

No. 73.

OFFICE INDIAN AGENT, NEZ PERCÉS RESERVATION,
Lapwai, I. T., August 23, 1869.

SIR: In compliance with "circular," dated Office Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., July 26, 1869, I have the honor to forward this my annual report of the condition of the Indians of this reservation. I arrived here on the 14th of July, 1869, and assumed the direction of affairs on the 15th. The Indians on hearing of my arrival commenced coming to see me. Among the first that came was "Lawyer," the head chief, who seemed to be well pleased that "General Grant had sent him a soldier chief," and in the course of the conversation he told me that some of his people had gone to the buffalo country. Here I first learned that there was a "non-treaty party" among these Indians. The leading men from all parts of the reservation came to see me, and they, both treaty and non-treaty Indians, all of them, seemed to be well pleased that General Grant had sent them a "soldier chief."

My first object was to find out the cause of the disaffection of this roaming band of Indians known as non-treaty Indians. I found that at first there were but comparatively few of them, and they said at the ratification of the treaty that the government never meant to fulfill its stipulations; that the white man had no good heart, &c., &c.

And as time passed on these assertions were verified to some extent by the failure on the part of the government to build the churches, school-houses, mills at Kamia, and fence and plow their lands, as provided by treaties of 1859 and 1863, until many of the Indians of the treaty side are beginning to feel sore on account of such failure. These arguments are continually being used by the non-treaty party, and are having great weight, being supported as they are by the stubborn facts.

The boundary line has not yet been surveyed, as provided by treaty stipulations. This is the cause of much trouble, from the fact that there are many white men living near where the line is supposed to be, who abuse the Indians and treat them badly. The Indians then come to me and make complaint, and ask me to make the white man leave their country. I cannot decide as to whether these men are on or off this reservation, and the only thing I can do is to promise that the white man's heart shall be better, and thus the matter will rest until another disturbance arises, when the same complaints are made and the same answers are given as before, *i. e.*, that the white man's heart shall be better, and that the boundary line shall be surveyed. If this boundary line was surveyed, then all parties would understand themselves, and things would go smoothly on.

These Indians boast with great pride that they as a nation never shed a white man's blood, but the government has, through its agents, been so dilatory in fulfilling its treaty stipulations, and agents have promised so often that all the stipulations of the treaties would soon be fulfilled, and to so little purpose, that these Indians do not believe that an agent can or will tell the truth.

I told them at Kamia that I was going to put up their mill for them. They said in reply that other agents had told them so many years ago.

I hope that I can get the mill so far along as to grind their corn before the winter is so far advanced as to stop the work.

I do not see that much reformation has been effected in attempting to teach these Indians to abandon the use of intoxicating liquors, for, so far as my experience extends in this direction, I am convinced that they will drink anything that will intoxicate, whenever and wherever

they can get it, and I am of opinion that the only way to stop the use of it by the Indians is to stop the sale of it by the whites. This seems to be very difficult to do, as most of the traders, and squatters through the country, and the merchants of Lewiston and adjacent towns surrounding the reservation, have been permitted to engage in it without an effort being made to prosecute them for it. The fact is, that most all of the traders and squatters on land adjacent to the reservation are either engaged in the traffic themselves, or lend their sympathies to those who are, so that it is almost impossible to convict one of the offenders when tried, as the jury is composed of the same class of men as the party arraigned.

If such cases could be made to come under the jurisdiction of a military court, these offenses would cease at once, and infractions of this law would soon be numbered among the things that were.

Of the products of the farms I have but little to say. The corn, wheat, oats, and potato crops have proved but about one-fourth of the usual yield. This is the result of a protracted drought, for I think that there have been about the usual number of acres sown and planted, and as a consequence there must be great suffering among many of them during the coming winter if they do not get assistance from some source outside of their own means.

The crops at the agency are but little better than a failure, owing to the same cause of failure in crops of the Indians, the severe drought. But this effect might have been avoided by a timely attention to irrigation, for here at the agency the means of irrigation are present and ample; every acre of land may be covered by water from mill-race and adjacent springs.

