

sented to leave off their migratory habits and turn their attention to farming, stock-raising, &c., and are consenting to the importance of having schools. This change has been brought about by their own observation. They see for the first time hands stretched out to help them, and the danger of starvation removed during their first efforts to change their condition. To supply the necessities of nature is the first fruit toward civilization, and when this is accomplished, and not until then, can they be expected to seek more intellectual pursuits, and be willing to take hold of the proffered hand of the Government and be led into a state of civilization.

The Bannocks, who, by a provision of the treaty with the Shoshones, have been occupying this reservation in common with them, are now, by a condition of the same treaty, expected to live on the Fort Hall reservation in Idaho, embracing the Post Neuf and Camas Plains.

The annuities for this year intended for the Bannocks have been sent as usual to this agency, and if they come from Fort Hall, where they are now supposed to be, to receive their presents, and from the necessity of the case be compelled to remain until next spring, it will seriously affect the estimate of subsistence made for the Shoshones only. The stipulations of the treaty with the Shoshones, on the part of the Government obligating itself to make certain improvements on their reservation, have now been fully complied with in every particular.

The want of houses for Indians to live in is the greatest obstacle that now presents itself; the difficulty of procuring material places the work beyond their reach, and without more assistance than I have at command will be a slow work. But little progress can be made in schools until the Indians are induced to settle down. We have a reasonable expectation, however, that this work is about to commence.

Permit me to say, in conclusion, that the work done in the past year and the prospects that are before us leaves no room to doubt the success of the present policy with the Shoshone tribe of Indians. Notwithstanding they have been shamefully tampered with, and strong efforts made to abuse their minds and cause distrust toward the Government and their true friends, the efforts made for them has arrested their attention. They acknowledge a great change in the state of their affairs, and for the first time in the history of this tribe, it is believed, they see and appreciate the friendly relations of the Government toward them.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES IRWIN,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

No. 36.

OFFICE OF THE INDIAN AGENT FOR THE NEZ PERCÉS INDIANS,
Lapwai, Idaho Territory, August 31, 1872.

SIR: In compliance with the requirements of the Department, I respectfully submit the following as my second annual report of affairs connected with the agency.

During the past year the Indians of this tribe have been quiet and well disposed. No trouble has arisen between those upon the reservation and the whites outside. Frequent complaints have been made at this office, on the part of those Indians belonging to this tribe outside the reserve, and the white settlers. Troubles between them and the whites will continue to arise so long as they are permitted to reside outside the reserve, upon lands in the valleys, that are partly being settled up by the whites. The sooner all belonging to the tribe are brought upon the reservation, the better it will be for all.

The condition and circumstances of those within the reserve are generally improving. A greater desire to cultivate their lands is obtaining, and a slow yet steady progress toward settling down to the pursuits of civilized life is to be seen.

Farming.—Although there has been one-third more ground cultivated the present season than there was the last, there will be less of all kinds of grain harvested. The causes that brought this about was the continuous drought, setting in soon after sowing and planting, and continuing up to nearly the present time. The crickets also came upon us early in the spring in immense droves, and remained until July, ravaging our fields of grain and destroying our vegetables. For agency purposes we put in 25 acres of wheat, 20 acres oats, 12 acres corn, and 3 acres of potatoes. The yield has been 250 bushels wheat, 375 bushels oats, 75 bushels corn. The potatoes are not dug yet. We will have an average yield of them. The wheat, corn, and potatoes will be for use of the boarding-school. At Kamiah the harvest has been much better than here

or any part of the reserve, not having been troubled with the crickets, and having been blessed with seasonable weather. On account of this failure of Indian crops I anticipate numerous calls for help from Indians during the coming winter.

Schools.—We have had two schools in operation during the past year—the boarding-school here at the agency, a day-school at Kamiah. The school-building here is 26 by 50 feet, two stories. The upper story is used as a dormitory for the boys, the lower is the school-room. The girls are lodged in a building near by, fitted up for them. The boarding-house is occupied by Rev. R. N. Fee, the teacher, and is situated between the two. The boarding department is superintended by Mrs. Fee, the matron. The school has made much more progress than I could have anticipated, which is encouraging to myself, with a prospect for the future that is still more encouraging.

One great drawback is the superstition of the Indians. There has been considerable sickness among the scholars, and one of the most promising boys in the school died during the past summer. Immediately after his death some of the wilder portion of the tribe remarked that the sickness was caused by their adopting the manners and modes of the whites. "See," say they, "we are more healthy and stout than those who work their farms and live in houses." "They will all die off if they continue to live as the whites." This feeling, I believe, will gradually pass away. We have at present in the boarding-school 20 boys and 3 girls. Some have made considerable proficiency in their studies. We have two far enough advanced to be able to explain to the others. They are a great help. I hope they will fit themselves for teachers. At Kamiah, there being no suitable house for boarding purposes, the school is necessarily a day-school. I have clothed some of the scholars attending there. The scholars have not made that progress in their studies that we find among those here. The school has been under the charge of the Rev. H. T. Cowley, whom I suspended July 1, 1872, for cause. I shall look for greater improvements during the next season. I cannot too strongly urge the absolute necessity for another building here, for the use of the school as a boarding-house and dormitory. We will need all the room we have now for school purposes as soon as the scholars come in for the winter term. And I sincerely hope that during the next season we shall have an appropriation not only sufficient to complete the present building, but also to erect a suitable boarding-house. An estimate for the same I have already sent on.

