ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1880.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1880.
The condition of the Mission Indians of California becomes, yearly, more deplorable. These Indians are composed of the following tribes, viz: Seranos, Digeues, San Luis Rey, Conmulas, and Owongos. They are estimated to number about 3,000, and 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.

In the last annual report of this office these Indians were made the subject of special mention. Attention was drawn to the fact that many of them were occupying, by sufferance, lands which their ancestors had cultivated from time immemorial, and to which they supposed they had an indisputable right; but that such lands had been found to be within the limits of private land claims confirmed by the courts to grantees under the Mexican Government, before the acquisition of California by the United States; and that the owners thereof were threatening the Indians with summary ejectment.

Legislation, to provide them with suitable and permanent homes, was urgently recommended, but beyond the introduction by Representative Page, of California, of a bill (H. R. 3725, 46th Congress, 2d session), appropriating the sum of $100,000 for the purchase of San Ysabel Rancho, in San Diego County, which, it may be remarked, is wholly unfitted for the purposes of a reservation, no action was taken in Congress.

By executive order, dated the 17th of January last, a prior executive order, dated December 27, 1875, was canceled (so far as it related to the Aqua Caliente Reservation and a portion of the Santa Ysabel Reservation), as being in conflict with certain prior land grants, severally known as the “San Jose del Valle” and “Valle de San Jose.” Referring to this order, Agent Lawson, in his report for the current year, says:

In conversation a few days ago with the present owner of the rancho (San Jose del Valle), he informed me he was about to sell it, and before he could give possession the Indians must be removed. What these people will do in this event, or whether they can be placed, so as to find subsistence in this sterile region of country, are questions that I am not able to answer. This is the situation of an equally large body of Indians now occupying the Rancho San Jacinto, their ejectment being liable to occur at any time. This, in short, is the situation all around; and there being no unoccupied public lands, except such as are uninhabitable, the only alternative left to these hitherto peaceable and thrifty communities is to wander about singly or by families to swell the vagabond class that already infests the villages and towns, to become a prey to vices to which, as yet, they are comparative strangers.

The agent also reports that about fifteen families under similar circumstances were a few months ago forced to remove from the Queeco Ranch, in San Diego County.

In the season of 1879 the supply of water for irrigating purposes on the desert, some 50 to 80 miles distant from the agency, where hundreds of these Indians live, entirely failed, and they were compelled to depend
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for subsistence upon a wild bean which grows in the desert. Never having received any aid from government, and being accustomed to the miserable destitution enforced by their helplessness, they endured hunger and want without seeking or expecting aid. Then, for the first time in their history, their agent, learning of their condition, applied for assistance, and the department promptly responded by ordering a sum of $500 to be expended in supplies to relieve their wants.

The Mission Indians as a class are reported to be industrious, sustaining themselves by cultivating their little fields or in laboring for ranchmen in the vicinity of their villages. During the sheep-shearing season their services are greatly in demand, as they are especially skilled in this kind of labor. In the interest of common humanity something should be done for this uncomplaining people towards providing them with a home. They do not ask for supplies. All they ask for is a reservation upon which they can earn a subsistence for themselves and families.

Their educational and religious interests have hitherto been entirely unprovided for. Recently the department has authorized the building of two school-houses in two of the larger settlements. But little, however, can be effected in this direction until the tribe is consolidated upon suitable lands and brought under the controlling influence of the agent, and to this end I earnestly recommend the passage of appropriate legislation in their behalf.

UTES.

In the last annual report of this office it was recommended that legislative authority be invoked for the appointment of a commission who should visit the Utes and obtain their consent to remove from the State of Colorado to some other location, on condition of their receiving pay for the value of their lands in Colorado. Subsequent to the date of that report a delegation of the Utes, composed of chiefs and principal men from the bands located on the White River, Los Pinos, and Southern Ute Reservation, visited Washington to confer as to the best course to be pursued in regard to a settlement of their affairs.