The products of the agency farm will not be more than one hundred bushels of wheat, thirty bushels of corn, and perhaps one hundred bushels of potatoes. I have cut and stacked, since my arrival here, about fifty tons of hay, of an inferior quality of wild grass, and, owing to the drought, short and dry. I shall have to purchase perhaps sixty or seventy tons more, in order to have sufficient amount to feed the horses, oxen, cows, and young cattle on hand during the coming winter. We cannot depend upon grazing, for all grass is now dead and dry, and worthless as feed.

There was a school opened here on the 27th of October, 1868, in one of the agency buildings, with but fifteen scholars, which in itself was very discouraging to start with, but in the course of the term the number of scholars increased to twenty-four, which inspired all interested with some hope of future success; but during the month of January following, the small-pox made its appearance in Lewiston, and as a precaution the school was closed. The attendance was good, the average daily being seventeen. Eventually the excitement passed and school reopened on the 25th of April with forty-one scholars in attendance, who evinced great interest in their studies. This term closed on the 23d of July, the average daily attendance being thirty-two. This will compare very favorably with many schools in the towns and villages of the West; and were it not for the difficulty with which the teacher is able to make himself understood by his scholars, there would be good progress made; for they seem to be very attentive to their studies, and, as the result of personal observation, I am of opinion great good might be derived from the use of "lithographs" of the most familiar objects, with the names of the pictures written or painted under them. These would enable the teacher the more readily to make himself understood by the scholars, and *vice versa*.

The appropriation for pay of employes, as per 5th article of treaty of June 11, 1855, is absolutely insufficient. Neither mechanics nor farmers can be employed for that amount of money, especially in this country, where all business is transacted on a specie basis.

Accompanying this is statistical return of farming and farm products, &c., for the year 1869; also, statistics of education for 1869.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. WHAM,

Second Lieutenant U. S. A., and Indian Agent.

DE L. FLOYD JONES,

*Colonel U. S. A., and Superintendent Indian Affairs,
Boise City, Idaho Territory.*

No. 74.

FORT HALL AGENCY, I. T., July 31, 1869.

SIR: I have the honor, in accordance with the requirements of the department, of submitting my annual report on the condition of Indians under my charge.

The Boise and Bruneau Shoshones and a portion of the Bannacks I had encamped on the Boise River until my departure for Fort Hall, numbering as follows: Boise Shoshones, 300; Bruneau Shoshones, 850; Bannacks, 150.

The winter camp was very unpleasant; the best, however, to be found in order to keep them from coming in contact with the whites. Their greatest difficulty was wood. The settlers had taken up their country wherever wood was to be found, and would not permit them to cut any; hence they suffered and made many complaints; also the want of warm clothing.

The measles broke out among them and many died of that disease. They had medical attendance, but their exposed condition, however, made it difficult of cure, and many refusing to take such medicine as the physician prescribed, the disease remained with them for months.

Under instructions from the superintendent of Indian affairs, dated December 2, 1868, I started for the Fort Hall country. On the road I met several bands of Shoshones and Bannacks. I stated the desire of the government to place them on a reservation at Fort Hall, early in the spring. They promised me to be at convenient points on the road and accompany me to their new home.

Under instructions from the superintendent of Indian affairs, dated February 26, 1869, to remove the Boise and Bruneau Shoshones and Bannacks to the Fort Hall reservation, on the 13th of March I started with the Indians, taking the overland road, crossing at Clark's Ferry, on Snake River, with a detachment of the Twenty-third Infantry, two wagons, belonging to the Indian department, and freight teams with subsistence, &c., &c.

The weather was extremely severe and I could only travel a short distance per day. Many of the Indians whom I had met in December joined me on the road. I arrived at Fort Hall on the 13th of April, it yet storming, and took possession of the buildings belonging Mr. J. Q. Shirley, with his consent. They are good and valuable buildings, and must necessarily belong to the reservation.

Mr. G. W. Paul, the reservation farmer, immediately selected ground and commenced putting in a crop with every success; the grasshoppers have, however, nearly destroyed it. I respectfully refer you to his report accompanying this.