

reports and letters written home, I judge they are making good progress. One of their number was obliged to return home a few days ago on account of poor health.

INDIAN HOUSES.

The Poncas have 79 log and box houses. Since the 1st of January, 1880, over seventy families have moved into houses. The agency carpenters made 65 bedsteads, 61 cupboards, and 60 tables, which were issued to the heads of families as fast as they moved into houses; at the same time each family received a cook-stove, a complete set of stove furniture, and to most of those living in houses dishes and chairs were issued.

AGENCY BUILDINGS.

The agency buildings consist of a commissary 24 by 70 feet, containing office, one school-house 28 by 50 feet, seven employé's houses, good carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, and tool-house. The above buildings are new and are generally in good repair. A few hundred dollars spent upon them in painting and repairs at the present time would result in a great saving to the government.

SANITARY.

The present year has been a very healthy one for the Indians at this agency. There have been eleven deaths and fifteen births. Most of the deaths that have occurred were small children and aged people.

POLICE.

The police force at this agency has not been as efficient as it should have been owing to its poor organization. I am about to reorganize my police force, and when it is completed I think they will be an important factor in the agency organization. I have always found the members of the police force ready and willing to perform any duty that was imposed upon them.

REMOVAL.

Much has been said and written relative to the removal of the Poncas back to their old reservation, and some two months ago parties were on the reservation endeavoring to hire the Indians to run off, taking what property they could gather together, and go back to their old home. Standing Buffalo and other leading men of the tribe have told me over and over again that they do not want to move back, that they are satisfied to remain where they are; that they want school-houses and whatever else the government is going to do for them done here. By extravagant promises of aid and presents when they should get back to their old reservation they have kept the Poncas unsettled, making it extremely difficult to interest them in farm work, schools, or anything else that would tend towards their civilization and advancement. Their present reservation contains over 100,000 acres, and is a good stock and farming country. The prairie land is good and can be counted upon to produce average crops. The river bottoms are very rich and will produce heavy crops of corn and wheat. The numerous streams that flow through the reservation are well wooded, furnishing an abundance of timber for all practicable purposes.

NEZ PERCÉS.

When the facilities to work with are taken into consideration, the Nez Percés have made good progress the present year. With only twenty-three teams at their disposal, they hauled all their supplies one hundred miles from terminus of railroad, besides breaking one hundred acres of prairie and hauling logs for houses.

Potatoes, corn, and garden seeds in their usual variety were issued to each family, and in almost every instance they were planted and the growing crop well taken care of. The Nez Percés have more garden vegetables, potatoes, melons, &c., of their own raising than they can make use of. They have asked for wheat to sow this fall, and I have requested authority to buy them enough wheat to sow one hundred acres.

The 96 head of two-year old heifers and four bulls, received for the Nez Percés, were issued to them July 20, 1880. The Indians are taking excellent care of their cattle. The Nez Percés appear to be natural herders, and show more judgment in the management of their stock than any Indians I ever saw.

The old Ponca saw-mill was removed to the Nez Percé reservation in July last, and we are now sawing out lumber for the purpose of erecting houses for the Indians, and I hope to have them all comfortably housed before cold weather.

The agency buildings consist of a good commissary building and two employé's houses, all new and in good repair.

A day school was opened in February, 1880, and has been very successfully run under the care of James Reubens, a full-blood Nez Percé, with an average daily attendance of twenty.

The Nez Percés are a religious people, and under the intelligent teachings of Mr. Reu-

bens they are strict observers of the Sabbath, refusing to perform any labor whatever upon that day. Twice upon the Sabbath they meet together, and listen to the preaching of Mr. Reubens, and sing hymns with an occasional prayer. Their services are conducted with as much order and the congregation is as much interested in the proceedings as any body of white people in any church in the land. In bad weather they hold services in a large tent erected for the purpose in Husses-Kutte's camp, but in pleasant weather their meetings are held in the open air, with some boughs laid upon poles to protect them from the rays of the sun. The Nez Percés should have a building erected, suitable for church purposes, in which a day school might be run, made up of such children as it would be impossible or impracticable to take into the industrial school.

The Nez Percés are an intelligent, religious, and industrious people, ready and willing to work and help themselves, and if agricultural implements, sufficient stock to work their land, and seeds are furnished them, they will do much towards supporting themselves another year.

The above, with the accompanying statistics, will, I think, give a fair representation of the condition of affairs at this agency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. WHITING,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

QUAPAW AGENCY, IND. TER.,
August 25, 1880.

Sir: In compliance with instructions of July 18, 1880, I submit the following as my first annual report of affairs at this agency.

We have eight tribes under our charge, the Quapaws, Confederated Peorias and Miamis, Ottawas, Shawnees, Wyandottes, Senecas, and Modocs, besides a small band of Pottawatomies, numbering 25, and 27 Cherokee Shawnees; in all 1,067 souls, owning 202,298 acres, situated in the northeast corner of the Indian Territory, one-half of which is fine agricultural, the other grazing, land and partially covered with timber, not of a good quality, however, but used for log houses, fence-rails, and fire-wood. Water is abundant and of the very best quality. The surface of the country is undulating, and the streams and timber are interspersed frequently enough to make the scene pleasant to look upon. In the spring there is a wonderful variety of plants and flowers on the prairies and in the woods. One never feels the want of words and his own insignificance so much as when he attempts to describe the beauties of nature. It is gratifying for me to say that the past year has been a prosperous one, and that peace, harmony, and a kindly feeling prevail among all of the Indian tribes of this agency. Habits of industry and thrift are taking hold of these people, and those who labor are being amply rewarded. In a general view of the reservation, you are at once compelled to say that these people occupy one of the garden-spots of the United States. For agriculture, fruit, and stock-raising I am sure this country is not surpassed by any west of the Mississippi River, and that the Neosho and Spring River bottoms are equaled by few, if any, other sections.

In driving over the reservation, if it were not for the red faces you meet with on every hand you would say you were among the homes of the thrifty white pioneers of the West. Some of our Indians are as industrious and energetic as the whites on our border and are making as rapid progress; fine farms, well regulated, with good orchards and good stock are to be seen on every reservation. After looking at the results here, you may well feel an interest in the peace or humane policy of a great and generous nation. Out of a population of 1,067, there are but 99 (Modocs) people who depend on the government for support, and these few are fast approaching independence. This, of course, does not include the children, who are educated by the charity of the government, but who if left at home could be provided for by their parents. No one questions this policy as being the only way to attain the civilization and enlightenment of these people. It need hardly be said that superstition prevails everywhere among the ignorant classes; and that they have not the regard for virtue that characterizes the more intelligent races. The houses of the most ignorant are small, but generally comfortable, and they are blessed with a happy and contented disposition. Without exception they are hospitable and kind; nearly every tribe has some members who cling to the old practices; they dance to "drive away disease," the Buffalo dance, yearly feast, &c., are still indulged in by them.

QUAPAWS.

The Quapaws, from whom this agency was named, number about 200; only 35 of them are on their reservation of some 56,685 acres, the remainder having joined the