The result of the negotiations was the agreement dated March 6 and the act of Congress approved June 15 last, which will be found on page 193 of this report. Under the second section of this act, the President appointed Hon. George W. Manypenny, Alfred B. Meacham, John B. Bowman, John J. Russell, and Otto Mears commissioners to secure the ratification of the agreement and to execute the provisions of the same.

The period within which the agreement was to be ratified by three-fourths of the adult male Indians of the Ute tribe was limited in the act to
and intentional. The boy claims he was told to do so by a man who gave him a gun to commit the deed, claiming she was a witch, and damaging his family and tribe. The woman died in Globe from the effects of the wound in three days. The boy was sentenced to one year in the calaboose, with ball and chain. The citizens of Globe arrested the boy and sent him to the agency.

On May 7 Victoria's band attacked the Indians (Coyoteros) at Stevens' ranch on Eagle Creek; killed Captain Es-kild-e-gunny and his family, seven in all. Later in the day he was followed by troops from Camp Apache and Thomas toward New Mexico. The same day on the way Victoria's band killed two white men near the head of Ash Creek. Two Indian women of Captain Georges' band were killed by the white soldiers, then mistaking them for a part of Victoria's band. The hostiles killed a considerable number of cattle and stole a number of horses from the Indians. Reliable information is that six Indians were killed, and the women, by the soldiers. The exact number of cattle and sheep killed and stolen is not known. Stevens claims to have lost four mules, a few horses and cows and about 2,000 sheep, and it is probable a claim will be made against the government for this property.

On the 19th of May a report came from General Caw, an operator of the telegraph at Tres Alamos, that Indians had committed serious depredations at Bunker Hill Mining Camp; also that reservation Indians had gone on the war path in that vicinity. The chief of scouts was sent immediately to ascertain the truth, and returned on the 23d reporting no word of truth to exist in the case. No Indians had been seen there for two weeks save peaceable Indians farming at the San Pedro River—Es-kim-i-lunes' and Sagul-ly's' band. Two miners in a drunken quarrel had killed each other, and on finding the bodies it had been attributed to Indians.

IMPROVEMENTS.

According to authority granted for clearing land for an agency farm and industrial school, two hundred and fifty acres have been cleared, and plowing the ground commenced. It is hoped this will be a source of remuneration to the department and of benefit in educating the Indians to efficient and successful labor.

Owing to the short time I have been in charge, I am unable to make a more intelligent or exhaustive report.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. C. TIFFANY,
United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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HOOPA VALLEY AGENCY, CALIFORNIA.
July 31, 1880.

SIR: In compliance with your circular letter of 18th instant I have the honor to submit my annual report of this agency.

During the past year the work upon the reservation has progressed as satisfactorily as could be expected with the limited means at my command. In January last I submitted a full estimate for everything needed to carry on the reservation, but as yet nothing has been received in reply. Eight mules and two horses, purchased in May last, with the number formerly on hand, are sufficient for all purposes, but I am now in the midst of the year without only two sets of double harness for the work, and without borrowed harness I could not gather the crop. Fifty tons of hay have been secured, and there will be an estimated yield of 3,000 bushels of wheat and 2,000 bushels of oats.

The saw-mill has been put in running order and everything necessary to reft the grist-mill has been procured at an expense of about $700 out of the $1,000 furnished me, the balance having been covered into the Treasury. The post of Port Gaston will require 50,000 feet of lumber, at $20 per thousand, which will more than reimburse the agency for the outlay upon both mills; the saw-mill has already cut 12,000 feet of lumber since repaired.

Carefully prepared estimates for medicines were forwarded some six months since, but no reply has been made thereto and the attending physician is unable to properly care for the sick.

When the estimates already forwarded have been filled the reservation will be in a prosperous condition.

[Dr. Robert Heyburn, Jr., attending physician; Mr. Albert W. Jacobs, clerk; Mrs. Jennie Jacobs, teacher; Mr. Charles H. Griswold, farmer; Mr. Thomas L. Titlow, carpenter and millwright; Mr. Arthur H. Choate, blacksmith; and Mr. William E. Baldin, laborer, have given entire satisfaction and are worthy of the consideration of the department.}
REPORTS OF AGENTS IN CALIFORNIA.

