

under cultivation, and I am informed will probably yield 50 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, and 100 bushels of potatoes. If this estimate is verified it will surpass the expectations of the neighboring settlers, whose crops have been almost destroyed by grasshoppers.

The second farm, eight miles from the office, also contains about 100 acres; the ground is under fence, broken, and ready for use, and perhaps 6 acres in potatoes, belonging to Ten-Doy, chief, and Teatoba, subchief, with but little prospect of success. There is much more land here that could be utilized for farming purposes, and I will endeavor to do all the farming during the present fiscal year that the limited resources at command will permit, as there appears to be a desire on the part of a number of Indians to engage in farming and other useful pursuits.

Several of them have expressed a desire to abandon their lodges if houses could be provided for their accommodation, and as this is an important step in the way of civilization, they should be encouraged and their wishes gratified. They would thereby become more strongly attached to their homes and have less facilities for roaming than at present. There is an admirable site for a water-power saw-mill near the agency, and abundance of timber in the mountains near by, so that an unlimited quantity of lumber could be had for the erection of such houses as they may need at a small expense. Nearly all the manual labor required to cut and haul the saw-logs and handle the lumber after being sawed could be done by the Indians themselves, and I have no doubt they would soon learn to handle the machinery and the saw.

I exceedingly regret the fact that no school has been organized at this agency, and I fear none can be at present, on account of the limited appropriation, as appears from the tenor of your letter dated February 5, 1878. If colored children can make such rapid progress as is now acquired in the public schools of the different States, certainly the mental faculties of Indian children are susceptible of like culture, as has been plainly indicated by the schools at other agencies; and it is a burning shame that they are permitted to grow up in ignorance when the ability to read and write, if nothing more, could be procured at a nominal expense. I am informed that *not one* Indian assigned to this reservation can either read or write in his own or the English language. There is now a suitable building here which could readily be put in order and used for this purpose.

The general health of the Indians during the year has been good; no epidemic has prevailed, and the only difficulty of a serious nature has arisen as the result of their own personal vices. There have been treated for all physical ailments during the year, 337 cases, 8 of whom have died and 141 have recovered. Many others have left in a convalescent state. The "medicine man" has lost some of his once-cared-for proclivities, and they now clamor after the white man's medicine and his physician.

The Indian police have just been organized, and will prove of value after they fully comprehend the object of their employment.

Upon visiting the different lodges, a few days after my arrival, for the purpose of taking the census, I discovered gambling going on in several of them, the stakes being rather formidable-looking metallic cartridges; and an earnestness was exhibited worthy of a better cause.

I am loath to inform you that no missionary effort has been made during the past year, and yet I do not know of a better field of labor than this agency. Certainly American people should prefer to put forth efforts for the salvation of heathen and wicked men on our own soil rather than expend so much in Africa, India, and other remote parts of the earth, while these people are so utterly neglected.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. WRIGHT,  
*Indian Agent.*

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

NEZ PERCÉ INDIAN AGENCY,  
*Lapwai, Idaho, August 12, 1878.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my eighth annual report of affairs at this agency:

During the past year the reservation Indians have been unusually quiet, as also industrious. The departure of the non-treaty element from this section of the country resulted in good to the treaty portion of the tribe, who are endeavoring to live a civilized life, and their attempt so to do is no failure. A few restless Indians still remain, but seldom come on the reserve to create trouble.

#### AGRICULTURE.

A number of Indians at Kamiah lost their crops, fences, and some of their farming implements and harness last year by fires started by hostile Indians. To such I furnished a new supply of such things as they actually needed.

In my "statistical report" it will be seen that, under the head of agricultural products, my figures as to amount of wheat raised is less than that of last year. Also the amount of cultivated acreage, which is explained as follows: Last year, in making my annual reports, I embraced all *Nez Percé* Indians, those living outside the reserve as well as those living on the reserve, in said reports, and the result of their labors formed a part of said reports, while this year I confine myself to reservation Indians and the reserve. I estimate the number of *Nez Percés*—men, women, and children—living outside the reserve at 500. This does not include any of Joseph's or White Bird's bands. According to the census of this tribe, there are living on the reserve, viz: men, 348; women, 427; boys, 188; girls, 193; total, 1,156. The amount of cultivated acreage is estimated at 3,022 acres, same cultivated by Indians. For the products of the same, see statistical report.

The crops this year are not as heavy as was expected, on account of dry weather; still we can not complain. The Indians will have enough for themselves, and a handsome surplus to dispose of. The funds received from sales of their surplus is generally judiciously expended, many purchasing their winter's supply of groceries, clothing, &c. There are many who think these Indians are in a measure subsisted by the government. On the contrary, since I have been here they have never received any rations from the government, but have always subsisted themselves; and in comparing my eighth "statistical report" herewith with my first one, I have cause to feel encouraged, so far as pertains to my efforts to elevate and advance this people in civilized pursuits. For the benefit of those who would like to see the result of such comparison, I copy, viz:

From my first report, 1871 :

	Acres.
Cultivated acreage .....	1,055
Bushels wheat raised .....	7,500
Bushels corn raised .....	1,500
Bushels oats raised .....	3,400

From my eighth report, 1878 :

	Acres.
Cultivated acreage .....	3,022
Bushels wheat raised .....	20,000
Bushels corn raised .....	3,500
Bushels oats raised .....	6,500

There are about 3,000 fruit trees now growing, that were set out by the Indians on their respective farms, and in the course of two or three years they will have an abundance of apples, pears, peaches, plums, &c. In addition to the above number of fruit-trees, many Indians have quite a number of young trees. One Indian tells me he has a young nursery of about 2,000 trees.

