ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1878.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
1878.
The only incident that has occurred among these Indians of a serious nature during the past year was the murder of one and the wounding of another of their number by four Pi-Utes, while on a trading expedition to Saint George, Utah. The Pi-Utes were arrested by the Mormons, turned over to the civil authorities, and the leader of the party sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. R. MATER,
United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

HOOPA VALLEY AGENCY, CALIFORNIA,
August 19, 1878.

SIR: In compliance with instructions dated Interior Department, Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., July 1, 1878, I would respectfully report that, owing to there being no appropriation for this reservation during the past year, very little improvement has been made, as the reservation, when turned over to me, was entirely dismantled. I applied to the honorable commissioner to have the stock that was taken here to Round Valley returned. The agent at Round Valley was instructed to turn over to me such stock as he could spare. Strange to say, out of the large number of horses, mules, etc., driven off, numbering about fifty, only four old, broken-down horses and four mules, and a lot of old straps, called harness, could be spared.

With one employee, at a salary of $25 per month, I succeeded in repairing the fences and getting under cultivation about fifty acres of wheat and about the same of hay. I have harvested about forty tons of hay and will have about 50,000 pounds of wheat. The grist-mill is entirely useless. If it could be used, and this wheat turned into flour, it would relieve the wants of these Indians greatly, as the old and sick are about destitute. During the past year I have expended about $1,250-$350 for the purchase of farming implements and $1,000 in the purchase of supplies for the working men and the sick.

The Indians on this reservation are peaceable and well disposed. I regret to say that they have not received much encouragement to remain “good Indians.” They need an active, honest, and energetic agent to superintend and advise them. Many of them are industrious and willing to work, and I recommend that not so much of the appropriation be used in the employment of white labor, and a small allowance of money be paid the Indian for his day’s work.

The resignation of Dr. Reid, physician on the reservation, was accepted, to take effect December 1, 1877. This left me without a doctor. Many of the Indians were sick and suffering for want of medical attendance. Dr. Price, assistant surgeon U. S. A., could not accept the appointment of physician, and it was actually necessary for some one to look after these unfortunate people, as a number of them were in a most deplorable condition. I authorized and requested Dr. Price to render them every attention. He was most assiduous in his attention, and I earnestly recommend that some action be taken by the honorable Commissioner toward compensating Dr. Price for the valuable service rendered the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICH. C. PARKER,
Captain Twelfth Infantry, acting Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

ROUND VALLEY INDIAN AGENCY,
Mendocino County, California, August 12, 1878.

SIR: I have the honor to submit this my first annual report of affairs at this agency, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878. I assumed charge here October 1, 1877, so that three months of the fiscal year had already passed.

This reservation contains 162,118.19 acres, or about 429 square miles; of this, only about 4,000 acres lie in Round Valley and on the southern boundary line; 1,430 acres of this land is claimed and held by three parties, as swamp and overflowed land, and is yet in litigation. The remainder of the land is hilly, some rolling, and some mountainous. All but a small portion affords excellent grazing for stock, and is mostly held at present by white men, who have over 40,000 sheep, 1,200 cattle, 500 horses, and 600 hogs, that derive their entire feed from these lands, grazing thereon the entire year. Could we be put in sole possession of these lands, they would soon be covered with a similar number of stock, and all for the benefit of the Indians, as they can easily obtain them to k be procured these hill.

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them to keep on shares, and thus, in a short time, have an abundance of their own, and be procuring a good livelihood in the mean time. There are many spots scattered over these hills that will produce the best of vegetables, with ordinary cultivation.

NUMBER OF INDIANS, ETC.

The census of the Indians on this reservation, as just taken, gives 326 men, 118 boys, 423 women, 98 girls, making a total of 953. This number is subject to variation, and will be, as many wish to visit their friends, and thus are going and coming. Such a life is greatly to be deprecated, as they cannot become successful in civilized pursuits while leading a nomadic life. All our Indians wear the dress of civilized life, (when they can get it); many live in comfortable board or log houses, and others in "campsides" (huts), made of puncheons, pieces of boards, &c., or of tules (a kind of rush), which grow in great abundance on the wet land in this valley.