Expecting a change of station in the near future I have this day transferred the agency, with all public property and funds pertaining thereto, to Capt. E. H. Savage, Eighth United States Infantry, who will be my successor in the command of Fort Gasson, Cal.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY R. MIZNER,
Major Eighth United States Infantry, Acting Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

ROUND VALLEY INDIAN AGENCY,
Mendocino County, California, August 21, 1859.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following as my third annual report for this agency:

THE RESERVATION.

By actual survey there are 102,118.19 acres included within its boundaries; deduct from this 3,600 acres of school and other lands, patents to which had been obtained before the change of the boundaries in 1853, 1,060 acres claimed as swamp lands in this valley, and 90,000 acres of grazing lands in the possession of and used by the settlers who have never been paid for their improvements.

Of the balance, 7,438 acres, all but 2,500 is rough and mountainous. The 2,500 lie in this valley. Of this we are cultivating about 1,290. There are places scattered through the whole range that would yield well if properly fenced and cultivated, but until Congress shall pay these settlers for their improvements it is impossible for us to make much progress in this direction; but the sheep, cattle, horses, and hogs of the settlers are eating away the very pasture land that should support our stock. Thus we are annoyed year after year, for want of $10,000 to pay the appraisements of the settlers.

POPULATION.

On the weekly report of June 30 there were 241 heads of families and 531 Indians that drew flour, etc.; then a number of families who have raised their own wheat, etc., and hence do not draw flour, and a number, say 50, who are living on or near the reservation working for other parties, making (both classes) about 100.

By the United States census just taken there are more than 5,000 besides those on the reservation that are so situated as to fall under the jurisdiction of this agency (if any), many of whom have been here, viz:

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<th>County</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<td>Mendocino</td>
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<td>Napa</td>
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These should be visited as often as possible by the agent, or some one who would look after their interests and try to get them to send their children to our school, instead of allowing them to grow up in idleness and sin.

AGRICULTURE.

As reported last year, "Since the first establishment of this reservation in 1853, it has been conducted on a farm, and not cultivated by individual Indians or tribes for themselves, except the family gardens." The same reason exists now for this that has in the past, viz.: Our farming lands are so limited in the valley, and so cut up by swamp land claims, that to divide what we have among them and depend on their making their own support from said divided lands would result in most cases in a failure. Whereas, we work most of the land by a community of interest, requiring all able to assist in raising the general crops of wheat, corn, oats, and barley, while each is required to work some ground as a garden, raising his own vegetables.

Thus, on a given piece of ground, a much larger yield is obtained than could be by them in separate parcels, as they are exceedingly prodigal of ground. Although the work is all done by the Indians that they can do, yet as we store the wheat and flour, and issue to them regularly to avoid waste and partiality, we have to report the major part of our crop as belonging to government instead of to the Indians; while seldom, if ever, is a pound of flour or other cereals bought for them by government.
PRODUCTIONS.

We have 625 acres in wheat, 64 in oats, 98 in barley, and 60 in corn, with about 25 acres in beans, carrots, squashes, &c., for the benefit of all the Indians; while they have about 250 acres planted in their own private gardens, and the school has 64 acres in potatoes, beans, &c.

Our estimated yield is for the community, 7,500 bushels of wheat, 1,200 of corn, 1,500 of oats, 1,500 of barley, 100 of beans, 875 tons of hay, and 10,000 squashes. For the Indians themselves, privately, we estimate 2,000 bushels of wheat, 600 of corn, 100 of oats, 150 of barley, 1,200 of potatoes, 25 of onions, 350 of beans, 25 tons of hay, 12,000 melons, and 3,000 squashes. The school may have 300 to 400 bushels of potatoes and 60 of beans. Our yield is not as great this year as last, per acre, owing to a cold and backward spring.

STOCK.

