

tract of wild land. The Indians are contented with their lot as a whole, but many of the younger men are forging ahead, looking forward to the time when old age creeps in; and are trying to lay aside something for their future when they can no longer maintain the energy they now feel.

Statistics.—The census of the Bannock and Shoshoni Indians taken June 30, 1905, gives the population of both tribes, which can not be taken separately on account of the intermarriage of the two tribes, as follows:

Total population (males, 677; females, 655).....	1,332
Males over 18.....	424
Females over 14.....	457
Children between 6 and 16.....	263

A. F. CALDWELL,
Superintendent and Special Disbursing Agent.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT IN CHARGE OF NEZ PERCÉ AGENCY.

LAPWAI, IDAHO, July 31, 1905.

The location and surroundings which constitute our headquarters have been so often described that further information on the subject is deemed not necessary.

Population.—The Indians belonging to this reservation are classified, to wit: Number of males, 742; number of females, 820; total, 1,562. They are known as Nez Percés. They, as a tribe, however, resent this nomenclature, which denotes "pierced noses," and contend that they should be called by their proper name "Na-me-poo."

Vital statistics.—The present census of these Indians shows a decrease of 17 since that of a year ago. There were, according to our best information, 23 births and 40 deaths, the principal mortality being caused by an epidemic of measles, which first made its appearance in one of the public schools, which was attended by 8 Indian children. The disease spread rapidly and resulted fatally in a great many cases. Outside of measles, the reservation has been remarkably free from disease. These Indians are above the average in cleanliness and their sanitary precautions are well advanced. Tubercular trouble is a tribal enemy, and nearly every family is marked more or less by its ravages.

Allotments and improvements.—Nearly all have allotments in severalty. The basis of acreage is a patent for 80 acres each of good agricultural land. Where the allottee did not receive his full 80 of tillable land the balance was given him in the ratio of 2 acres of grazing land for every acre of farming land not patented. These farming allotments are nearly all under cultivation and are fairly well improved with wire fences and houses, barns and granaries. These improvements in most cases have been made by white tenants, and are usually the consideration for the first year's rental. There are, however, quite a number of the Nez Percé who made good use of their land payments and had houses and barns constructed that would do credit to any farming community. In taking their allotments the families usually selected for their home a tract lying well in some of the valleys through which runs a creek or river. These streams are bordered with sufficient wood for fuel and are fed with numerous springs which afford the Indians an abundance of pure water. The balance of the family allotments were taken out on the high plateau, where at the present time enormous crops of wheat, oats, and barley are being grown.

Timber reserves.—The agreement of May 1, 1893, not only provided that each Indian should have an allotment of 80 to 160 acres, but it provided also for the reservation of about 32,000 acres of timbered land, so distributed that all members of the tribe could in the future have sufficient building material. Accordingly sixteen different tracts were set aside for their exclusive use and benefit. Two sawmills were soon afterwards constructed and put in operation. Millions of feet of lumber have been manufactured, at a cost to the Indians not exceeding \$4 per thousand.

Agriculture.—While most of these Indians cultivate small patches of corn, potatoes, and other garden truck, and plow up a small field for hay, very few have made a genuine attempt at farming. These few do well and demonstrate the fact that all could do as well providing they were so disposed. The upland allotments are especially adapted to this branch of industry, and I am sorry to note and record the indolence of so many of these well-provided-for Indians.

I can offer only one expedient to cure the "tired feeling" now in possession

of so many able-bodied Nez Percé Indians, and that is to chop off their leasing. When rations were cut off, the Indians went to work; now try the leasing proposition in the same manner. These Indians have leased their lands until it is broken up and sufficiently improved so as to allow them to move right on and go to work. If the renters can make themselves independent by doing all labor and paying from \$1.50 to \$3 per acre to the owner, the Indian can do better; and not only will he do better financially, but he will be kept busy and will not have the time to run around the country visiting friends who are inclined to work for themselves.

Leases.—There is a constant increase in the demand for Indian lands. Last year there were 304 leases of Indian land approved by the Secretary of the Interior. This year 500 have been submitted for approval, 98 per cent of which were farming leases, the balance being for the grazing of stock or business leases for the purpose of trading with the Indians. All leases will average \$1.75 per acre per annum.

Public highways.—Roads are being constructed so that travel is possible through any portion of the reservation. The Indians realize the importance of good roads, and while a few oppose, the most of them are very good to do their part. Formerly the opinion of an Indian was that any trail was good enough, but of late quite a number turn out with their teams and contribute very materially to road improvement.

Stock.—This being a strictly agricultural country, very little stock is raised. They have in the neighborhood of 3,000 cattle and about the same number of horses and ponies. They own but few of the so-called "cayuses," but have good heavy work horses and some real good brood mares. They take very good care of the latter, as a rule. Their ponies, however, are neglected to such an extent that they have become scabby, and by allowing the diseased ones to run at large the county authorities have been obliged to take up and destroy nearly 100 head. The owners were advised a year ago to take up these ponies and dip them, but no attention was paid to it. Cattle raising is not a paying business in this country. The local market is not good and shipping at a profit is almost out of the question.

