

## CONCLUSION.

I think I have every reason to feel encouraged as to the future improvement of the condition and habits of this people by exercising careful and patient management. There is great room for improvement, but reforms cannot be consummated in a day, nor can Indians be persuaded to immediately lay aside the habits and customs that they have followed for years in the past, but the good work must be gradual and they must be made to understand that the Government will not provide for them always, and they must acquire habits of industry and self-reliance, and that the Government will aid all those who desire to attain this end. Honest dealing, a proper regard for their rights, and proper and careful education will ultimately make them self-supporting. The conferring upon them the privileges of citizenship would be a great stride toward their advancement and improvement, as I believe Indians appreciate the benefits and advantages offered them by the Government.

Thanking the Department for its cordial support, I am,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT WOODBRIDGE,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

NEZ PERCÉ INDIAN AGENCY, IDAHO,  
*August 14, 1885.*

SIR: Be pleased to accept the following as my fourth annual report of the condition of affairs on this reserve:

## THE TRIBE.

I cannot say that there has been a marked advancement towards civilization during the past year, yet I can see an improvement in several respects, which will be mentioned in detail under other heads. The first step to be taken to lead the Indians in this direction is, in my opinion, to provide for the taking of lands in severalty by the Indians. With the exception of the few agricultural implements furnished, also subsistence for about forty destitute widows, children, and old men for about three months during the year, this tribe is self-supporting.

As to cultivated acreage, there is an increase of about 235 acres over last year. This is occasioned by twenty new farms having been taken up by Indians, and by others increasing the size of their patches.

To become successful stock raisers the Indians have come to realize the importance of making more extensive preparations in the way of providing hay for the more severe portion of the winter; hence the increase of 800 tons of hay having been put up this season over the 700 tons put up last year. The yield per acre of cereals this season is greater than that of last, being an increase of about 9,000 bushels of oats and 5,000 bushels of wheat. Their gardens are not as good as usual, owing, I think, to the scarcity of rain during the months of April and May.

But little stock was sold by the Indians during the year. I think 250 head of cattle and 150 head of horses will cover all such sales. This accounts for the increase in Indian stock over my last report.

## IMPROVEMENTS AND INDUSTRY.

Six frame and five log houses have been added to the number of Indian dwellings on this reserve. Lumber has been sawed for several houses, which will be erected by the Indians during this fall and winter and next spring. Lumber has been sawed covering a bill for a new church edifice, 32 feet by 60 feet, which will be erected this fall. For said building 45,000 feet logs were delivered at the mill by the Indians and, in addition to the same, they have subscribed \$800 in cash, most of which has been paid in. The above remarks pertaining to the new church edifice applies to the Protestants of the west end of the reserve. The amount of logs delivered at the saw-mills by Indians, to be made into lumber, approximates 385,000 feet.

Last fall the Indians hauled 46,130 pounds of freight from Lewiston to the agency, for which they received \$230.61. I have purchased from the Indians and paid therefor as follows; 24½ tons hay, \$343; 130 cords wood, \$650; 14,597 pounds oats, \$256 44; total, \$1,480.05.

## EDUCATION.

The average attendance at school has been forty-seven. The capacity of the building is sixty. I could not obtain enough suitable and healthy children to fill the school. Scrofula to a greater or less degree prevails throughout the children of the tribe. The

good food furnished the scholars at the boarding school is calculated to develop said disease rather than exterminate it. An Indian's stomach is analogous to the average white man's purse—draw on it and you touch a very tender spot. Any attempt to diet the children would result in a light attendance. There are twenty-six children of school age who came with the returned Nez Percés of Joseph's band. I shall select from the said twenty-six, also from those who attended school last term, enough to fill the school next term, and take the healthiest and brightest.

The progress made last term by the scholars in their studies is very encouraging, owing in a great measure to an assistant teacher having been allowed for the school room. More time was given to the younger children than heretofore. The advancement made by the girls in cooking, sewing, and general house-work is marked and very satisfactory. The same can be said of the boys as regards industrial pursuits.

## COURT OF INDIAN OFFENSES AND POLICE.

I presume it will be futile for me to say anything regarding the parsimonious support given these branches of the service on part of Congress. If said body wishes to fit the Indians for the "white man's law," why is it that the members thereof are so short-sighted and penurious as to refuse to give adequate support to a measure so calculated to educate the Indian to become a law-abiding citizen and fit him for civilization? Congress refuses to appropriate the small amount of \$10 per month as pay for judges, but expects competent Indians to act and be content with the honor attached to the position.

Again, the idea of expecting an Indian to devote his whole time to police duties for the pittance of \$8 per month! With this small amount (about 26 cents a day) he is expected to support himself and family. No rations are allowed. A policeman must necessarily take sufficient time to cultivate enough land from which to harvest grain and vegetables in quantities to subsist his family. This is an injury to the police service.