There are 60 horses and mares to be rated as follows: Serviceable work, 14; unserviceable work, 10; serviceable saddle, 17; unserviceable saddle, 13. Cows 25, and mules 17, as follows: Serviceable work, 10; unserviceable work, 4; serviceable pack, 3. A large portion of the above, if in the military department, would be condemned and sold. We have 19 oxen, mostly old and nearly worn out, and 311 cattle, besides this year's calves. Of hogs, we have 127.

The Indians have 88 ponies and colts, 4 mule colts, and 76 pigs.

A severe type of epizootehy is afflicting many of our horses and mules, by which we will no doubt lose some.

TRANSPORTATION.

Perhaps out of the 90 horses and mules owned by the Indians of this agency, there might be found one team of 4 horses that could draw one ton of freight from Cloverdale to this agency, but that is problematical. We have not teams to spare for that purpose, hence our transportation is done by those who are in that business, and at so cheap a rate that down freight must be had to pay expenses.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Seven houses have been built for the Indians, the work being done entirely by the Indian carpenters. A new frame has been built for the grist-mill, replacing the old one which had decayed. The dam has been repaired and raised, and the ditch cleaned and widened.

Our fences are mostly made of rails, a great many of which are so rotten that it would be difficult to relay said fences. We have built 55 rods of new fence, board and rail, during the year, besides relaying a number of miles of rail fence.

AGENCY BUILDINGS.

Many of our buildings must soon be replaced with new ones. There is but one framed house, and one brick; all others are cheap, and poor as cheap. Our barns have mostly good frames, but poorly inclosed till recently.

GRIST-MILL.

The grist-mill has ground 301,070 pounds of wheat for the agency, 19,731 for the Indians, and 517,528 pounds for others, or a total of 839,229 pounds, or 14,487 bushels, earning for this agency $1,157.20 cash, and 665 bushels of wheat as toll, or a total equal to $2,022.20. A new turbine wheel will be required this coming winter.

SAW-MILL.

The saw-mill cut 135,333 feet of lumber, and would have cut more but for an unfortunate accident, the collapsing of the crown shelf of the boiler. The mill must be moved before another season's work, as by the close of this season the supply of timber in its vicinity will have been exhausted.

INDIAN INDUSTRY.

None of our Indians subsist by the chase, and all able-bodied males are required to work; many of them command good wages while working for men outside of the agency. There are two assistant blacksmiths, two assistant carpenters, two assistant millers, one assistant herdsman, and one assistant clerk in my office. There will be more at the various trades as soon as I can command the facilities.

SCHOOL.

Marked advancement has been made in the school in the studies pursued, in the manner of studying, and the knowledge obtained, but more especially in its personnel; but this advancement has cost untiring diligence, patience, and exertion.
Under the difficulties which have been encountered while the children have lived with their parents, the progress made is more marked, and it is exerting a reflex influence on the parents, which is very gratifying. During the coming fall we hope to have the boarding and manual-labor school started, as funds have been granted for the sitting of buildings, &c. The school has planted several acres of potatoes, and some beets.

SANITARY.

During the fall and winter the whooping cough visited us and very many were affected thereby, and some died; however, the general health of the Indians has been good; 139 cases have been treated by the physician. There have been 13 births and 26 deaths; most of the deaths were of the old and infirm.

Our location for healthfulness could hardly be excelled. Some of the older Indians still seek the "medicine men," but the practice is gradually dying out.

POLICE.

No police force has been established. A letter was sent to the department in June last, seeking information as to their enlistment and equipment. It would be a valuable adjunct here as elsewhere; there is enough work for such a force, and we hope to be able during the current year to have one.

MISSIONARY.

Rev. J. S. Fisher has labored during most of the past year very earnestly and efficiently. During the past spring some revival influences visited us and quite a number of those who had formerly been members of the church, but relapsed into sin, were reclaimed, and some gave evidence of a true change of heart. But these Indians are very similar in this regard to the old Israelites, who needed "line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a good deal, for their old habits are so fixed, and they are so easily influenced by feeling instead of reason, that they soon become offended" when called on to "deny themselves."

