

six and under sixteen, 52; male and female children under six years, 77. From as reliable information as I can gather a complete census would number about 550.

My police I have to say are obedient, faithful, and efficient, attend well to their duties, and have a good influence over evil-doers on the reservation, and I am glad to say that these Indians generally are well disposed. Of course there are some that will get drunk whenever they can get liquor, but we are getting the traffic pretty well broken up. What little they do get they get from Chinamen, and I have been unable to get evidence enough yet to convict them. I am glad to say that there have been no depredations committed on the reservation either by the Indians or whites.

The sanitary condition of these Indians is very good. As a rule they are very superstitious and always seem to have great confidence in their native medicine men, but through the able management and skillful treatment by Dr. M. A. Miller, the agency physician of their diseases, he is fast overcoming their prejudices and they are fast losing confidence in their medicine men. They begin to think that the white man's medicine is good.

It affords me pleasure to inform you that my employes are obedient, competent, faithful, and industrious, which means success to an agency. There is a great field of work before me and all other Indian agents and those connected with the Indian service in general, a work that requires the most faithful care, attention, and judgment, and untiring energy to bring about the desired results.

The school at this agency was closed the 30th day of June, 1889, as a failure. The honorable Commissioner ordered me to re-open it when I took charge, which I did. It has now been running four months in a satisfactory way and is in a flourishing condition, although it is small yet. I have 16 pupils and hope to soon swell that number to 25, which is about what the school buildings will accommodate. I have had considerable hard work to persuade them to let me have that number, as through their prejudices and superstitions the most of the Indians are strictly opposed to a school. Those I have are very contented and like the school, and I am glad to say that they are learning much faster in both their books and industrial training than I had expected or hardly hoped for, and I see no reason now why this school can not be made a perfect success; and with such a competent corps of school employes as I now have, I feel sure that the school will be a success.

A short time ago my principal teacher and matron resigned and I have employed a female for principal teacher, a Mrs. P. Fuller, a Christian lady and an accomplished teacher of much experience in both Indian and white schools. She has had charge about a month and I can see a vast difference in the progress of the pupils. I have always believed that in small Indian schools female teachers were the best, as I believe that they are better adapted to teach and civilize the Indian children than men, and have the work more at heart.

I have no courts of Indian offenses. I believe there has never been such a court established here. I have no use for one, as the Indians are very peaceably disposed.

I hope to be able to make my next annual report much more satisfactory to myself and the Department.

Respectfully,

E. NASHOLDS,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF NEZ PERCÉS AGENCY.

NEZ PERCÉS INDIAN AGENCY, IDAHO,

September 15, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my first annual report:

I assumed charge of this agency January 1, last, relieving Special Agent George W. Gordon. In the twelve months prior to my taking charge of the agency, five different persons had been in charge; each was here for a short time only. About all that the person in charge could do was to keep the agency property together, ready to turn over to his successor. The affairs of the agency were necessarily, in a great measure, at a standstill; steps looking to the advancement of the tribe and the improvement of the agency could not be given the attention they should.

AGRICULTURE.

Last year the season was dry, and there was a partial failure of crops; the usual quantity of grain and hay was not raised. This was followed by an unusually severe and prolonged winter; the Indians exhausted all their feed, and fed grain reserved for seed to their stock. After the opening of the late spring the Indians had to wait for their

horses to recuperate on the native bunch-grass before planting operations were commenced. In their extremity for seed-grain the Government came to the relief of the Indians, and furnished 1,000 bushels of seed-wheat, which was issued to the Indians. That the money expended for seed was put to a good purpose is evidenced, I think, by the abundant harvest.

Although the planting season was late, the season for growing and maturing the crop has been favorable. No rains have interfered with the harvest, and the crop has been secured in good condition. Irrigation is used to some extent in gardens. I have succeeded in getting some Indians to commence farming, by breaking and sowing a small area, who have heretofore made no effort in that direction. The item of barb-wire for fencing is an important one. The Government, by its liberal allowance for the same, has enabled me to have beginnings made on allotments, which I would otherwise not have been able to do. On the whole the Indians have made fairly good progress in agriculture during the past year.

INDIAN COURTS.

With reference to the court of Indian offenses, pay for the Indian judges was authorized for only eight months of the year, and their services were discontinued February 25 last, two months after my assuming charge. I have had one case of gambling, one of attempted rape, and one of drunkenness, which were punished by fine and imprisonment. It is hoped that the services of the Indian judges will be continued through the current year, as they seem to dispose of these minor offenses in a satisfactory manner.

