U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1879.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1879.
sheep, about 200 head; mules and asses, about 50 head of each. The horses are largely of an inferior and almost valueless breed.

EDUCATION.

No school is in progress at this agency. There is no building for the purpose, or that can be converted into a school-house.

MISSIONARY WORK.

Although this agency is, as I am informed, under the charge of a religious body, no minister of the gospel has ever been sent here to labor.

SANITARY.

The sanitary condition of the Indians is not satisfactory. Syphilis prevails quite extensively in nearly all the tribes, especially the Mojaves, Yumas, Tontos, San Carlos, and White Mountains. It was brought here by the Mojaves and Yumas from the Verde Reservation. Hospital facilities are much needed.

SUPPLIES.

Hospital supplies are at present abundant and of good quality. Flour was scarce in June, and the fore part of July. The first delivery on the contract of 1879–80 was made July 18, and was an inferior article—very dark and coarse. The beef contractor was on hand with cattle to put in on his contract at the beginning of the fiscal year.

POLICE.

The police, as now organized, consists of 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 7 sergeants, and 31 privates. The men are very attentive to their duties, trustworthy and obedient. The slightest violation of rule that comes within their knowledge is invariably reported; they are ever on the alert. The agent can exert his authority, through them, in any part of the reservation, and feel assured that his orders will be strictly enforced. They know neither family nor friend in the discharge of their duty.

In conclusion, I regret that my limited knowledge of affairs here, having been so short a time in charge, precludes any attempt on my part to review the doings of the past year, or show wherein improvement has been made, or the reverse.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[Signature]

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

HOOPA AGENCY, CALIFORNIA.

August 1, 1879.

Sir: In compliance with your circular letter of June 18, 1879, I have the honor to submit my annual report of this agency.

I assumed charge of the agency October 22, 1878, and found the reservation in an utterly destitute condition, a former agent, Mr. J. L. Broadus, having sacrificed at auction, or removed, all the agricultural implements, the bellows, forge, anvil, tools, and iron from the smith-shop; the ferry-boat and wire-ropes by which it was run, furniture, stoves, and in fact almost everything necessary for the well-being of the Indians under my care. I found eight horses and mules, generally between twenty and thirty years of age, and almost worthless. One mule died, aged twenty-four years. Three mules and two horses or mares were condemned and sold, and in lieu thereof I have received from Round Valley Agency two horses, two mares, and two mules, all of which are well along in years, though they have not quite reached the age of twenty.

I found the grist-mill beyond repair, and the saw-mill, flour, and peck stock in a very dilapidated condition. With new belting and machinery, supplied in April last, I have been able to secure 2,000 feet of lumber, which has been used in general repairs. Both mills should be rebuilt together to be run by one water-pressure, concentrating the working force at one point, especially as it is necessary only to run each mill a portion of the year.
Through the kindness of Mr. Thomas Bair, trader at Fort Gaston, I have had without charge a ferry-boat and wire rope, a pair of scales, a wagon, and yoke of oxen; from Mr. Warden J. Boyce, my carpenter and wheelwright, two mules, and from Mr. Charles H. Griswold, my farmer, one horse, all of which have been of material assistance to me in carrying on the reservation. I have also received material aid from Fort Gaston. The blacksmith-shop has been put in efficient condition, and is in charge of a faithful, competent workman, Mr. John W. Mason.

The school has received most faithful care from Miss Frances O'Brien, and during the past month has shown material improvement in the number attending. The previous non-attendance has been attributed to the destitute condition of the Indians and the absence of proper clothing.

Under the law I have been permitted to issue only to Indians, heads of families, and others who have earned the value by labor, and I have therefore been unable to relieve many cases of distress among the sick, the aged, and infirm. In December last I submitted this subject to the Commissioner but have received no reply.

