

The industrial training of the boys has not been so satisfactory. From October 1 till January 24 no industrial teacher was allowed for the school, and since that time the position has been filled by four different men. With so many changes systematic training is impossible. It takes any employee several months to so learn the dispositions and capabilities of Indian children, that he may be able to instruct them in either literary or industrial pursuits. As all the positions are now filled by regular employees, I think more satisfactory results will follow. Since the prejudice against the school has been partially broken down, and the Indians appear to take a more rational view of education and of the white man's way of living, I hope to be able to make a more favorable report one year hence.

Very respectfully,

JNO. M. COMMONS, *Superintendent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

## REPORTS CONCERNING INDIANS IN WASHINGTON.

### REPORT OF AGENT FOR COLVILLE AGENCY.

COLVILLE AGENCY,  
*Miles, Wash., September 29, 1900.*

SIR: In compliance with instructions contained in circular dated June 1, 1900, I have the honor to submit the following report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900:

Contrasting the present condition of the Indians connected with this agency with former years, I can state without the slightest hesitation that there has been a decided improvement in agriculture and all branches of industry in which they are engaged. The past year has been quite favorable in the region occupied by these Indians, which has added a stimulus to agriculture and stock raising. The past winter was an exceptionally mild one, and cattle and horses subsisted on the ranges without being fed or sheltered. Very few of them died, and a large amount of fodder has been carried over for another year. Large tracts of land on benches of higher elevation have been inclosed by the Indians during the year by substantial fences and sown in wheat and oats. From the lower lands they raise and cut an abundance of wild hay for feed during the winter months. A few of them grow a small amount of timothy, for which they find ready sale in the different mining camps throughout the reservation, and they are generally paid a better price for their produce than that obtainable in the more open market. Those markets are a great benefit to the Indians and are a source of revenue throughout the year, and finding ready sale for their produce has stimulated them to enlarge their areas of cultivation and pay more attention to the care of their farms and gardens.

During the past winter smallpox broke out among the Indians residing on the south half of the Colville Reservation. On November 25, 1899, the agency physician reported that the disease existed among the Columbia tribe, residing in the vicinity of Nespelim subagency. Upon a careful investigation it was found that the disease existed in a pronounced form and of a most virulent type. It was also learned that the disease had been contracted from Indians arriving on their annual pilgrimage from other reservations. Immediately steps were taken to confine the contagion within narrow limits, and stringent measures adopted to isolate the premises and if possible prevent its spread. On December 1, 1899, it was found that the disease existed in other sections, and a general epidemic was threatened. Owing to the general disregard paid by Indians to contagious diseases, many had been exposed before the gravity of the situation could be realized, and difficulty was experienced in determining to what extent the disease had been communicated to the Indians on other parts of the reservation.

In order to contend with so grave an emergency, it was considered advisable and essential to establish and main ain a general quarantine, which went into effect on December 5. Indians were forbidden to leave their homes and instructed to forego their journeys until some future time. Dancing and other sports and pleasures so common among Indians during the winter months were strictly prohibited, business of all kinds between them was suspended, and they were directed to remain within the limits of their own homes. All Government work was stopped, the traders' stores closed, and all issues to Indians, with the exception of subsistence, discontinued.

As soon as vaccine points could be procured the subject of vaccination was immediately taken up, and Indians who previously entertained superstitious prejudices against inoculation submitted to the operation without the slightest protest. In all about 300 Indians were vaccinated, and while the result in many cases was severe none resulted fatally.