MISSIONARIES.

The Catholics have a church with two missionaries in charge of the missionary work. The Presbyterians have one missionary and three congregations. The Indians have two church buildings, and one is owned by the Government; the preaching is done by Indian ministers.

ALLOTMENT.

The work of allotment, in charge of Special Agent Alice C. Fletcher, is progressing. About 1,000 allotments have been made, and Miss Fletcher hopes to finish the work this year. There is no serious opposition to the work this summer. So many have taken their allotments that the opposition of those who would be disposed to oppose it (if there is any such) is not felt. The work is slow and tedious, as the Indian, while he will take his allotment, in many instances does not see the necessity of being in a hurry about it.

SANITARY.

The health of the tribe has been very good; there has been nothing of an epidemic character among them, nor any unusual sickness. During the school session many of the children were afflicted for a time with sore eyes, but they were successfully treated by the agency physician. The Indians seem to have a growing confidence in the skill of the physician. While the medicine man is not extinct, he is gradually losing caste among the Indians of this tribe.

CRIMES.

There have been no Indians punished for crimes committed against State laws. One white man has been convicted of selling whisky to an Indian. There have been no other convictions of whites for crimes committed against Indians. As a rule the Indians are not turbulent or disposed to conduct themselves disorderly.

STOCK ON THE RESERVATION.

The stock question is one of the most perplexing questions connected with the administration of agency affairs. The reservation is virtually surrounded by settlements of whites. There is a great area of the public domain unoccupied upon which the stock of the whites range. They cross the imaginary line dividing the reservation from the land of the white settlers. Their presence on the reservation is a source of constant annoyance. Sometimes they break into the inclosures of the Indians and damage growing crops. There are no great herds, but they are found here and there among the Indian

stock. It is impossible to keep the reservation clear with the police, owing to the extent of the boundary line. Thus far I have not been able to reach any satisfactory way of dealing with the matter.

JOSEPH'S BAND.

The small remnant of Joseph's band of Nez Percés located on this reservation are doing very well in learning the white man's ways. There are 150 or more of them, and with few exceptions they wear citizen dress and have their hair cut short. They have not much personal property, but their homes show evidences of industry and thrift, and generally they manifest a willingness to send their children to school.

RAILROAD.

Under authority from the honorable Secretary of the Interior the Spokane and Palouse Railway Company have surveyed a route through the reservation, but nothing further has been done. The Indians, I think, will not oppose the building of the road if fairly dealt with in the matter of compensation for "right of way," etc.

BUILDINGS.

The agency, a short time before I assumed charge of agency affairs, was segregated from the school and removed from Fort Lapwai to the present location. The buildings provided for agency use are totally inadequate to meet the demands of the service; this applies to dwellings for employées. The fences are old and posts rotten; they should be rebuilt. The buildings and fences do not make a creditable appearance, and the agent can not remedy the existing state of affairs unless furnished with material to make the necessary repairs.

SCHOOLS.

The school is under a separate management and is designated as the "Fort Lapwai Boarding-School." There is a superintendent and 15 employées, of whom 10 are white and 5 are Indian. It is located 3 miles south of the agency; school was maintained eight months during the year. The average attendance was 76, and the highest average for any one month was 115. The expenditures for the year were, for salaries of teachers, \$6,722.95; for all other expenses, \$8,874.98. The scope of the school work will be extended for the ensuing year; a school will also be opened by the agent in the agency school building, which will make the school facilities of the reservation ample.

GAMBLING AND DRUNKENNESS.

Owing to the fact that no person was in charge permanently last year, the discipline became very lax. No earnest effort was made to suppress the vices of gambling and drinking. These vices are not prevalent among the tribe as a tribe, but to a comparative small number. It has been a difficult matter to reach them, as the whisky is procured off the reservation in another State; however, I am endeavoring to break up the nefarious traffic.

CONCLUSION.

The statistical report, in which is given in detail statistics of the agency for the year, is inclosed. The population is placed at 1,715, of which 300 is estimated; the number of actual names obtained is 1,415. The Indians are making progress in civilization; still the blanket Indian is more numerous than he should be. I found many more "blanket" Indians here than I anticipated on coming to assume charge of the agency.

The employées have been busy and faithful to their work, and the work of the miller, blacksmith, and carpenter increases as agricultural pursuits become more general among the tribe.

Very respectfully submitted.

WARREN D. ROBBINS,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.