

THE NEZ PERCÉS,

located at Oakland, comprise three hundred and twenty-eight souls, and I am sorry to be compelled to report that there has been a large amount of sickness and many deaths among them during the last year. This arises from the fact that they have not become acclimated, and are to a great extent compelled to live in tepees, the cloth of which has become so rotten from long wear and the effects of the weather as to be no longer capable of keeping out the rain, by which they were soaked during the last spring. The tribe, unless something is done for them, will soon become extinct.

Of all Indians with whom I have become acquainted, they are by far the most intelligent, truthful, and truly religious. Under their pastor, the Rev. Archie Lawyer, a full-blood Nez Percé, one hundred and twenty-four Indians have joined the church (Presbyterian), which was organized during the year by the Synod of Kansas. They are greatly in need of a church in which to hold services, and for want of one are compelled to meet under an arbor covered with branches and leaves. They keep the Sabbath-day holy, abstaining from all kinds of work, and the service at the arbor is attended by every member of the tribe, whether a communicant or not. The universal attendance, the attention and the general good conduct of these people, does not only compare favorably, but causes me often to blush for their more favored white brethren. Poor as they are, they have contributed \$45 with which to buy the lumber, &c., necessary to build a house for their pastor, which is now completed and occupied by him. The carpenter-work was done, by my direction, by W. H. Nelson, the carpenter at Oakland, with the assistance of his two Indian apprentices when they were not otherwise employed.

Love of country and home, as in all brave people, is very largely developed in this tribe, and they long for the mountains, the valleys, the streams, and the clear springs of water of their old home. They are cleanly to a fault and most of them have adopted the dress, and as far as possible the habits, of the white man. They keep their stock in good order and are a hard-working, painstaking people. I hope by the time winter comes on, to have them all in comfortable houses.

The saw-mill (though but driven by a twenty horse-power engine) has produced one hundred and nineteen thousand and seven hundred and forty-six feet of lumber, and one hundred and forty-four thousand seven hundred shingles. The running time has been about two hundred and sixty days, making an average of four hundred and sixty feet of lumber and five hundred and fifty-six shingles per day, at a cost of \$1,020 per year.

The number of acres broken and under cultivation is one hundred and sixty-one, an increase of one hundred and twenty-one during the year.

The deaths have been seventeen and the births six.

There were fourteen box-houses erected for the Indians, one for the pastor of the church, a good stable and saw-mill completed, besides a large amount of repairing, done by the carpenter and his assistants.

The number of females outnumbered the males by more than one hundred. This surplus is caused by the widows whose husbands fell during the war. These poor women are all longing to return to Idaho, to their friends and relations. I would suggest the propriety of returning them to their old homes, where they will be more comfortable than they are at present, and, I believe, would not be a greater expense to the department than they are here. So brave, good, and generous a people deserve well of their government, and I can only express the hope that such generous action will be taken by the coming Congress in their behalf as may enable the department to furnish them with the horses and implements of agriculture that they so much need. Such a people should not be allowed to perish, and this great government can afford to be generous and just.

A statistical table of the condition of both the Poncas and Nez Percés will accompany this report.

THOS. J. JORDAN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

QUAPAW AGENCY, IND. T., August 27, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my second annual report:

This agency is situated in the northeast corner of the Indian Territory, adjoining Missouri and the State of Kansas on the east and north, and separated from the Cherokee Nation on the west by the Neosho River, and on the south by the southern line of Newton County, Missouri, extended west to Grand River. It embraces an area of 202,298 acres, the majority of which are rich upland prairie, divided by valleys, which are as fertile as are found anywhere in the West. The descent from the more elevated land to the valleys is gradual and seldom abrupt, except in the east and southeast