The infected district comprised a territory about 15 miles long and about 6 miles wide, and covered a very rough and abrupt country. Much difficulty was experienced in supplying the Indians with food, owing to the inaccessibility of the country which they occupied, and partially to overcome this obstacle the employees

used their own horses as pack animals as a means of transportation. The old and indigent and those who were in want were supplied from the Government warehouse, and they experienced no hardships for lack of food. Owing to the density of population and the extent of territory difficulty was experienced in enforcing sanitary regulations and restricting the Indians from communicating with friends on other parts of the reservation. To overcome this, orders of a most vigorous nature were issued and enforced. Indians violating any instructions were threatened with imprisonment, which seemed to have the desired effect upon those who had become restless under their long restraint. Credit should be given many of the older and more conservative Indians whose advice and influence aided materially in suppressing any transgression or violation of the rules laid down by the agent. Much dissatisfaction and unrest were manifested by the younger Indians from their long incarceration, but kindly persuasion and stern advice appealed to their better judgment and overcame their strong desire to break away from the restrictions by which they were surrounded.

On March 20, 1900, all traces of the disease had been eradicated and the convalescence of all who were afflicted had been fully assured. In all, there were 57 cases with 6 fatalities. Those who succumbed to the disease were old people and had been stricken far away in the mountains, and before medical assistance reached them the disease had completed its deadly work. On the 22d day of March, under the personal supervision of the agency physician, assisted by the other employees, all the clothing and personal belongings in the infected district were destroyed. The Indians offered but little objection, and in fact seemed pleased to see their diseased clothing consumed by fire. Some of them went so far as to suggest that their dogs be cremated to prevent the possible reappearance of the dreaded disease. All Indian residences were thoroughly fumigated and a few dilapidated cabins burned. This having been accomplished, the Indians were supplied with new clothing and bedding from the Government supply, and in a few days were allowed to visit friends from whom they had been separated for a period of almost four months. The quarantine was raised on March 25 and all Government work resumed its normal condition, and all branches of business became active.

During the prevalence of the disease, and while the quarantine was in effect, communication with the outside world was practically suspended and the agency isolated. There are so many unpleasant features connected with situations of this kind that it would be impossible to go into details. While the lives and health of the employees were in jeopardy and the future filled with the gravest apprehension, not one shirked a duty nor neglected the slightest detail. Orders and instructions were executed with promptness and vigor, and their incessant watchfulness had much to do with the successful issue of the quarantine. To their faithful performance of duty is due the successful termination of what at one time threatened the Indians with entire decimation. They were obliged to cope with a situation extremely grave and dangerous through a period of almost four months, guarding with vigilance the welfare of those under their charge. With a willing, harmonious, and systematic tenacity they performed the arduous duties imposed upon them and never once faltered in their devotion to duty. Their conduct, actions, and behavior during the prevalence of smallpox is highly commendable, and they are deserving of the Government's wholesome gratitude.

Considerable reluctance exists on my part in making a report on the condition of Joseph's band of Nez Percé. There is always a certain pride and satisfaction in reporting the progress and advancement of any tribe under an agent's charge. Where the conditions warrant the arraignment and criticism of a certain class or tribe of Indians for their wanton and persistent lack of attention to all duties bearing on their progress and welfare, the task always becomes an unpleasant one. I have not the slightest hesitation in stating that Chief Joseph and his people are a nonprogressive and indolent set. They number about 127 souls altogether, and the census shows that among this number there are 17 small farms. During the past year not more than 50 per cent of those farms have been cultivated, and not an acre of new ground has been broken. This, in face of the fact that they all have abundance of farm implements and horses, is in itself discouraging. On those small farms the Government has erected comfortable and suitable houses for their occupancy, but not one of them is ever occupied. Chief Joseph himself does not occupy the house erected on his farm, and has not resided on his farm to my certain knowledge for the past seven years. He, with his handful of unworthy followers, prefers the traditional tepee, living on the generosity of the Government and passing away their time in a filthy and licentious way of living, neither trying or caring for a more elevated state of affairs.

