

Educational work.—The present schoolroom and sleeping apartments for males and females are too contracted to solicit an increase in attendance at our school. There has been no perceptible improvement in the advancement of the school children in their recitations. This may be attributed to a want of a more modern mode of instruction. New methods of instruction should be introduced.

A system of labor has been performed by the school children with satisfactory results. They have performed a liberal share of all domestic duties in the dormitories, sewing rooms, kitchen, laundry, and garden. The labor performed by the male portion of the school in cutting wood, milking cows, cultivating the agency and school farm and garden, harvesting the hay crop, etc., has been very commendable and beneficial.

Recommendations.—I would respectfully recommend the destruction of the dilapidated log structures appropriated for school purposes at this agency, to be replaced with new and suitable buildings, with a view to the comfort and convenience of the school children, as well as to increasing the attendance. The Office of Indian Affairs has this matter under advisement, and, no doubt, will erect new and appropriate buildings in the near future.

In conclusion I desire to express many thanks for the prompt and courteous response to many requests emanating from this agency.

Very respectfully,

J. A. ANDREWS,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF NEZ PERCÉ AGENCY.

NEZ PERCÉ AGENCY, IDAHO, *August 17, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my second annual report of this agency, with accompanying statistics, for the fiscal year 1896.

Lands.—This reservation formerly embraced about 755,300 acres. By an agreement with the Nez Percés, consummated May 1, 1893, and ratified by Congress August 15, 1894, there was ceded to the Government 542,275 acres, which was paid for at the rate of \$3 per acre. Of the remaining portion, 179,000 acres have been allotted to the Indians, 32,000 acres of timber reserved for them, and about 2,200 acres reserved for agency, school, and religious purposes.

The agency proper is located upon what is known as the Langford claim (a land donation to early missionaries). This claim is situated in the Lapwai Valley and comprises about a section of land. It has been subdivided into small tracts or lots, and upon each of the subdivisions one or more Indian families have established homes. The Government has stipulated with these occupants that, when the heirs of Langford relinquish title in the claim to the Government, for which it has obligated itself to pay \$20,000, the tracts now occupied by them will be allotted to them in lieu of the same quantity of land to be surrendered from their present allotments.

Census.—The population of this tribe is as follows:

Males over 18 years.....	458
Females over 14 years.....	593
Children over 6 years (males under 18, females under 14).....	342
Children under 6 years.....	292
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Total population.....	1,685

Agriculture.—A majority of these Indians devote their time and attention principally to improving and cultivating only small portions of their allotments, such as raising a few tons of hay and small gardens. There are a large number of allotments located in the interior of the reservation, a long distance from markets, that are yet to be fenced, cultivated, and otherwise improved. The allotments that are near and of easy access to the markets are under fence and cultivation, and to a very large extent are leased to white men, who pay for the use of the same annually an average price of \$1.50 per acre.

Pursuits.—The Indians do not now depend so much as heretofore upon the fruits of hunting and fishing as a means of support. They have a very large fund of money to their credit with the Government, and annually receive upward of \$300,000, which is to continue for the next three years; besides, the revenue from the rent of their allotments lends materially to their support.

In the markets their horses have greatly depreciated in value; in fact are at present not worth anything. In former years they received very fair prices for

their horses and ready markets for them, but now the large herds which they still own are more of a burden than a benefit to them.

Missionaries.—There are four missionaries stationed among these Indians—one Catholic, one Methodist, and two Presbyterian. They are all earnest and active workers in the blessed cause, and are to be commended for the good they are doing.

Education.—The Fort Lapwai Indian Industrial School is the only educational institution on this reservation which is devoted to the education of the Indian youth. Under the very able management of Supt. Ed. McConville, together with an efficient corps of employees, and in the absence of sickness among the pupils, the school year has closed with the most favorable and gratifying results. For the detailed work of this school I respectfully refer you to Superintendent McConville's annual report.

Funds.—Of the fund of \$1,626,226, which became due the tribe on August 15, 1894, for the sale of their surplus lands, there has been paid to them \$851,000, which amount includes \$75,000 interest.

It is most gratifying to report that a vast majority of these Indians have taken very good care of the money received by them during the year from the Government. Of course, like in all communities, there is a reckless and extravagant element that only appreciates the dollar for the little pleasure that it may bring them, and so it is with some of these Indians. They have gambled and sported away the money they have received from the Government and are now anxiously looking forward to the time when their now empty purses will again be filled. The better element of the tribe are judiciously and economically spending their money in needed improvements about their homes, while others of them have deposited their money in good, substantial banks in the neighboring towns, and are drawing interest on the same at the rate of 5 and 6 per cent per annum.