I have been unable to secure the services of a citizen physician for the salary offered ($900), and but for the kindness of Assistant Surgeon C. E. Price, U.S.A., post surgeon at Fort Gaston, the Indians would have been without medical care, and it is a notorious fact that the Indians throughout the country are fast being swept by disease from the face of the earth. Payment has been denied Assistant Surgeon Price upon the ground that he is an officer of the Army, although he is under no obligation whatever to perform this service. When I commanded this post in 1869-70, Assistant Surgeon T. F. Aspell, U.S.A., on duty at Fort Gaston, filled the position of attending physician at this agency at $100 per month under a special contract made in San Francisco with the superintendent of Indian affairs for California, General John B. McIntosh. Subsequently the amount received as attending physician was stopped from his pay as an officer of the Army, but upon application to Congress he was relieved from the operation of said stoppage, and this is but one of similar precedents for the pay of Assistant Surgeon Price.

From September 1, 1878, to April 30, 1879, eight months, Sergt. William Mathews, Company E, Eighth Infantry, faithfully and creditably performed the duty of clerk at this agency upon the express understanding that he should receive for his services $25 per month as had previously been paid other enlisted men of the Army and much less than the cost of a citizen clerk; yet payment has been denied him upon the ground that he is an enlisted man. The services rendered were extra, entirely voluntary and such as Sergeant Mathews was under no obligation whatever to perform, and without which, the correspondence and records of this agency would not have been kept up. Both of these claims are to be laid before the next Congress for relief.

Many of the Indians work cheerfully and well, and there would be no difficulty with proper appliances in making this reservation almost, if not entirely, self-sustaining. There are 800 acres of arable land capable of producing hundreds of thousands of bushels of oats, wheat, corn, &c., but the reservation is deficient in horses, mules and oxen, wagons, implements, &c.; and being without a grist mill I shall be compelled to have the wheat raised this year packed nearly twenty miles to get it ground for six, which is the best and only bargain I have been able to make.

The wheat already cut, but not yet threshed, is estimated at 2,500 to 3,000 bushels, fully three times the amount secured last year and much more than has been gathered in any one year since 1870, when Capt. S. G. Whipple, First Cavalry, performed the duty of agent. The hay secured, but not yet measured, is estimated at 50 tons.

Mules not more than ten years of age, broken to harness, wagons, farming implements, tools, grist, and flour sacks, should be furnished as mentioned in my reply to circular letter No. 30, Commissioner of Indian Affairs of July 14, 1879.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY R. MIZNER,
Major Eighth Infantry, Brevet-Lieutenant Colonel, Acting Indian Agent.
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

BOUND VALLEY INDIAN AGENCY,
Mendocino County, California, August 6, 1879.

Sirs: I have the honor herewith to present my second annual report of the condition of the Indians and affairs of this reservation.

LANDS.

Nominally, this reservation contains 102,118.10 acres, of which amount only about 4,000 acres lie in this valley. The balance is billy or mountainous country, mostly
well adapted for grazing purposes, excepting the canons and hill sides, where timber is found.

These lands, although the boundaries have been surveyed, are yet, with the exception of about 2,000 acres, in possession of the settlers who were upon them at the time of the appraisement of their improvements in 1873 in pursuance of act of Congress of that year, because they have not been paid therefor. The settlers have thereon about 90,000 sheep, 1,500 cattle, 500 horses and mules, and 500 hogs; all fed and deriving their entire support, summer and winter, from reservation ground, while our own cattle are driven from range to range, and entirely off the reservation for food by the herders of these settlers. If our cattle were permitted to range over our lands, and the calves not killed to supply meat for herdsmen and squaw-men, we would soon have our herds so increased that we would not be obliged to call upon government for any supplies of beef.

AGRICULTURE.