Yet in the face of such discouraging barriers I am able to state that the "court" and police force have worked wonders among this tribe. Friends and foes alike of the Indians in this vicinity acknowledge the same. It has been through strenuous efforts on part of the agent that the service of the court and the police force is what it is on this reserve. He has exercised discretionary powers, and has upheld and aided the same when severely tried and put to the test as to moral courage in deciding cases where former chiefs were to be tried; also in compelling arrests to be made. The following is the result of the labors of said court from July 1, 1884, to August 1, 1885:

Cases.	Fines.	Amount.
Drunkenness .....	7	\$105
Plurality of wives .....	8	195
Assault .....	4	45
Disorderly conduct .....	3	20
Perjury .....	1	10
Contempt of court .....	1	10
Obscenity .....	1	10
Total .....		\$395

It does appear to me that Congress should encourage these branches of the service by granting reasonable support. The judges should be paid \$20 per month, and the police should receive \$10 per month and a ration for themselves and each member of their-families.

## RETURNED NEZ PERCÉS FROM JOSEPH'S BAND, ALSO FROM "WHITE BIRD'S" BAND.

One hundred and eighteen Nez Percés of Joseph's band reached this agency June 1, 1885, were kindly received, and have gone out among the tribe. After an absence of eight years they return very much broken in spirit. The lesson is a good one and furnishes profitable study for the more restless of the tribe who are not disposed to settle down and enter upon civilized pursuits. They seem inclined to profit by experience: Some have already taken up lands and are fencing the same, while others will follow next spring. Such are patiently waiting for agricultural implements to come, for which I have estimated.

Having been instructed to secure the return to Chief Joseph of horses left by him at Kamiah, when his war party left this country on their way to Montana, I have adopted the same as my criterion in the settlement of similar claims made by other

members of the returned band, and think I will be able to settle all disputes without difficulty.

About fifteen of "White Bird's band" have come in and are scattered over the reserve. As fast as they appear at the agency I instruct the police to cut off their long hair and then instruct them as to what I shall require of them, namely, that they must make a selection of a piece of land, settle down, and go to work. To a very great extent it is the fear of law that causes people to respect the same; so with the Indians, to make him fear you, is to make him respect you. This course will make an agent unpopular with many, but ultimately such feelings will disappear. I have endeavored to make this tribe understand that my word is law, at the same time taking great care not to require anything of them that is not covered by one or more of the many regulations adopted by the Department.

#### CENSUS OF THE TRIBE.

I have been instructed at two different times to make a census of this tribe. Congress passed a law requiring a census to be made of each tribe, and made no provision covering the necessary expense connected with such work. What wisdom this? Do members of Congress expect agents to bear such expense? I speak for myself. It would take me about twenty-five days to make a proper census of this tribe. I would have to travel over about 260 miles of trails. This would necessitate pack animals, a packer, and interpreter; also subsistence for the party. In this country everything of this kind requires cash. In candor, I must say I do not feel called upon to draw from my small salary of \$1,600 per annum to pay such expense. I could sit in my office and approximate a census, but what would it amount to when completed? If Congress wishes to secure a true census of the tribe, let it exercise judgment and ordinary intelligence by providing the necessary means with which to secure the same.

My time is fully taken up in attending to my duties at the agency. I am the only agent this tribe has ever had who has not had a clerk, while at the same time the amount of work required of an agent now is at least 50 per cent. greater than was required of any preceding agent. I know whereof I speak, having been clerk at this agency for nearly eight years, during late Agent John B. Monteith's administration. The honorable Secretary of the Interior has granted me a leave of absence for thirty days, but my duties are such as prevents my taking the benefit of the same. The work requires my personal supervision and the responsibility is something more than ordinary. I consider that there is no person at the agency competent to assume my duties.

#### REMARKS IN GENERAL.

Owing to the workings of the court and vigilance of the police, the morals of the tribe are improved.

A resurvey of the north and south boundaries of the reserve is being made. This is very much needed, and will be the means of settling disputes as to encroachments by white settlers upon the reserve.

The religious work carried on by Rev. G. L. Deffenbaugh is very satisfactory and is entitled to the approbation of all who feel an interest in the cause. I take pleasure in inclosing a report covering the religious work on this reserve, prepared by Mr. Deffenbaugh.

The general health of the tribe is good, no epidemic having appeared among the tribe to carry off its members.

With thanks for the kindness and courtesy extended by yourself and the Department, generally, I am, sir, very respectfully,

CHAS. E. MONTEITH,  
*United States Indian Agent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,  
NEZ PERCÉ AGENCY,  
August 14, 1885.

DEAR SIR: The agent informs me that the time has arrived for him to forward his annual report. As missionary in charge, it is with great pleasure I undertake to make a brief statement of the religious work of the year for him to include in his report. Not wishing to particularize, I shall simply aim at giving a general idea of what has been done in the direction indicated.

Public services, prayer meetings, and Sabbath schools have been well sustained during the year. The native ministers have labored with commendable earnestness