

taken by the parents, and with a consequently larger attendance of scholars; but, like all day-schools on Indian reservations, it falls short of the full number that could be accommodated.

The condition of the Poncas as to health has been very good, and, with the exception of measles, there has been no contagion, and few deaths have occurred except from ordinary diseases.

The saw-mill has produced 57,230 feet of lumber from logs cut upon the reservation, and has averaged over two thousand feet for each day's running.

The police are as good as can be expected, and have been, as a rule, attentive to their business and faithful.

In my opinion the time has arrived at which chieftainship should be abolished, as I am satisfied chiefs, in general, do more harm than good to the tribes under their control. They are constantly scheming to preserve their ancient privileges, and thus impeding the forward movement of their people. But education will in the end root out this evil by teaching the young the value of self-dependence. So long as the chiefs are allowed a voice in the distribution of anything intended for their tribe so long will the poor people of their bands be compelled to pay the chiefs for their influence in getting them proper recognition. I have on every occasion ignored their claims, and in making all issues looked only to the good of the service, placing the horses, wagons, and implements of husbandry in the hands of such Indians who were most likely to make proper use of them. Thus I have often brought down on myself the wrath of the chiefs; but I am consoled by the knowledge that a popular agent can only be the tool of the royal savage.

The Indians have not yet completed putting up their hay, but they have to-day not less than 1,200 tons in stack, and by the end of the season will have between 1,400 and 1,600. This shows a marked improvement over last year, and argues stronger than words could by any possibility do the care they are bestowing upon their stock. They are fast approaching the time when self-support will be reached, and great care should be taken by their agents and the employes under them to keep them up to the forward movement.

With the assistance of my employes we have kept open a Sabbath school, which has been well attended by the Indians, in which the plain, practical truths of the Bible have been taught. The seed thus sown has to a great extent (with the example set them) taught them a decent and respectable observance of the Lord's Day, and it is seldom indeed that I have to reprove them on that score.

Their polygamous marriages are a source of trouble, but just how to break them up I am unable to suggest. But some method should be adopted soon of a compulsory nature which would deter the young men from following so bad an example.

There has not been a single crime, that I am aware of, committed by the Poncas during the last year, and I can safely say that in an equal number of whites no such record could be made. They are easily influenced for good, but with bad examples the influence to wrong would be equally potent. Kindness, good nature, and love for their children and for one another is a striking characteristic of this people, and they are generous to a fault to all poor Indians of neighboring tribes. Their personal cleanliness and that of their homes have been much improved, and a table neatly spread is an ordinary sight in their dwellings.

THE NEZ PERCÉ INDIANS

of Joseph's band, also under my charge, are situated at Oakland Agency, 15 miles in a northwesterly direction from this agency. They exhibit by far the most mind of any Indians with whom I have come in contact. They are brave, energetic, exemplary, and faithful. Their history, from the earliest times of which we have any record, is one of wonderful interest. Never large in numbers, the natural enemy of the Sioux, the Blackfeet, the Flatheads, and the Crows, they maintained their position amidst a host of surrounding enemies, and drove from their soil all intruders. Filled with a love of country—almost worshipping the high mountains, bright flashing streams, and rich fertile valleys of Idaho—they have inherited and transmitted to their children a name for bravery, for truthfulness, and honor of which they may indeed be proud. The unfortunate war into which they were driven in 1877 with the United States is far from being a blot on their escutcheon, and all brave, high-minded people the world over will honor them for their gallant defense of their homes, their families, and their hunting-ground. When they surrendered to superior force they did it in the most solemn manner and under the most solemn promises of protection and a return to their own country. That that promise has not been kept is an historical fact, and never has been explained. Might never made right, and the power to punish can never excuse its exercise wrongfully. As the years go by the eyes of this people are turned to the northwest, and their yearning hearts pulsate naught but Idaho. Like Inspector Pollock, I can exclaim, "Of all men in the world, is it possible that we *two* only can see this wrong." But God works wonders in His own wondrous

way, and without His direction it could never have been consummated. Through battles and blood, through long marches and weary camp fires, through the booming of cannon and the rattling of small-arms, they have been led to the foot of the Cross, and to-day they worship the God of the Bible with an unction and zeal the counter-part of their unflinching courage in battle.

They labor with a will to make themselves self-supporting, and have harvested and threshed over 800 bushels of wheat the present season. Though without the necessary horses to pull their plows, they have broken more than 150 acres of prairie, and have a good stand of corn upon every acre broken in time for planting. Could they procure a proper amount of wheat for seed, they would plant the present fall more than 100 acres. Their gardens present all the vegetables of the season, and their melons are as fine as I ever saw, and in great abundance.

During last fall and winter I had nineteen new houses erected for them, each upon his own claim, which they at once occupied, and the sickness consequent on tent life has greatly decreased. Had the department been able to furnish the funds required every Nez Percé would now be enjoying the comforts of a good house. I am much indebted to the superintendent, D. W. Jordan, who worked with commendable energy, and to Mr. Nelson, the carpenter, who gave his whole time and attention to this good work. They both had higher aims than merely to earn their salaries, and by a consistent walk and strict adherence to duty won the respect and esteem of all the Indians, whose esteem was worth anything. The matron, Mrs. Nelson, has always done her whole duty, and I cannot too highly commend her efforts in behalf of the Indians. The Indians have now in stock about 600 tons of hay for winter use, and their stock of all kinds will be well provided with provender.

The school under the charge of James Reubens has flourished in an uncommon manner, and every seat has been filled during the past year. The new school-house has progressed only so far as building the foundation, and the purchasing and delivery upon the ground of the lumber necessary for completion.

The Presbyterian Church, organized by the presbytery of Kansas, and under charge of Rev. Archie Lawyer, has also had a large increase of membership and the services are well attended by a large part of the tribe.

A field of 30 acres of corn was broken and planted for agency use, which will yield a large crop, which will be all that will be required to keep the agency horses during the coming year.

During the year the saw-mill has been roofed with shingles made on the agency, the barn, and a large shed at its side completed and covered, a small house erected as an office for the physician, together with a carpenter and blacksmith's shop, all from native lumber; and also, a house from which the beef is issued to the Indians. All the agency houses are in good repair, and will need little or no appropriations for the coming year.

I neglected to state in my report of the Ponca Agency the fact that we have a field of 80 acres in corn for the use of the agency, which will produce at least 50 bushels to the acre. A statistical table will accompany this report.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. J. JORDAN,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

PAWNEE AGENCY, IND. T.,
October 13, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following annual report of affairs at this agency. Having but recently assumed charge, I must necessarily derive my information from office records and from the various employés.

During the past year nothing of a serious nature has transpired to disturb the tranquility of the agency; however, the usual difficulties and discouragements encountered by all whose lot is cast in this service have presented themselves here, but it is hoped that even these in their adjustment may possibly be productive of some good in creating and illustrating new ideas and inducements for the exercise of more energetic and decisive measures in the way of advancement in the future.

POPULATION.

The number of Indians belonging to this agency, as shown by the last census (September, 1881) is 1,251, divided into four bands, as follows:

Skee-dee band	416
Pe-tah-how-erat band.....	251
Chow-wee band.....	271
Kit-ka-hock band.....	307