One of the greatest difficulties in the way of their civilization, as well as their Christianization, is their loose idea as to the marriage relation. Some years since many of them were married under the law of this State; some few couples are still living as husbands and wives, but by far the larger part of them have broken that relation and are now living with others. I have tried to correct this by legal divorces, but these cannot be obtained for want of means. Again, I have found, in uniting them by mutual obligation, after the manner of Father Wilbur, at Yakama Agency, who says that he "marries and unmaries them," as circumstances and their good demand, but in this State mutual obligations of this character before witnesses are as binding as any other form of celebration. Until, therefore, they can be brought to see these things in the light of true civilization, these difficulties will not entirely cease.

EMPLOYEES.

I must not close without acknowledging my obligation to my corps of employees, who have earnestly and diligently aided me in carrying out the wishes of the department in trying to elevate this people to a higher civilization, so that they may be prepared, when the time shall come, to take their place with us as citizens of a common country. Respectfully submitted.

H. B. SHELTON,
United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

TUPE RIVER INDIAN AGENCY, CALIFORNIA.  
August 11, 1880.

Sir: I have the honor of submitting my fifth annual report of this agency.

This reservation is located in the southeastern portion of Tulare County, California, and contains 4,551 acres of land. Of this large tract not more than 250 acres can be utilized for farming purposes. Almost the entire tract is a rough, mountainous district, and at least one-half is too rugged and rocky for even grazing purposes. The eastern portion abounds in good sawing timber, but so inaccessible that it can never be available to the Indians for the manufacture of lumber. Too much capital will be required in the construction of roads to these pineeries to entertain the thought that the government will ever utilize them for the benefit of these Indians.

There are at the present time only 109 Indians on the reservation who are acting in full accord with the requirements of the government, and this is quite as many as the reservation will accommodate. Other small bands, for which this reservation was originally designed, are living in this and adjoining counties, numbering in the aggregate some 459.
AGRICULTURE.

Since I moved the Indians to this reservation, three years since, no effort has been made to cultivate an extensive agency farm. The land was divided up into small tracts and given to the Indians as their own. Houses were built upon these tracts so as to scatter the families, and, if possible, make them feel an interest in their individual property. Some of them have done admirably, others have made but little advance towards a living, and some have entirely failed. During the past year the Indians have produced on their small farms 600 bushels wheat, 250 bushels corn, 100 bushels barley, 50 bushels potatoes, 20 bushels onions, 20 bushels beans, 10 tons melons, 10 tons pumpkins, and 30 tons hay. The agency farm has produced about 30 tons of hay, which is sufficient to feed the government teams during the coming year. This is the best showing we have ever been able to make, and as good as ever can be made on this reservation. The arable land has all been cultivated, and the season has been unusually good.

EDUCATION.

A manual-labor boarding school has been in successful operation eight months during the past fiscal year. This cannot be too highly commended. There has been an average attendance of 18 pupils. While the children have done well in school, the most marked improvement has been made in the labor department. The girls have more than met our most sanguine expectations in general housework and sewing. Under the instructions of the matron, they have been taught to make clothing for the younger children, and even in cutting and fitting dresses for themselves will excel half of the white girls of the same age.

MISSIONARY WORK.

Quite a number of the Indians on this reservation are nominal Christians, and, I think, some of them are living up to the light they have. While I cannot speak very encouragingly of this department, yet I can see with quite a number the dawning of a better life. Their idea of Christianity, as obtained first from the Mexicans, has very little in it to elevate. They have been taught for years that by the observance of a few ceremonies they were entitled to be recognized as Christians. A drunken and dissolute life, in their estimation, is not to be considered incompatible with such a claim. I speak of this merely to illustrate and show how difficult it is to educate these people in the principles of Christianity. If they had never been tampered with, I doubt not the work would have been much easier.

INDIAN INDUSTRY.