Crimes.—The throwing open to white settlement of the surplus lands of this reservation last fall opened up a field for the malpractices of that degenerated element known as blacklegs, fleecers, and gamblers. The large sums of money paid to the Indians has been a special inducement to them and they flocked to the neighboring towns in droves. More than one Indian has fallen a victim to their wily machinations and dishonest methods, and have been robbed, fleeced, and cheated by them.

This element has frequently transgressed the laws, and have through their evil influences induced a number of the Indians who were heretofore considered upright and honest members of the tribe to do likewise. The law against disposing of intoxicants to Indians has been more frequently transgressed than any other, and although eight of the element have been arrested, found guilty of this crime, and sent to the penitentiary to do a term of years, even in the face of the active and strict vigilance kept upon them by the officers of the law the practice seems to continue without abatement.

A rendezvous of this element was established recently upon the allotment of one of the Indians, who can well be placed in the same category, where their nefarious practices for a time were carried on day and night. After considerable delay, occasioned by a question arising as to jurisdiction of the authorities, the rendezvous has been broken up and the bad element dispersed.

It is a very easy matter for an Indian to get whisky at any of the neighboring towns if he has the money to pay for it.

Sanitary.—The sanitary condition of the tribe has been moderately good. The sickness is principally of a hereditary nature, such as scrofula and consumption. A number of deaths have resulted from these causes.

Indian police.—There are 8 members on the police force, who are stationed among the Indians at the different settlements, as follows: Two at Kamiyah, one at North Fork, and five in the neighborhood of the agency. Their duties consist principally in assisting in bringing school children into school, carrying mail for the agency, and looking after the landed interests of the Indians. They have been very busy in the discharge of their duties, and for the prompt and faithful performance of the same they are deserving of much praise.

Court of Indian offenses.—This court is composed of three of the most intelligent members of the tribe. The powers of the court have been considerably modified since the Indians have become subject to the State laws. The court, however, is still retained, as its services are often beneficial in arbitrating many disputes that arise among the Indians, which in its absence would necessitate the disputants to go before a civil tribunal for a settlement, and thereby entail a considerable and unnecessary expense. The decisions of the court are faithfully abided by by the Indians.

Citizenship.—It has been presumed that these Indians by virtue of the allotment act, they having complied with all requirements, have been clothed in the garb of

citizenship and the right of franchise bestowed upon them. But it seems that the privilege of voting is to be denied them, as it is being held by some of the local authorities that they have not adopted to a sufficient degree the pursuits and habiliments of civilization as required by the State statutes. It is as peculiar as it is interesting to learn that in view of the arbitrary holding on the part of the local authorities conditional citizenship only has been conferred upon these Indians, and the United States laws, under which they are now recognized as citizens, should be subject in this respect to a supersedure by the State law. The Indians can not understand, since they are not to be recognized as citizens in the fullest sense, why they should pay taxes on their personal property.

Improvements.—Three new dwelling houses for employees and a new blacksmith shop have been erected at the agency during the year. An old barn has been torn down and the present one enlarged by an additional hay loft and buggy shed. The new buildings add much to the appearance and convenience of the agency.

Death rate.—The following is a comparative table of the death rate of the tribe, compiled from the allotment record, and covers a period of six years:

Allotments made by allotting agent.....	1,909
New allotments made since October 1, 1893.....	81
Total	1,990
Allotments canceled.....	92
Number of allotments at present time	1,898
Births since October 1, 1893 (not allotted).....	222
Total number of allotments and births	2,120
Deaths since 1889 (the year allotments commenced).....	435
Actual population June 30, 1896	1,685

Conclusion.—The employees have been efficient and faithful in the discharge of their duties, for which I heartily commend them. No change in the force has been made.

For the prompt and liberal appropriations granted and the invaluable suggestions thrown out by your office, which have enabled me to conduct the affairs of the agency with a marked degree of success, I desire to express my earnest and sincere appreciation.

I am, sir, yours, very respectfully,

S. G. FISHER,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORTS OF AGENTS IN INDIAN TERRITORY.

REPORT OF QUAPAW AGENCY.

QUAPAW AGENCY, IND. T., *August 26, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith, pursuant to instructions, my annual report of this agency for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896.

Location.—The Quapaw Agency is situated in the northeast corner of the Indian Territory. The residences of agent and employees are situated on the Eastern Shawnee Reserve, 4 miles from the town of Seneca, Mo., and 20 miles from the town of Baxter Springs, Kans.

The areas of the reservations are as follows:

	Acres.
Eastern Shawnee	13,048
Modoc	4,040
Ottawa	14,860
Peoria	33,218
Miami	17,083
Seneca	51,958
Wyandotte	21,406
Quapaw	56,685
Total area	212,298