Education.—The scholastic population for this tribe is 321. Out of this number 25 are married women. The Government boarding school enrolled 117; 57 were enrolled at the St. Joseph's mission school; 40 were enrolled at public schools, and 5 were enrolled at nonreservation schools; total attending some school, 244, leaving a balance of 127 which were nonattendant. Of this latter number I am fully convinced that 75 per cent are so afflicted by disease that they are incapacitated, so far as schooling is concerned. I am told, and the records bear out the statement that formerly these Indians were very friendly to this school, and there was no disinclination on the part of the parents to keep their children from it. At the present time the Christian and progressive element are anxious to educate their children, but fully one-half of the tribe try by every means within their power to keep them at home, thereby hampering our best efforts to secure an attendance to the full capacity of our plant.

I am of the opinion that a better attendance might be obtained if the school term was shortened, and not begin the term before October 1 instead of September 1. During the hot summer months a great many of the Indians go to the mountains and do not return before cool weather sets in, or about October 1.

School buildings.—These buildings are in fair condition, but being old constant work is necessary to keep them in repair. Considerable lumber will be necessary for the coming year for the construction of additional walks and re-flooring some of the buildings.

Public schools.—There are, within the limits of this reservation, 52 public schools, which not only afford schooling to the whites but also to about 40 Indian children. At the beginning some of the trustees drew the color line after having enumerated all the Indian children in their respective districts and drawing State apportionment for them. The difficulty was, however, overcome and the Indians attended "all same white man."

Missionary work.—Two missions are in active operation among these people, one conducted by Miss Kate McBeth, assisted by her able coworker, Miss Mazie Crawford. These two ladies give their whole time and attention to this work, and their influence is manifestly for the good. They represent the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. The other is conducted by the Reverend Father Caltado of the Roman Catholic Church, and is being carried on by a large force of workers numbering 21—7 males and 14 females. A regular mission school is supported, and nearly all members of this faith send their children to this

school for instruction. Father Cataldo has had long service among these Indians and has great influence.

Liquor traffic.—This vice is most deplorable, and notwithstanding our every endeavor to stamp out this positive infraction of the law the practice of boot legging is increasing instead of decreasing. We have caused many arrests and secured a fair number of convictions, but until the status of the Indian is fully determined and laws enacted to fit him we will be obliged to witness the continued increase in the villanous method of the boot legger.

F. G. MATTOON, *Superintendent.*

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT IN CHARGE OF LEMHI AGENCY.

LEMHI AGENCY, IDAHO, July 14, 1905.

This reservation embraces a tract 8 by 20 miles, extending from the Rocky Mountains, which form the eastern boundary of Idaho, to the crest of the Salmon River Mountains. The only arable portion is the narrow valley of the Lemhi River, extending north and south across the reservation, about 4,000 acres of land. The remainder of the reservation is covered with hills and mountains, about half of which is grazing land. The agency and school are situated on the extreme southern boundary of the reservation, about 70 miles from Red Rock, Mont., the nearest railroad point. There is a daily stage from Red Rock.

The climate is very dry, the winters cold, but very little snow falls in the valley.

The population is as follows:

Shoshoni	288
Bannock	81
Sheepdealer	97
Total (males, 218; females, 248)	466
Over 18 years of age (males, 137; females, 162)	299
Over 6 and under 18 (males, 60; females, 65)	125
Children under 6	46

There have been no cases of drunkenness on this reservation this year and but few minor offenses, all of which have been settled by the court of Indian offenses. While considerable improvement has been made in recent years these Indians stand very low in the moral scale.

Rations.—The ration lists have been revised and all able-bodied men and their families taken off. Money has been paid to those so removed from the roll for labor performed at the rate of \$1.25 per day.

Incomes.—These Indians can not become self-supporting under present conditions. Their income for the past year has been as follows:

Labor on roads, ditches, etc.	\$1,540.00
Transportation of supplies	1,051.32
Products sold to the Government	1,334.00
	3,931.32
Value of products sold otherwise (estimated)	2,000.00
Total	5,931.32

Farming and stock raising.—All crops require irrigation. There is an abundance of water for all the land. The principal crops are hay and oats. The farmers' reports for the year just ended show the following:

Wheat	bushels..	235
Oats	do.....	6,900
Potatoes	do.....	4,540
Hay	tons..	388

Less than 3,000 acres of land are under cultivation. Recommendation has been made for an expenditure of \$3,000 by which nearly 1,000 acres of valuable land can be watered. With this addition to the farming area and an issue of stock cattle and good stallions, which should be made, these Indians would soon be self-supporting. They already have a large number of ponies, most of which are of little value. A few have purchased stock cattle and their care of these demonstrates their ability in this line.