I notice a little improvement in this respect every year. More care and interest are manifested in plowing and planting at the proper season, and during the past year especially there has been a wholesome competition among these Indians in trying to produce the best crops. It is becoming a reproach to be idle and lazy, and very little difficulty is realized in inducing them to work when and where they are directed. Some of them are more industrious than the average white man, and in management will overcome greater obstacles to procure a subsistence.

I am sorry to be compelled to say some of the Indians are so addicted to strong drink that there is scarcely any prospect of them ever having the comforts of home or even procuring a competency for their families. They work well, are usually industrious, but spend or destroy in a drunken spree of a day what they have accumulated in months.

SANITARY.

I report the same number of deaths this year as last, seven. There have also been seven births. Nearly all of the sickness has been of a malignant type, and very difficult to control.

CIVILIZATION.

All of these Indians wear citizens' dress; some have furniture and sewing machines in their houses, and the women generally cut and make their own clothing, which is done quite as well as by most white women. On Sunday days, when they come to the agency, they usually appear, with few exceptions, as respectably dressed as white ladies at an ordinary country gathering. They are becoming more observant and discriminating, and are not a growing disposition to imitate the example of civilized people.

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

C. G. BELLKNAP,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
REPORTS OF AGENTS IN CALIFORNIA.

MISSION INDIAN AGENCY,
San Bernardino, Cal., August 17, 1850.

Sir: I have the honor to submit my second annual report of the condition of the service at this agency.

The past year has been one of great expectations, and great disappointments as well. My visit to the Indian Office in October last, under orders from the honorable Secretary of the Interior, with the view to a consultation upon the subject of a reservation for the Mission Indians, gave great hope to the Indians and to their friends in this locality that at last the government was in earnest in the matter of providing homes for these destitute people. My interview with the honorable Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs on the subject, with assurances from them that steps would at once be taken to bring the matter before Congress, led me to believe that my visit was an assured success. The Indian Department, I am convinced, did what it could in the premises. Congress assembled and adjourned, and beyond the offering of a bill by a California member, nothing was done for the Mission Indians. Our disappointment was great.

The exigencies of the situation with respect to these homeless and destitute people were such that it seemed impossible that we should be able to await another assembling of Congress for relief without serious complications growing out of their continued occupancy of private lands. Thus far, fortunately, there have been no ejections of any considerable body of Indians from private lands, except of those who were forced to remove from the Cucoc Ranch in San Diego County, numbering about fifteen families, of which the department was apprised at the time.

In January last, the copy of an executive order was sent me, rescinding a prior order setting apart certain lands long occupied by a considerable body of Indians, known as the Agua Caliente Indians of the Cahuilla tribe, on the ground that said lands were embraced within the bounds of the rancho “San José del Valley.” In conversation a few days ago with Ex Governor Downey, the present owner of the ranch, he informed me that he was about to sell it, and before he could give possession the Indians must be removed. What these people will do in this event, or where they can be placed so as to find subsistence in this sterile region of country, are questions that I am not able to answer. This is the situation of an equally large body of Indians now occupying the rancho San Jacinto, their ejection being liable to occur at any time. This, in short, is the situation all round; and, there being no unoccupied public lands, except such as are uninhabitable, the only alternative left to these hitherto peaceable and thrifty communities is to wander about singly or by families to swell the vagabond class that already infests the villages and towns to become a prey to vices to which as yet they are comparative strangers.

As a class, the Mission Indians are industrious. During the season when labor can be had very few are found idle, and I am glad to be able to report that at present the demand for Indian laborers is more than equal to the supply, the result being plenty to eat and wear, with contentment. But, owing to their improvidence, a large proportion of them, notably those who are dependent on wages for labor, will be destitute of subsistence when the winter season comes on. Supplies of flour, meat, beans, and bacon were purchased last fall, and issued to them during the winter months when little or no labor could be found. The low rates at which I purchased these supplies made the amount expended go far toward relieving all who needed help. The same destitution will prevail again when the laboring season is over, and the question of relief be forced upon the attention of the department.