Besides the Indians living here, there are various bands scattered around, from 20 to 250 miles distant, amounting in all to over 1,500, as near as I learn from different parties from whom I have received letters, complaining of them, and wishing me to bring them on to this reservation. Some of the most distant tribes were once here. In each of these tribes are a few who are industrious, and obtain a very good living by working for others, but the larger part are non-producers, essentially, and hence a burden to the communities where they live.

PRODUCTIONS.

We have not raised as much grain this year as has been reported in years past; owing to the very wet winter, much of the wheat was drowned out, and the ground was too wet to seed well in the spring. We have cut 700 tons of hay, and will probably have 1,000 bushels of wheat, 2,500 bushels of oats, 1,500 bushels of barley, 2,500 bushels of corn, 250 bushels of potatoes, 50 bushels of beans, 1,000 bushels of apples, and 40 tons of squashes. The hops (30 acres) promise well, both as to quality and quantity, but not as to price, and it is doubtful whether they will pay for gathering and curing this year. About 12,000 pounds were cured and sold last year, but they did not quite pay expenses, owing to the low price at which they sold.

The Indians have about 300 acres included in their gardens, but they are not cultivated as yet after the most approved methods, and hence the results are not as we could wish they might be.

IMPROVEMENTS.

We have not been able to make many improvements the last nine months of the year, as there was but little lumber left when I took charge, and none could be manufactured till after July 1, yet there have been a few Indian houses built. We have also commenced a large barn, 60 by 90 feet, at headquarters, which will hold 100 tons of hay, and furnish stabling for 20 mules and 20 oxen.

The hop-house and grist-mill were finished during the first quarter of the fiscal year, and are a credit to the reservation; they were fully reported by my predecessor.

We have built 80 rods of good board fence, moved and reset 1,250 rods, and thoroughly repaired 640 rods of rail fence.

Twenty acres of willow thicket have been cleared and grubbed; 240 rods of ditch, 12 feet wide and 3 feet deep, have been cut to protect land from overflow at high water. One mile of turnpike road has been made between the upper and lower quarters.

MILLS.

We have two mills, a grist-mill and a saw-mill. The grist-mill was rebuilt last year, using the same machinery. During the wet season it can be run with water-power, but after harvest, until the rains come, we must use steam-power, using here-tofore our portable engine, but there is really danger to life and property in using it in the mill, as it has not the power necessary without too high pressure for its age. During the past winter our mill has earned on custom-work over $1,500. As there is no other grist-mill within 50 miles, it is the only place settlers can get their grain ground. Extensive repairs will have to be made to our mill-dam before another winter.

The saw-mill is located about 6 miles on an air-line and 15 by the wagon-road from this agency, and is capable of cutting from four to seven thousand feet of lumber per day. It is run by steam-power, and cannot be run during the winter on account of cold storms and snow. This fall we expect to cut 150,000 feet of fencing and replace old rails with a good board fence. We expect also to cut all lumber necessary for building Indian houses, barns, and necessary repairs.

AGENCY BUILDINGS.

We carry on our property accounts a large number of dwelling-houses that are really not worthy the name, as they are old and rotten, ready to tumble down. There is but one really good substantial house on this reservation, which was formerly occupied by the commanding officer at Camp Wright, two miles from this agency. It
Is built of brick, lathed and plastered, &c., but it needs a new floor, as the floor timbers have become rotten. It is occupied at present by the physician.

A house is greatly needed for the agent's residence, the one he now lives in being too small and uncomfortable. He has no room to lodge an inspector or other visitor, and his family is subjected to many inconveniences and annoyances thereby. An appropriation is greatly needed for this purpose to purchase such materials as we cannot furnish.

**INDIAN INDUSTRY.**

Some of our Indians can work at carpenter work, and can give assistance in that way, but not one is yet so skillful as to be able to make a door or window frame and case it without the plainest directions and oversight. Three can start or stop a steam-engine, but are not by any means engineers, as they have to be watched closely to prevent accidents. As to their general work they need constant supervision, and it is surprising how skillful they are at blacking tools and machinery.

**SANITARY.**

On account of the heavy continued storms during the past winter, there was a larger amount of sickness among our Indians than the year before, as shown by the physician's reports: 1,489 received medical treatment, as against 662 the year before. There have been 31 deaths the past year, against 31 the year before, so that the proportion of deaths to the number treated is much smaller. Only 19 births have been reported. With such a large proportion of aged and infirm Indians as we have, the death rate must be expected to exceed largely the birth rate for several years. The year closes with a greatly improved sanitary condition.