Ever since the establishment of the first farm in this valley by employés and Indians from the Nome Lackeck Reservation in 1856, it has been conducted as a farm and not cultivated by individual Indians or tribes for themselves, except the family gardens; that is, all the wheat, corn, oats, barley, hay, &c., have been raised in fields, undivided, all the work being performed by the Indians, who have received their supplies in return for their labor, and have never been paid wages in money. The necessity for this course has been that our farming lands are so limited and cut up by swamp claims that it is impracticable to divide them among families and individuals, and in anywise satisfy them or give them lands on which they would make a support. This method would be preferable to them, I know, could it be done, but until we can be put in possession of our lands for such purpose, and while all "able-bodied male Indians" are required to work, no rations or supplies being issued to such except on this condition, and employés are only used in the supervision of Indian labor, or the performance of such labor as only skilled hands can do, I cannot see how the expense of conducting the reservation and caring for these Indians can be lessened.

POPULATION.

During the year a large number of Indians have left the reservation, as I have reported from time to time, viz: Some 200 of the Potter Valleys, during the fall of last year, under a former chief or captain of the tribe, Captain Jack, or Napoleon Bonaparte, left and purchased about 60 acres of barren land near Ukiah, and are trying to make a living for themselves; giving as their reason for going that they had been promised lands for themselves for years, but could not get them; they were also told that the reservation was to be broken up soon, and they would have to leave to find lands for themselves. I learned that most of them are dissatisfied and would gladly return if all would come. Some of the Little Lakes have gone to the coast, and others of the various tribes have gone to their former homes (some only to visit), so at the close of the fiscal year there were only 511 who drew their rations as per weekly voucher of June 30, viz: 183 Ukies and Wahiyakers, 153 Little Lakes, 100 Concorde, 48 Real Woods, 20 Potter Valleys, and 20 Pit Rivers. Besides these there are nearly 100 who live on or near the reservation who belong to their tribes, and from 2,000 to 2,500 living from 50 to 220 miles distant who belong by location to this reservation, and whose children ought to be educated in our school.

PRODUCTIONS.

Three hundred and sixteen acres of wheat, 78 of barley, 107 of oats, 110 of corn and 20 of garden are cultivated this year; estimated product: wheat, 7,000 bushels; barley, 1,000; oats, 2,000; corn, 2,000; beans, 100. The corn crop will be light, because of the wet, cold spring.  We will also have about 600 bushels of apples. Besides the above about 300 acres have been cultivated for hay, as we have but little natural sod, and we use the grains for that purpose. The Indians, besides cultivating the above, have 25 acres of wheat and 6 of oats; estimated yield: wheat, 500 bushels; oats, 50 bushels; while they will glean of wheat about 500 bushels; barley, 60 bushels; and cut 50 tons of hay for their ponies. They will probably raise more potatoes, beans, &c., than before, although the acreage is really less than last year owing to the exodus before mentioned.

Failing to get the header, wanted to harvest our grain this year, we shall lose enough grain to buy one. The farmer estimates the loss on our 50-acre field at 500 bushels. With our present force of workmen it is impracticable to harvest with sickle and cradle, except for gleaners and cutters around stumps.
STOCK.

There are 58 horses and mares, to be rated as follows: Serviceable work, 15; unserviceable work, 10; serviceable saddle, 19; unserviceable saddle, 12; 20 mules—serviceable work, 15; serviceable pack, 5; unserviceable work, 4. There is no provision for condemning and selling unserviceable animals (as in the military service), all the above have been kept on the papers and rated as serviceable, giving a false impression as to availability for use. There are 21 oxen and 427 other cattle; the increase of these cattle and their growth are greatly retarded by reasons given before. Of hogs, there are about 150, while there are hundreds belonging to the swamp-land claimants, who raise no crops for any of their stock, but keep them inside of our enclosures on the ground that the land is theirs, subjecting us annually to a loss of hundreds of bushels of grain by their depredations.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The large barn reported last year as commenced, has been completed, and is of great service both in stabling stock and storing hay.

Twenty houses were built last fall, varying in size from 12 by 14 to 12 by 24, according to the size of the family to occupy. To each house has been built a brick fireplace and chimney. Nine Indian houses have been removed and rebuilt, and two small barns built for their use. All of the work on these buildings has been done by the Indians under the supervision of the carpenter.

