previous year.

At five different points schools are conducted, under the supervision of the Society of Friends, during ten months of the year, and are well attended. These Indians at this time seem to be much interested on the subject of education; they desire to learn the English language, and many of the younger ones speak and read it very well. These people enjoy the benefit of much missionary work from neighboring ministers of different denominations. Mr. Thomas Brown, the superintendent of the schools here, is an excellent worker in this field. The main industry of this tribe is agriculture.

In conclusion I will say that, in my humble opinion, the prospect looks favorable that at no great distance in the future the people in this band will be fit subjects for useful and intelligent citizens.

A census and new roll of this tribe have just been completed.

Respectfully, yours,

SAM. B. GIBSON,  
*Agent North Carolina Cherokees.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

GRAND RONDE AGENCY, OREGON,  
*August 11, 1883.*

SIR: In compliance with Department regulations and instructions, I have the honor to submit the following as my twelfth annual report of this agency.

The condition of the Indians at this agency has not materially changed since my last annual report. I may safely say, however, that they are constantly improving in morality, and establishing upon a firmer basis the truths of religion, and gradually advancing in the social and industrial habits of life, and a majority of them are capable of becoming citizens.

In the agricultural sense of the word, the past year has been one of general reverses; and notwithstanding the fact that the acreage is greater this than in any preceding year, the Indians will not thrash one-third the quantity of grain that they did last year. Last fall they seeded down large tracts in fall grain, which was all killed by the exceeding hard frosts of the winter. By their own endeavors and the assistance of the Department they were, however, enabled to resow their fields this spring; but, owing to the summer droughts, quite a portion will never be cut, while other fields will have to be cut for hay on account of the meadows being destroyed by the inclemency of the past winter. And unless we have a liberal fall of rain here early this fall to start the grass, which is now perishing for want of moisture, the Indian cattle will be in but poor condition to withstand the rigors of winter.

A general cause of complaint with the Indians of this agency for some months back is that the whites are intruding upon their lands and allowing their cattle to run across the supposed line on the agency. In order to put an end to such actions I deem it advisable that the east boundary line of the reservation be resurveyed. The Indians are also desirous of having deeds made to them for their lands in severalty. Upon examination I find it impossible to do this without the aid of a surveyor, and I hope the Department will allow the estimate forwarded, that I may be able to fulfill their wishes in that regard. Many improvements are retarded by them, not knowing definitely where their boundary line will be by the new allotment, and this work cannot be completed any too soon for the advantage of the Indians.

According to Department instructions, I nominated three of the most intelligent and impartial Indians of this agency to act as judges of the Indian court, with one additional to act as sheriff for the court. As we have no Indian police at this agency now or at any other time, and there is no necessity for such officers at this agency to preserve law and order, I deem it but just that the judges of the Indian court be allowed the salary of policemen; otherwise there will be difficulty in securing any one to act in the capacity of judges, as the officers of the previous court here established have been paid without expense to the Department.

I have to report the continued prosperity of the schools under the able and efficient supervision of the Benedictine Sisters. The average attendance at the boarding-school at this agency for the past fiscal year has been fair, and the moral tendency of the