Those who by sufferance have lands to cultivate where they live, have tilled them to profit during the season. Only yesterday two Indians from the San Luis Rey tribe called at the agency, reporting that they had come with two wagons, loaded with over seven thousand pounds of wheat, which they were having ground into flour for sale and for their own use. This amount the two men had raised by their own labor; and they report that their people have plenty of wheat and are doing well.

It is doubtful, however, whether they will be allowed to gather another harvest from these fields which they have long cultivated, and which, until they believed to be reserved lands. Two years ago a “land-grabber” suddenly discovered that these Indians were not on the lands reserved for them in a given township east of the meridian line, but in the corresponding township west of the meridian, and at once “filed upon the land they occupied under the desert-land act.” How lands cultivated by these people for more than a generation can be called “desert” I am not able to answer. But it is quite likely that certain land officials in these parts who consider the occupancy of lands by Indians as of no more significance than their occupancy by so many coyotes will have less difficulty with such questions. The Indian “must go” if he is on a patch of ground that a white man wants, and no matter what he has lived on and cultivated it for a generation. It is wanted all the more on account of its improved condition. A proper regard for justice, it seems, should prompt to some measure by which these parcels of lands might be withheld from sale and settlement until it was seen whether it would not be in the interest of economy, as well
as of justice and humanity, to give the Indian occupant permanent possession of what he has come to regard as his home.

Toucheing educational interests, nothing has ever been done for these people. But I am glad to be able to report, that authority has recently been granted by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior to set up two buildings for school purposes in two larger settlements. It is hoped that, by October 1, next, these schools will be started, and although educational facilities will be offered by them to but a comparatively small number of the children, who should have school advantages, yet it makes a beginning in a right direction. Until a consolidation of these scattered tribes can be effected on one or more reservations little better can be done for them.

The sale of liquor to my Indians, which, at the time of my last report, had in a measure been broken up by the prompt arrest and prosecution of offenders, was again renewed under the terms attending the passing of the "marshals pay bill," pending which no warrants were served. In the meantime I took special pains to detect parties engaged in the traffic with my Indians, and to bring complaints before the United States commissioner at Los Angeles. Of those detected, several have just been arrested and held by the commissioner for examination before the United States grand jury at San Francisco. From ten to fifteen more arrests are pending, and, if justice is meted out, the effect will be such as to well nigh put a stop to this wicked traffic. Many of the poverty and destitution which is found among these people is traceable to their insatiable appetite for liquor, which a week's hard earnings will be freely paid when they know their families are starving for the want of bread. I have accomplished in the past two years what it was predicted would be impossible, in the breaking up of this evil; and, as the effect of it, is seen in an improved condition and appearance of these Indians and steadier habits of labor among their employers. Public sentiment is also improving in reference to what had been looked upon as an innocent and harmless traffic.

Other wrongs, practiced upon these helpless people, have been checked in great measure since my arrival at this agency, such as the fraudulent methods of employers in paying Indian laborers. Every conceivable trick is resorted to to get labor of this kind as cheap as possible. The following case was brought to my attention some time ago. An Indian having labored at cutting wood for six days, earning, at the wages agreed upon, the sum of &dollar;50, received in part payment two bottles of wine, for which he was charged $1, and upon demanding the balance of $450 in money he was ordered to leave the premises. The Indian refusing to go without his money, the man took down his shot-gun and discharged a load of buck-shot into the Indian's face, destroying the sight of one eye and otherwise disfiguring his face. The next day this employer boasted to an acquaintance how he had settled a bill of $50 with an Indian by paying him in buck-shot. Subsequently I had the man arrested, and now, while awaiting a hearing before the United States commissioner, he claims that he did the shooting in self-defense; that the Indian attempted to kill him; when it will be in evidence that the Indian offered no violence, but pendeably demanded his wages.