By your permission we had our two steam-engines and boilers repaired, so that they are now in good condition; one is used to run the saw-mill in the mountains, and the other (a portable engine) for threshing, and at times to run the grist-mill. These mills are indispensable to us in providing lumber necessary for our use, and grinding the grain for our Indians. The grist-mill is also able to do some custom work for the settlers of this valley.

AGENCY BUILDINGS

remain about the same as at last report. Many of them are but temporary structures that soon lose their value and become useless.

INDIAN INDUSTRY.

None of these Indians subsist by the chase (except partially) but work for their daily bread. It is not claimed for them that they are intelligent, energetic workmen; on the contrary, they are Indians, and do not love hard work, will shirk, and hence need almost constant supervision. There are some of the younger workmen that will in time be able to do a respectably fair job in such trades as they are learning, but it requires patience and constant drilling.

Could they have hands of sheep to care for on shares until they could have a fair start they would soon be able to support themselves. Two Indians have 300 sheep in this way, and have a small range near the saw-mill; they are doing well. Many of the Indians are good shearsers and compete with white men in that line. Some of these boys are manifesting an aptness for certain kinds of labor, that is encouraging.

SANITARY.

The general health of the Indians seems to be improving, and the severer types of disease are yielding to treatment; but it will be impossible to exterminate, in years, the taint from their systems, and it necessarily affects their children to a greater or less extent.

The location is healthy and all that could be desired in this respect. We report 19 births and 22 deaths. Some of the older Indians still cling with tenacity to their own methods of treatment, but these are discouraged as far as practicable.

EDUCATIONAL.

An effort has been made the past year to avoid as much as possible the cramming process in teaching, so much in vogue in both Indian and white schools, and to cause the children to think for themselves; to use their reasoning powers as applied to the simple studies assigned to them. Some advancement has been made in this respect, as seen by increased interest in their studies, and especially is this the case in respect to arithmetic. There is still much to do, but we are encouraged in our efforts to teach.
important advancement has been made in the matter of personal cleanliness, so that the scholars are better prepared for study. Our efforts are greatly crippled in this direction by the necessity of the children being in the camps with their parents and friends, and the fact that several of them are orphans who have no real home. Many of these difficulties could be obviated, had we a boarding and manual labor school for them. The average attendance is almost equal to that of last year, when a larger number was borne on the roll.

MISSIONARY LABOR.

Earnest effort has been made the past year to bring this people under the influence of the truth, but little visible advancement has been made. Most of those whose Christian life survived the defection which succeeded the revival that took place here some five years since, are proving the power of the gospel of Christ in a regenerate life. The same difficulty is met here that is found among other people, viz: When the religion that they espouse fails of meeting their expectations (either through its own want of vitality, or from their own failure to reach its vitalizing power); they sink back into skepticism concerning the truth of that religion, are apt to become worse in morals than before, and are far harder to reach with the truth.

Besides the above, we are surrounded by a class of men who "neither fear God nor regard man," but corrupt the minds and debase the morals of our people with the very purpose of thwarting all our efforts to lead them to a higher and Christian civilization; the avowed purpose being to scatter the Indians and break up this reservation.

CIVILIZATION.

A steady, healthy growth is being made in this direction, evidenced in the increasing desire to adopt "white man's ways," viz., to have good houses, to have in those houses bedsteads, chairs or benches, tables, cooking and eating utensils, as well as in dress. No blankets are used for clothing, but all dress in the habit of civilized life.

Respectfully submitted.

H. B. SHELDON,
United States Indian Agent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

TULARE RIVER INDIAN AGENCY, CALIFORNIA,
August 11, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor of submitting my fourth annual report of this agency. This reservation contains about 40,000 acres of land. The most of it is very rough and mountainous, so that very little of it can be utilized, except for grazing purposes. Half of the entire tract is too rough and rocky for any purpose whatever, except as a fair for wild beasts. Two hundred acres will comprise all the land susceptible of cultivation within the boundaries of the reserve.