We greatly need a sanitarium, where the aged, blind, and infirm can be cared for as they cannot be at their huts. There are buildings at Camp Wright, but the distance is so great, and the impracticability of getting there in the winter such that they are nearly useless to us, unless we could move them down to or near headquarters.

**EDUCATION.**

I wish I could make a report of what has been done to educate the Indian children that would be alike flattering to teachers and scholars, but to report exceptionally good scholars only leads to false impressions as to others. Some of the pupils can read well, very well, but many have been under instruction for three years who cannot read intelligently, and but few, if any, seem to understand what they read. Some can write well, as to mechanical execution, “and quite a number can work” at “the first four rules of arithmetic”; but a new teacher asked a boy who had been attending the school for five years to add 1 and 1 on the slate: he could tell by mental process, but did not know how to make a figure 7. I doubt not that teachers have been earnest and faithful, but results show that there has been too much effort expended in the cramming process and not enough in the truly educative. Again, the mistake appears to have been made (so common) of taking for granted that they are as intelligent and quick to apprehend abstract ideas as white children; a mistake too common among clerical as well as lay teachers. But little can be done for them unless we can take them away from the corrupting influences of the camp, by putting them into a boarding-school. I am satisfied that the real advantages of such a place would far outweigh the expense, which will not be great, as the pupils could aid largely in their own subsistence.

**MISSIONARY LABORS.**

Owing to a severe attack of sickness, our missionary, Rev. J. B. Hartough, has been able to labor but part of the year. However, regular services have been held at both school-houses every Sabbath, and Sunday-schools taught, in which most of the employés and their families have assisted.

Four years ago a “wonderful revival” took place on this reservation, and nearly all the Indians “joined the church” and were baptized; but I fear that by far the larger proportion had not an intelligent idea as to what those ceremonies meant. On taking charge here I found a few (about twenty) who seemed really disposed of being Christians; some of these have and some have not experienced a radical change of heart. Some are as intelligent, earnest, growing Christians (for their advantages) as I have ever known. Of 750 members reported last year, 20 are all that the missionary thinks are worthy of the name. This wonderful falling off is sad, and yet why should they be surprised, for in a times of the forms of godliness? And where shall I find there has been the same want of discernment of Indian character, and “babes in Christ” have been “fed” (starved) on unsuitable food. One of our Indians described the defect in this way: “Indians all good Christians long as sugar-barrel not empty; but blimey sugar all gone, new all slide back.”

**CONCLUSION.**

We have not sufficient farming land to give our Indians in sevealty so that they could support themselves by farming, and the larger part of them would prefer stock.
raising, for which we have ample room if we can get the control of our range. But the parties holding the range are delaying the suit for various reasons, as each year's use of said range is worth $29,000 to them. Thus we are hampered and bothered, so that we are compelled to support our Indians mostly from the agency farm.

I hope that soon these questions will be settled, when smaller appropriations will suffice; but as it is now it is impossible to do justice to these wards of the government without direct appropriations of a larger amount than has been given for the last three or more years.

Respectfully submitted.

H. B. SHEDDON,
United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

TULE RIVER INDIAN AGENCY, CALIFORNIA,
August 20, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my third annual report of this agency.

This reservation embraces 90,557 acres, and is a rough, mountainous district, the greater portion of which can only be utilized by occupying it for grazing purposes. The arable land within the limits of the entire tract will not exceed 200 acres.

Only two remnants of tribes of Indians are now represented on the reserve, the Tule and Tjoms, though it was originally designated for six. Last year I reported 254 Indians under my care. Since that time some 63 have been induced to return to the Madden farm or old reservation. They informed me that a man representing himself as the owner had given them permission to cultivate, free of rent, as much of it as they pleased, assuring them at the same time that the government would finally purchase it for them. It is a singular fact that no one has ever taken possession of the Madden farm, and that these Indians are permitted to make it a place of general rendezvous. I now report 180 Indians on the reservation, who are acting in full accord with the requirements of the government, and made my requisition for the present fiscal year upon this basis. After another year these will be able to support themselves. As I stated in my last annual letter, all they will require after that time will be some one to protect them in their rights and conduct their school.