#### EDUCATION.

During the year there has been an average attendance at the boarding and lodging schools of 48; the largest attendance during any one month being 52. We have endeavored to give the scholars a practical education, as well as that in books. The progress has been slow. The boys have been instructed in agricultural pursuits in addition to the instruction received in the school-room. Their teachers are practical farmers, and in the proper seasons have had the boys planting and taking care of the agency farms and school-gardens, and when the time comes to gather in the vegetables, &c., they will be engaged in such work. The matrons direct the girls in general housework, making and repairing their own, also boys' clothing, and cooking. There is not the interest manifested, generally, that I would like to see. The progress made in book-learning, outside of reading and writing, is slow. Some of the larger boys have learned to make shingles and milk cows.

A day-school, under the direction of Miss S. L. McBeth, was opened last October. She has had in attendance from 4 to 12 young men, who are preparing to be teachers and ministers. She is doing a good work. She is an appointee of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and by said board maintained.

#### MISSIONARY WORK.

I am sorry to say that the missionary work on this reserve has been very limited. There has been no minister located here as missionary for over two years, but we have received frequent visits from ministers, who have, from time to time, received into the church such as desired to join. In giving the number of members of the church in my statistical report, I take the same from figures published by the board of missions in its report. The usual interest in religious matters is manifested.

#### INDUSTRY, CIVILIZATION, &c.

The disposition on the part of these Indians to increase their cultivated acreage, and show more industry, is quite marked. They have cut nearly 400 saw-logs, which

will be sawed into lumber for houses, fences, &c., as soon as I can obtain a suitable man to run the mill. I am cramped somewhat in the way of funds, and the figures at which mechanics in this section of the country hold their services is greatly underrated by the Interior Department.

Indians can command higher wages by from 100 to 200 per cent. more than the department is willing to allow them as day-laborers in this section. The department is willing to pay only 50 cents per day for Indian labor, and the Indian must board himself. Such as are capable of performing work in the harvest-field, assist in logging or cutting wood, can command from \$1 to \$2 per day. Yet the department expects me to encourage the Indians in industry by offering them 50 cents per day, and board themselves, whenever Indian labor can be made a substitute for white labor in the force of employes. Such encouragement only gives the Indian an opportunity to ridicule the government.

## MATTERS IN GENERAL.

During last May these Indians received from the War Department something over \$5,000 in payment for horses and supplies furnished General Howard's command during last year's hostilities. They have also received from wood sold (individually) about \$1,500, nearly all of which was received by the better class of Indians, who made good use of it.

There is little or no gambling done on the reserve, at least none coming under my observation. Very little drunkenness reported compared with former years. Such cases as have come to my notice have been summarily dealt with. My mode of punishment has been to confine the guilty party in the guard-house at Fort Lapwai for thirty days, with a request that he be kept at hard labor during that time, and take one horse to pay for his board. The horse is sold and proceeds paid into the hands of the commanding officer of the company which furnishes the rations. This mode has proven to be a success. The loss of the horse is the heaviest part of the punishment.

The general health of the tribe is good.

In conclusion, I would say I have no reason to feel ashamed of the present condition of the Indians under my charge. The advancement made in civilized pursuits is certainly encouraging.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

JNO. B. MONTIETH,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

OFFICE UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT,  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AGENCY,  
*Darlington, Ind. Ter., August 31, 1878.*

SIR: In compliance with department instruction, I have the honor to submit the following as my seventh annual report of the condition of the service at this agency, being for the year ending August 31, 1878.

## STATISTICS.

The following table will show the number of Indians attached to this agency:

Name of tribe.	No. of men.	No. of women.	No. of boys.	No. of girls.	Total.
Cheyennes .....	820	1,050	687	741	3,298
Arapahoes .....	507	466	364	419	1,756
Total at agency .....	1,327	1,516	1,051	1,160	5,054
Cheyennes at school, Hampton, Va. ....					8
Arapahoes at school, Hampton, Va. ....					1
Cheyennes at school, Syracuse, N. Y. ....					2
Arapaho prisoner, Moundsville, W. Va. ....					1
Total belonging to agency .....					5,066

About the 15th of November the majority of the Indians left the agency on the usual annual buffalo-hunt. At the date of leaving the prospect for a successful hunt was reported to be good by parties who had just arrived from the buffalo country, but on arrival at the ground it was found that Indians from reservations east and south of this agency had already been at work, and the buffalo but few in numbers; and having waited