The subject of Joseph's transfer to the Willowa Valley in Oregon has been discussed at length among them during the year and has had a demoralizing effect upon them. Ostensibly for the purpose of agitating this matter Chief Joseph left

his home at Nespelim in December, 1899, and did not return until May, 1900. During his absence much unrest was manifested among his people, and wild stories of fabulous wealth were indulged in by his people at home. Joseph's return added intensity to the situation as he related to his people the many hearty assurances of assistance he met with from the officials at Washington City. I wish to say with emphasis that trips and journeys of this kind are extremely detrimental to Joseph in many respects. Receiving more than ordinary kind treatment and courtesy from people of high rank, being dined and banqueted by officials of note, and told in glowing terms what an important personage he is, swells his pride, pampers his selfishness, and expands his ambition. Such treatment abroad fosters an injurious spirit at home. It has a tendency of making him and his people impudent and more arbitrary than they otherwise would be.

Chief Joseph lives in a beautiful country, with fertile valleys and extensive ranges, and water of the purest and most wholesome kind. Nature's blessings have been lavishly extended in the Nespelim Valley, and as for health and all the requirements necessary for the enjoyment of a peaceful and happy life it has few superiors. A liberal Government has treated him with a generosity scarcely having a parallel, and his entire lack of appreciation is clearly shown in his unblushing audacity in asking for more liberal assistance in being transferred to another territory. In my opinion this would be an undeserving and ill-appreciated act on the part of Joseph. He would simply consider that the Government was under obligations to him, and look upon the matter as satisfying one of his many whims. It is true that the Wallowa Valley is the birthplace of Joseph and that there lie the bones of his forefathers, and he no doubt entertains many kind and pleasant remembrances of his younger life. Boyhood with its sweet memories furnishes food for deep reflection, and he no doubt cherishes the thought of some day returning, but in my opinion by his actions in after years he has forfeited all his rights and privileges to enjoy the blessings of a peaceful and happy life in his old home.

History has been partial to Joseph in chronicling his atrocious acts, and traditions tell us that when a murderous and dangerous warrior is subdued he has earned the penalty of spending his remaining days in exile. To this Joseph is no exception. His reason for a transfer from his present home is purely sentimental, bolstered up by a personal ambition. His strategy has been revealed in undoubted clearness during his last visit to the city of Washington. In his interview with the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs he distorted and exaggerated his condition at home to advance his own personal aggrandizement and endeavored to cast unwarranted odium upon his superiors. His prevarications have been laid bare and his statements branded as unreliable and untrue. It is true Joseph fought with much gallantry, but when finally overcome he was tendered the generous hand of a beneficent Government. In my opinion any act its ultimate object being the removal of Joseph and his followers to either Idaho or Oregon would be an injudicious one. The horrors of long ago lie at his threshold and are pleading for justice. The appalling wrongs done by him are crying from the bloodstained soil of Idaho for restitution. Joseph's life would be jeopardized should he ever return for a permanent residence in a territory he previously occupied.

The population of the various tribes connected with this agency is shown in the following table, viz:

	Males.		Females.		Total.	Children of school age.		Total.
	Above 18 years.	Under 18 years.	Above 14 years.	Under 14 years.		Males.	Females.	
Lower Spokan .....	104	67	141	63	375	46	41	87
Upper and Middle Spokan, on Spokan Reservation.....	61	27	71	32	191	12	20	32
Okinagan.....	190	110	193	82	575	68	59	127
Columbia.....	96	40	116	40	292	30	33	63
Nez Perce-Joseph's Band .....	32	22	53	20	127	13	14	27
Cœur d'Alène.....	134	87	153	76	450	44	45	89
Upper and Middle Spokan, on Cœur d'Alène Reservation.....	28	19	35	17	99	9	11	20
Lake.....	102	63	99	47	311	42	42	84
Colville.....	101	52	101	44	298	32	35	67
Nespelim and Sanpoll (estimated).....	120	70	140	70	400	45	30	75
Kalispel <sup>1</sup> .....	50	25	25	50	150	15	10	25
Total.....	1,018	582	1,127	541	3,268	356	340	696

<sup>1</sup> Estimated; not on any reservation.

Accompanying this report will be found complete census and statistics of all tribes connected with this agency, also report from the acting superintendent of the Fort Spokane boarding school.

It is a pleasant duty to acknowledge the hearty support and cooperation accorded me by your office in the discharge of my official duties.