Improvements.—There has been one barn built for the use of the agency during the summer. It is a good substantial structure, and was much needed. Quite a number of Indian cabins have been built, and others now are in process of erection.

There seems to be a growing desire, particularly on the part of those who show any inclination to cultivate land, to build houses to live.

Right here, in this connection with improvements, and in keeping with the policy of the administration, and which has obtained at other agencies, I have to call attention to, and urge that the estimate I forwarded some time ago for building dwelling-houses for employes be allowed. It is essential under the present policy that the employes be married men. In them we find men of steadier habits, more willing to recognize the duties and obligations resting upon them, and far readier to discharge them. Such a little colony of Christian families as we might have here located in the midst of the tribe would go far toward inducing the Indians to give up their wild nomadic life and bring them nearer to civilization, and exert a very salutary influence in christianizing them. To accomplish this we must have other buildings for the employes.

Those buildings we have are wholly inadequate to meet the wants of the agency. The Indians see it and remark it. Two dwelling-houses should be built at once. We need a church-building, hospital-building, and boarding-house for the school. There is no building here suitable for a mess-house, and I am compelled to keep the mess for those who have no families.

General remarks.—This tribe is divided into different bands, each having a head-man. Neither the head chief, sub-chiefs, nor head-men exercise that control or restraint over the tribe they ought. The tribe shows very little respect for their chiefs, and the nearer they approach civilization the more they rely upon the agent to settle matters in dispute among them. If in council the tribe or band are pleased with the council and advice of their chief or head-men, they follow it; if it does not accord with their feelings, it is disregarded. The tribe is about equally divided between "the treaty" and those who term themselves "the non-treaty" Indians. The non-treaty portion, with a very few exceptions, reside on the outside the reserve, along the Snake River and its tributaries. They never ask for assistance, and take nothing from me, except, perhaps, a little tobacco. There is no good feeling existing between the two parties. The non-treatys claim that Sawyer, at the time he made treaty with the Government, sold their country out from under them and reserved his own. They are the ones who give me much trouble outside the reservation. The time is coming, and I believe is now at hand, when the Government will be compelled to remove those outside the reservation upon it. As I have before remarked, troubles are constantly arising on the outside, and the settlers are getting impatient, and are inclined to push matters to the extreme.

By a timely stroke and judicious management I think those on the outside could be induced to come on the reserve, and I can see no better time than the present.

Accompanying this please find report of teacher at Lapwai.

In conclusion, allow me to express the hope that, with liberal and necessary appropriations on the part of the Government, I may in another year be able to make a much more flattering report of progress of this tribe.

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

JNO. B. MONTEITH,

United States Indian Agent, Nez Percés Indians, Lapwai, Idaho Territory.

Hon. F. A. WALKER,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

No. 37.

OFFICE OF THE INDIAN AGENT FOR THE NEZ PERCÉS INDIANS,
Lapwai, Idaho Territory, October 1, 1872.

SIR: I am pleased to submit the following as a supplement to my annual report.

I forwarded some time ago estimates for buildings at this agency and asked for appropriations therefor. It gives me pleasure to report that since my annual report was forwarded the appropriations asked for have nearly all been allowed and received. We have received appropriations for building two churches—one here, the other at Kamiab—a hospital building, the completion of the school-houses, building boarding-houses and dormitories; also an appropriation for breaking and plowing land.

The Indians are highly pleased with these appropriations. Immediately upon receipt of the appropriation I commenced getting out the necessary lumber, and have already let contract for completing school-house and boarding-house for present use, and dormitory for girls. Work is now progressing on same.

I shall push these improvements along as fast as I possibly can, with a due regard to good work and material, and early in next season will have all the buildings in process of erection. Our saw-mill here, and at Kamiab as well, are running in the day time, while the grist-mills run at night. The two dwelling-houses asked for, and for which no appropriation has yet been made, are all that is wanting now to make every one comfortable, and they are absolutely necessary.

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

JNO. B. MONTEITH,

United States Indian Agent, Lapwai, Idaho Territory.

Hon. F. A. WALKER,

Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

No. 38.

FORT HALL AGENCY, IDAHO TERRITORY,
September 5, 1872.

SIR: In compliance with Department instructions, I have the honor to submit the following annual report of the condition of the service at this agency.

Reservation.—This reservation is ample in size, and is as favorably located as is possible within the limits of Idaho or Utah. The climate is mild, and the country better adapted to raising cattle and horses than any of which I have knowledge. All crops of grain and roots must be irrigated; but with Indian labor the expense is light, and the yield will average with the Atlantic States. Fortunately, game and fish are not found near the reservation in quantities sufficient to subsist the Indians, and they are obliged to rely upon the agricultural resources of the reservation, which can be developed sufficiently to subsist a great many more than it will probably be called upon to do. The boundary-lines on the south and east should be run. Whites are settling and improving lands within the limits of the reservation, and until the lines are run this will continue. The people of the country are divided in opinion as to the southern and eastern boundary.

Treaty.—This reservation was provided for by the Fort Bridger treaty of July 3, 1868. It was to be set apart for the Bannocks, who were parties to that treaty. It was stipulated that they were to be provided for as liberally as the Shoshones. The Government has failed to meet its engagements in this respect, and the Bannocks have been compelled to lead a vagabond life, drifting from Boise City to the game country northeast of Bozeman, Montana, and south as far as Fort Bridger, Wyoming Territory. If the Government will only keep good faith in the performance of the treaty stipulations with these people there will be no difficulty. They can remain at home, as they