The eastern portion of the reservation contains quite an amount of good sawing timber, but so situated that it can never be of any benefit to the Indians. A vast amount of capital would be required in the construction of roads to make any of the paper mills available for lumbering purposes. I would therefore recommend the restoration to the public domain a strip four miles wide along the entire eastern boundary of the reservation. This would enable the people living in the plain country to open up roads to this timber and supply themselves with lumber at much more reasonable rates than it is possible at the present time. The government would also realize a profit, if not directly in the sale of this timber, indirectly in the improvement of large tracts of land contiguous to it. Justice would then be meted out to all parties, and every pretext for complaint of the Indian service removed. Citizens would have their just rights and the timber be taken where Providence evidently designed it should. It would also be of great advantage to these Indians in furnishing them a market for their surplus produce and making it possible for them easily to supply themselves with lumber. I do not wish to make any plea for citizens that would in the least injure these Indians. Having been connected with this agency nearly four years, and knowing that it will be utterly impossible for these Indians ever to utilize these paper mills, I make this recommendation fully believing that it would be for the best interests of all concerned. I do not expect action upon this recommendation, but would call your attention to the question in this public manner that you may be prepared to give it consideration when properly presented.

I now report 160 Indians on this reservation who are acting in full accord with the government.
AGRICULTURE.

The Indians have produced on their small farms during the past year 250 bushels of wheat, 250 bushels of corn, 25 tons of hay, 10 tons of melons, 10 tons of pumpkins, and about ten bushels of beans; 25 tons of hay have been raised on the agency farm. These amounts seem small, but considering the fact that nothing has been produced except where we had irrigating facilities, the result is all that could have been expected.

EDUCATION.

A day school has been taught eight months during the year, with an average attendance during the time of sixteen. There has been some improvement, but not satisfactory, or in proportion to the labor bestowed. My teacher has been very efficient, but has become discouraged in teaching a day school among these Indians.

Nothing but a boarding-school connected with manual labor, in my judgment, will be all satisfactory. I am glad to be able to state that a school of this character has been authorized by the department for the present fiscal year, and I shall enter upon the work with increased zeal and confidence.

MISSIONARY WORK.

Everybody knows that religious education with Indians is a slow process. All of the Indians on this reservation would have joined the church ere this had I urged them. I know they are ignorant and superstitious beyond expression, and while some of them are perhaps living up to the light they possess, I deem it the safer course to impress upon their minds that the requisition for church membership is at least a very honest purpose, if not an absolutely correct life. Religious services have been held every Sabbath, consisting of Scripture reading, catechetical and such admonitory exercises as seemed adapted to the congregation and circumstances.

INDIAN INDUSTRY.

There is evident improvement in this direction, with a growing conviction upon the minds of the Indians that they will soon be required to take care of themselves. They are settling down to more steady habits, and are laboring with more system than ever before. I have given them to understand that they have acquired a market in the shape of subsistence; that now all that the government will do for them will be to assist them this year in the purchase of some more farming implements. They fully understand this, and say if the government will help them a little in this way and educate their children they will do the rest.

SANITARY.

The sanitary condition of the Indians is much better than ever before. There have been seven deaths during the year. Two of these, however, were violent; one was killed by another Indian; the other was hanged for murder; so that the natural deaths exceed the births only by one.

CIVILIZATION.

Civilization, like Christianization, with these Indians requires the work of years. There is, however, marked improvement in this regard, and an effort is manifested by almost every Indian, especially among the younger ones, to imitate the example of the whites. They are more observant and inquiring, and in their general deportment will convince an unprejudiced mind that they merit the protection and fostering care of the government.