This is a sample of the methods of employers toward helpless and peaceably disposed Indians; but there is a marked improvement for the better in the general practice of employers. If my Indians in all cases do not receive higher wages than formerly, they now receive as a rule what is promised them, and in money instead of trash. Heretofore the Indian laborer would accept without a murmur what his employer would give him, and seemed to feel himself favored that he received anything; but now, if the dealing does not strike him as being just and right, he will say to his employer, "I will go and see that agent, if he says it is right, I am satisfied." Whereupon, as a rule, the Indian gets justice without seeing the agent. A large class of employers make no conscience of defrauding Indians of their labor if they can do it on the sly, or if it is tamely submitted to; but if it is to come to the notice of the agent, they are willing to deal honorably.

Respecting the sanitary condition of my Indians, I am able to report great improvement during the year. The agency physician, appointed at the beginning of the last fiscal year, has rendered efficient service, but owing to the isolated situation of many of the tribes it has been difficult to afford all the benefit of his services. All who can, avail themselves of his services of their own choice, their own system of doctoring having been, so to speak, entirely discarded. Venereal and other forms of disease common among them a year ago are not so prevalent now, and the general health of the tribes, as far as I have been able to learn, is at present good.

To promote the efficiency of this branch of the service I deemed it proper, some time ago, to make special request to the department for limited hospital accommodations for such of our sick who come great distances to the agency for treatment, and must return often little able to travel, because we have no means of affording needed shelter and subsistence for the sick. As the cost of such limited hospital arrangements would be trifling compared with the good to be accomplished, it is to be hoped the request will be granted before the rainy season sets in, when sickness generally prevails and such appliances are most needed.
REPORTS OF AGENTS IN COLORADO.

As to the number of Indians under the charge of this agency I have no certain means of knowing. In the accompanying statistical report the population by tribes is believed to be approximately correct, being made up from the best sources of information at my command.

With a felt satisfaction in the result of my efforts during the past two years to protect and promote the best interests of these people, and with the hope that the future will be more fruitful of good results, I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. S. LAWSON,
United States Indian Agent.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

LOS PINOS INDIAN AGENCY, COLORADO,
September 1, 1880.

Sir: In compliance with the instructions contained in circular letter of July 18 last, I have the honor to submit the following as my first annual report of the affairs at this agency:

I received my commission as United States agent July 4 last, and at once entered upon the discharge of my duties.

The Los Pinos Agency is located in the western part of Colorado and on the Uncompahgre River, in close proximity to the San Juan Range of mountains. It is considered a pleasant and healthy location. It is twenty-five miles from Ouray, the nearest town or white settlement, two hundred and ten miles from the nearest railroad station—Alamosa—and eighty miles from the nearest telegraph station.

The agency buildings comprise the agent's house and office, built adobe style; physician's house, built of cottonwood logs; carpenter's house and shop, adobe; blacksmith's shop and house, built of frame; mess-house, built of frame; warehouse, built in part of stone and adobe; one log building furnishes quarters for farmer, miller, herder, and laborers, and also for storage of agricultural implements, tools, &c.; one log barn for agency horses and for storing in part the hay for the agency horses, and one root house; all in very fair condition. The trader at this agency has one log building, put up at his own expense. Messrs. Sanderson & Co., of the overland mail and stage route, have a frame building located near the agency for use as a way station and accommodation for part of their stock.

The Indians belonging to this agency comprise the Tabeguache band of Utes, and number in all 1,500 souls. There is not one mixed blood or half-breed among the entire band. At this time, and after the excitement caused by the late troubles with the Utes upon White River, in the northern part of this State, it affords me great pleasure to report the Indians under my charge loyal, peaceable, and well disposed towards the whites and the government. They have behaved themselves with judgment, coolness, and good sense, yet they have always manifested an interest in whatever news there was going, and especially in the matters under consideration by the special commissioners appointed to act and counsel upon their affairs, and gave signs of general satisfaction when questions pertaining to the treaty were successful on the part of the government and a surety of establishing permanent peace. The Utes, under proper management, I find to be a willing, tractable, and loyal people; they require good friendly advice and encouragement to bring them to that degree of civilization so much desired by the government. The social and moral condition of these Indians is as good as in any community of people of the same number. Gambling has been a prevailing vice among a number of the young men, but I have, with steady perseverance,