Very respectfully

ALBERT M. ANDERSON,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

#### REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF FORT SPOKANE SCHOOL.

FORT SPOKANE BOARDING SCHOOL, August 1, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor, in compliance with your request, to submit the first report of the Fort Spokane Boarding School.

The school is situated just across the Spokane River southeast of Colville Agency and Spokan Reservation, and comprises one square mile of territory.

School formally opened April 2, with an enrollment of 33 pupils. By the end of the month the enrollment was 75. School closed June 30 with an enrollment of 84 and an average attendance of 74. The average attendance is low, owing to the late enrollment of some of the pupils, one as late as June 9.

The health of the pupils has been good.

If the pupils enrolled were a fair sample of the others on the different reservations, they are far above the average Indian in intelligence and ability to speak English, and, above all, in their desire for an education. Since school closed there have been several applicants for admission to the school. One family hearing that pupils were in school during the summer brought three children a distance of 125 miles during the hottest day in July and are paying the board of one, a girl, in a family near the agency, that she may be on hand when school opens the 1st of September. There will be no difficulty in opening school with 200 children or more, if so many can be accommodated.

The work of the schoolroom was quite well done in spite of the many hindrances to good work. There were no blackboards, chalk, or pencils for some weeks after school opened, and no books to speak of until about three weeks before school closed. To the kindly interest of the agent we are indebted for most of the supplies we had, especially kindergarten supplies.

There has been much industrial work done in all departments. The outdoor work has not been of such a nature as to make a great showing, unless one could have seen the plant before any work was done at all. This, as the name indicates, was at one time a large fort, which had been abandoned for about two years past. The amount of debris, broken down fences, gates, and sidewalks, tumble-down outbuildings, etc., that had to be removed or repaired, can only be imagined. As Supervisor Conser remarked when here before school opened, "we had not much else to begin with but possibilities." There are many buildings, but not one but needs repairing or remodeling before it is in proper shape or condition for school purposes.

There is, perhaps, 3 acres of ground that has been cultivated, and this was planted in potatoes, early corn, and vegetables. There is at least 100 acres of bottom land of good soil that can probably be irrigated and which may in time make a farm.

There is a very complete water system, and all buildings in use are supplied with water. The sewerage is extensive, but in bad order, and will require much overhauling and many repairs. A ring bath system has been allowed, but as it is not yet on the grounds will not likely be ready for use until after school opens.

The needs of the school are too numerous to mention in detail, and will doubtless be made the subject of special reports.

For your uniform kindness, courteous treatment, and support in all matters pertaining to this school we desire to express our sincere gratitude.

Very sincerely,

SARAH C. REAM,  
*Acting Superintendent.*

ALBERT M. ANDERSON,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

#### REPORT OF AGENT FOR NEAH BAY AGENCY.

NEAH BAY AGENCY, WASH., July 28, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my fourth annual report of this agency for the year ending June 30, 1900.

Population.—The census taken June 30, 1900, shows the following Indians under this agency: Makah, 860; Ozett, 47; Quilente, 229; Hoh, 67; total, 703. Number of males above 18 years of age, 219; number of females above 14 years of age, 243; number of children between the ages of 6 and 16, 147.

Location.—The four reservations under my charge extend from the western end of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, including Cape Flattery, down the Pacific coast to and including Hoh Reservation, a distance of about 75 miles, not in one solid body, but in four small pieces separated by wide stretches of the public domain.

Climate.—The past year has not differed much from the preceding years. A great amount of rain and fog, but no snow or ice, an even temperature, all of which produces a perfect jungle of forest and underbrush.

General conditions.—There is not much change in the general condition of these Indians since my last annual report. They make their living by fishing. Their food is fish the year round, fresh and dried. Every summer they kill a few whales. A few have stock, from which they realize a little money. Some fish for the canneries; some fish and send their catch to Seattle by the local steamer. The women generally have baskets and curios for sale. This, in a general way, describes their