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

C. G. BELKNAP,
United States Indian Agent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

MISSION AGENCY, SAN BERNARDINO, CAL.
August 28, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my first annual report of the condition of things at this agency:

The Indians under my charge, known as the Mission Indians, are composed of the following-named tribes, viz: Serranos, Diguenos, San Luis Rey, and Cahuillas and Otomangos. Their settlements are scattered over portions of San Bernardino and San Diego Counties, and chiefly in the mountain and desert districts embraced in a range hundreds of miles in extent. Here and there lands have been reserved for them, but their character is such that very little of it is of any practical use, and very few comparatively are living on the lands so reserved.
For generations past many have had their villages on what they supposed to be "the public domain," and which they believed would ultimately be set apart for them, but which in almost every instance turned out to be covered by the ubiquitous "Spanish grant," whose title has been confirmed to the inevitable "land-grabber." In some instances, however, they have been accorded the favor of remaining on and cultivating these lands so long occupied by them, but not without frequent difficulties growing out of conflicting interests. The agent is continually harassed by complaints from one or both parties as to injuries or wrongs endured.

Under this unsatisfactory state of things, which has long existed, frequent efforts have been made to influence government to provide a suitable reservation upon which to consolidate these scattered Indians. A joint resolution of the last general assembly of California was transmitted by its governor to Congress asking that this be done; and, prior to the assembling of the last Congress, letters setting forth the condition of affairs at this agency were forwarded to the department by myself, with a view of securing that at that session such action as it seemed to me the exigencies of the case demanded. But beyond the bringing the subject before the House Committee of Indian Affairs nothing was effected. It is hoped that another session will not be permitted to pass by without final and definite action being taken looking to the purchase of suitable lands for a reservation and the consolidation of these Indians upon it before another year is past. If assurance of this kind does not come to the owners of the lands now occupied by most of them, their ejection is certain to follow.

The Mission Indians are all engaged in agricultural pursuits, either in the cultivation of the little fields they call their own, or in laboring for ranchmen in the vicinity of their villages. But, on account of the sparseness of white settlers in these mountain and desert districts, and the consequent scarcity of labor, they are forced often to go from fifty to one hundred miles to procure work. At some seasons of the year it is impossible for all to find employment, while at others, such as in the sheep-shearing season, they find ample and remunerative employment, and are eagerly sought for by the large ranchmen. They excel all others in this kind of labor. With few exceptions, the Mission Indians are industrious, having always maintained themselves by their own labor. They do not now, and never have asked for supplies of any kind from government. All they ask is that land be given them upon which they may have an opportunity to better support themselves and families.

Up the desert, 50 and 80 miles from the agency, where several hundred live, the usual supply of water for irrigating purposes failed this season; and in this extremity they were forced to subsist upon a wild bean that grows upon the desert. Never having received any aid from government, and being accustomed to the miserable destitution enforced by their helplessness, they endure hunger and want, neither asking nor expecting help. But as I learned their condition, I at once represented their case to the department under date of July 10, and on the 26th, to my gratification, a telegram was received authorizing the purchase of $500 worth of supplies for their use. These I have purchased, and in a few days shall make the first issue, which has been unexpectedly delayed by my absence on official duty. It will be the first time in the history of these desert Indians that they have been in the benefits of this great government.

The educational interests of the Mission Indians have been so far entirely neglected; not one in a hundred, either of adults or of the children growing up into manhood and womanhood, has ever learned, or perhaps even seen, a letter of the alphabet. Nor would the establishment of schools among them be practicable in their present scattered and unsettled condition. Had they long since enjoyed the simplest rudiments of an education, along with the other influences of civilization which have been thrown around them, they would have been spared many of the wrongs and impositions which their ignorance has made possible.