AGRICULTURE.

The Indians have raised on their small farms during the past year 500 bushels wheat, 250 bushels corn, 100 bushels barley, 50 bushels potatoes, 10 tons pumpkins, 10 tons melons, and 20 tons hay. Thirty-two tons of hay and 50 bushels of wheat have been produced on the agency farm—sufficient to supply the government stock with forage and furnish seed for another year.

It has been my policy to have the Indians work as much as possible on their own farms and but little on that of the agency. The beneficial effects of this course are quite apparent. It begets a feeling of self-reliance, stimulates to habits of industry, and removes all pretext for idleness.

EDUCATIONAL.

A day school has been taught nine months during the year. The register shows an average enrollment of 31 pupils. There has been evident improvement in all the classes, some having advanced quite rapidly. It is almost impossible, however, to conduct a day school with satisfaction. As I am unable to issue provisions adequate to their support, it is extremely difficult to secure a regular attendance, especially of the older pupils. While there is much to discourage, enough has been accomplished to warrant the continuance of a school even of this character.

MISSIONARY WORK.

Religious education with these Indians progresses slowly. The old superstitions handed down through the ages, are as dear as life to many of them. Religious services have been held every Sabbath, consisting of Scripture reading and such catechetical exercises as are adapted to the congregation and circumstances. The attendance is generally good, and all are respectful and attentive.

INDIAN INDUSTRY.

These Indians located on small tracts of land are usually considerate of their farming interests. Some are even models of industry, working harder and more hours per day than the average white man. They plowed their own ground, sowed the seed, harvested their crops, and hauled their wheat to mill with no assistance save the use of government teams for plowing and means of transportation. They have also, under
the direction of the employés, constructed a number of water-ditches for irrigating purposes. No unprejudiced person can now visit this reservation without observing marked evidence of improvement in systematic farming and general habits of industry.

SANITARY.

The sanitary condition of these Indians is gradually improving. They are badly diseased, however, and the mortality must necessarily be great. During the past year there have been 9 deaths and 5 births. This shows the ratio of mortality 50 per cent. less than three years ago and 25 per cent. less than the year ending June 30, 1877.

CIVILIZATION.

I am glad to be able to report some progress in the work of civilization. Not a drunken broil has occurred, and but two cases of intoxication to my knowledge on the reservation. Comparing the present condition with that of a few years ago, there is reason for increased effort upon the part of agencies employed by the government in the elevation of these Indians.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. G. BELKNAP,
United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Los Pinos Indian Agency, Colorado,
August 17, 1878.

Sir: In compliance with circular-letter, dated Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., July 10, 1878, I have the honor to submit the following, as my first annual report of affairs pertaining to this agency:

On the 16th day of January, 1878, I entered upon my duties as agent, relieving my predecessor, W. D. Wheeler. On my arrival I found the stock of beef and flour entirely exhausted and the Utes clamorous for something to eat. The agent of the contractor for beef and flour for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, was at the agency waiting to deliver the first installment of the same. But no notice of the contracts having been awarded had been sent to the agency, nor had any instructions been issued to receive such supplies, and for these reasons I did not consider myself authorized to make issue until communicating with the department, although the cattle had been at the agency for several weeks prior to my arrival. I, without loss of time, telegraphed for the necessary authority; my application was promptly granted, and in less than two weeks from the date of my taking charge, the distribution of the beef and flour commenced. The installment of flour was only sufficient to make two issues, and we were unable to get any more until the 25th day of April, by reason that transportation over the mountain ranges was impossible, on account of the deep snows, followed in the early spring by an impassable depth of mud.

The winter was very severe and the snows unusually deep, and but for the ample supply of beef we had on hand, and the flocks of sheep and goats belonging to the Utes, on which they largely depended for subsistence, there must have been much suffering among the Indians at this agency. There were many complaints of hunger and of insufficiency of rations. That such complaints were not more numerous and persistent is surprising.

The supplies for this agency have to be hauled in wagons over the Continental Divide and two other high mountain ranges—for long distances over the worst of roads—from the terminus of the railroad at Alamosa, a distance of nearly 250 miles, and when shipped later than the 1st October unavoidable delays are apt to occur, which may postpone their delivery until late in the following spring. To insure prompt delivery, the condition of the mountains should be observed, not