Among most of them the absence of religious influence and instruction is no less marked. While the ancestors of some of these tribes were baptized by the early Spanish missionaries, and the practice has been continued ever since to have the children baptized by the priests, yet no result has been attained by these outward, and, to most of them, numbing rites, which would entitle them to be called Christian. No active missionary work is being carried on among them. Many of them have no conception of the true God, or knowledge of religious truth than the pagan, and, until they are brought together from the almost inaccessible mountain fastnesses and desert plains which they inhabit, and are placed upon a reservation where educational and missionary effort can be made available, little, if anything, can be done to improve their condition in this important particular.

Until my arrival at the agency, wrongs had been practiced upon these helpless people, and that, too, in many cases, by pretended friends, that was only to be expected by the long discontinuance of the agency, and the absence of a duly accredited representative of the government to protect their interests. Taking advantage of their ignorance in keeping records of time, and in computing accounts, their employers, in
many instances, practiced the grossest frauds in the payment of their wages. In some instances goods of one kind or other were given them in lieu of money, at such prices as to make the price of a day's labor to the employer not exceed ten cents. Instances were related to me in which they received their wages in intoxicating liquor, which of course, resulted in a drunken debauch, from which they recovered only when the supply was exhausted, to find themselves without the necessities of life for their destitute families.

Everywhere liquor was being sold to them in defiance of law. And, although frequent arrests were made of the guilty parties, under State authority, few, if any, were ever convicted of their crimes because of the adverse popular sentiment which obtains in this locality in regard to this form of the liquor traffic. Not a few have gained a competency by the traffic with these Indians, while the sentiment prevails to a great extent, that "there is no more harm in selling liquor to an Indian than to a white man."

My first work in assuming the duties of this agency a year ago was to secure just and honorable dealing towards these Indians on the part of employers, and to break up the demoralizing traffic in liquor among them. By close and diligent inquiry as to the wages they received, and the method of payment, I discovered the dishonest tricksters, and by enforcing just and honest payment, when it was refused, as well as by publishing the rascals practiced by certain parties who employed them in considerable numbers, I have succeeded in a great measure in securing just and fair dealing, so much so that few complaints of this character come to me now. By a more close and vigilant effort in ferreting out liquor-selling, and by a vigorous prosecution before the United States authorities of all parties engaged in the traffic, a reformation has been brought in this particular that is very marked. It has now come to be regarded as a dangerous business to sell or furnish liquor to Indians.

Many abuses and wrongs of this kind must necessarily go undetected, and the highest efficiency in the service at this agency will not be attained until these Indians are more directly under the eye and control of the agent. Scattered over such a large extent of country as they now are, many of them remote from the agency, they are a common prey to the rapacity of designing white men. The agent cannot know everything that is transpiring within the limits of his jurisdiction. Withal, in looking over the year that is past, and considering the disadvantages of the situation at this agency, I congratulate myself upon the success which has attended my efforts in the only direction in which I could find anything to do.

It is due, in this connection, to speak of the most excellent subchief, Captain John, who is my interpreter and efficient fellow-helper at the agency; without him I doubt whether the same results would have been attained. His value to the service cannot be estimated by dollars and cents; while a nobler specimen of the possibilities of civilization upon those of his race, under proper influences, is nowhere to be found. He is indebted for what he is to the wholesome influences of a just and honorable gentleman in whose vicinity in whose employ he labored for some years.

The sanitary condition of the tribes is not what it should be. Venereal as well as other forms of disease are common among them, in the absence of a physician they have always been left to such remedies as are found only in their own system of doctoring. The consequence is many who might otherwise have been restored to health. I have been notified, however, that a physician will be allowed at this agency, and have sent the name of one, whose appointment I trust will soon follow. To make his services available in the more distant settlements, it will be necessary for the physician to accompany the agent in his visits to them. There are always sick and suffering ones to be found to whom the coming of a physician would prove a very godsend, and with whom medicines can be left, with directions for their use.

Under the peculiar circumstances of their situation, it is difficult to state correctly the present population of the tribes, since no actual count is possible. With certain data at my command, I estimate their number at 3,000, which is 1,400 less than the estimate last reported.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. S. LAWSON,
United States Indian Agent.