ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1882.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1882.
seed wheat; procuring a variety from California, which is said to produce a larger yield and for which there is a demand at an increase of price over the variety which they have been raising. The millers have been compelled heretofore to procure it from that state to mix with the wheat raised here, which is too dry to grind well alone. I think that this will be a great benefit to the Indians. The wheat crop this year is estimated at from 30,000 to 35,000 bushels. It is impossible to obtain accurate statistics as to the amount of wheat, raised as well as other farm products, for the reason that the Indians have sold so much of it off the reservation and to others beside the traders and regular dealers. Cultivating the soil is the principal occupation of this people; I might say almost the sole occupation. Even the few who are engaged in other work still find time to raise a crop of wheat, melons, and squash.

SANITARY.

The health of the Pimas has been generally good for the past year. This is due to abundant crops for the past two years. Since travel has ceased on the old overland trail, venereal diseases have apparently decreased and but few patients appear. Malarial fevers have been common since the summer rains set in. But these will cease as soon as the cold nights compel the Indians to leave their open summer houses in the fields among the irrigating ditches for the drier ones away from the river.

POPULATION.

In the absence of any other means of enumeration, I instructed the police to make an accurate count of all the people in each of their villages, the object of which was mainly to make an equal distribution of farming and other implements supplied by the government last year. The result of this count was as follows:

Pimas .................................................. 3,009
Mariopas ............................................. 331
Apaches residing with Mariopas ................... 10
Papagoes residing on reservation (estimated) .... 500
Papagoes residing off the reservation (estimated) 5,750

Total .................................................. 10,249

I am of the opinion that their numbers are gradually decreasing.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSEWELL G. WHEELER.

HOOPA VALLEY AGENCY, CALIFORNIA,
July 31, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report for the year ending July 31, 1882.

In my last I drew attention to the desirability of furnishing the Indians with new habitations, their present dwellings being greatly dilapidated and unhealthy in the majority of cases. Since then I have given lumber to the most needy, who built eight frame houses therewith. Their habits appear to change with their habitations, for, from the moment they were comfortably quartered in a house similar to a white man's, they discarded their primitive habits of slovenliness and filth, and the unhealthy custom of sleeping on the bare ground six feet below the surface, with possibly a blanket over and under them, and adopted the bedstead and mattress. This encourages me to assist them to the utmost in providing them with new dwellings, as the civilizing results thus seen in these few instances are indications favorable to the hope of a thorough civilization in the near future, if assisted in this way.

After a very careful census I find that there are actually 510 Indians, full and mixed blood, living upon this reservation, all of whom wear full citizen's costume. Their disposition is good, but occasionally their old-time superstitions creep up and the result is disastrous. An instance thereof occurred a few days ago. An Indian whom it was alleged, was the possessor of a certain poison, and who blew it or wished it across the river to some of his enemies at different times, was, by the friends of those whom he was accused of thus poisoning, shot and killed in his doorway. The murderer immediately decamped, their whereabouts being at present unknown. The probability is that as soon as they believe that the excitement has cooled they will return. As I leave this agency in a few days it is impossible for me to do anything towards arresting them, but I have mentioned the subject to my successor, Captai
Charles Porter, Eighth Infantry, who will do all in his power to bring them to justice. When that is accomplished, hanging would be the best method to deter the others from doing likewise in like cases; a mere term of imprisonment would be of no avail.

The government has under cultivation, this year, 300 acres; although it is 85 acres less than last year, the yield will be far in excess of it, as the season has been exceedingly favorable for growth. More could not have been cultivated, as it was found difficult to do the work already done, and still more difficult to do that which has yet to be done, because of the small number of animals; eight (8) mules are an actual necessity. As I believe Round Valley Agency has some animals to spare, I would suggest that eight or ten be transferred to this agency.

The estimated yield, this year, is 3,000 bushels wheat, 1,000 bushels oats, 100 bushels beans, 200 bushels potatoes, 500 head cabbage, 200 melons, 100 pumpkins, 40 tons hay, and various vegetables.

Indian farming has increased satisfactorily; there are fifty Indians, this year, cultivating large and small patches of land, in all, 100 acres. It is impossible to get at the yield, but, from the appearance of their gardens, I would judge that it will be large. Such prosperity of a few will indubitably draw into farming for them selves next year. The orchards have been thoroughly pruned and cultivated; the yield will be fair.

The saw and flour mills are being moved back some sixty feet from the rivers, to ensure their safety during high water; they have done good service, but with the new penstock furnished us this year we will have double the power, thus enabling us to saw and grind lumber and flour sufficient to meet all requirements. Last year 75,000 feet of lumber was sawed, of which 10,000 feet was used in the construction of a bridge over a wild mountain stream; the balance was used in building, fencing, and repairing.

The Indians have had a prosperous hunting season, having netted something over $3,000 from the sale of deer, otter, fox, and bear skins. The fishing prospects look very unfavorable, the salmon run being small. If it does not improve soon they will suffer considerably, as fish comprise one third of their subsistence.

Principally to teach the school children the art of gardening, I put under fence six acres of good arable land, planted it in potatoes, beans, cabbages, melons, corn, chickory, &c., and made them assist in the cultivation of it. They are apt in learning, but somewhat loath to work; but with a little judicious pressure and encouragement they have done very well. The yield will be abundant. Their ration of vegetables therefrom will have the effect of causing them to try it again, knowing full well that unless they assist in the raising they will get no ration. It is only through an Indian's stomach that work to amount to anything can be got out of him. Observing this law with the school children they do well; but I think this selfish feeling can be eradicated in time.

In reading, writing, and copying they have made satisfactory progress. Among the pupils are five very smart ones, who ought to be transferred to Carlisle. A thorough course of training would turn them out smart men and women. With their present surroundings they can never get out of the narrowing influences which superstition and old customs produce.

All the children were successfully vaccinated this year. In conclusion, I believe that there has been an appreciable improvement in the general health, morally and physically, this past year. Venereal still takes the first place, rheumatism follows in due course.

There were eleven births and fifteen deaths during the year.

GORDON WINSLOW,
First Lieutenant Eighth U. S. Infantry, Acting Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

MADISON AGENCY,
San Bernardino, Cal., Aug. 7, 1882.

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

The tribes under its jurisdiction are the following, viz: Serrano, Cahuilla, San Luis Rey, and Diegueños, numbering respectively 381, 778, 1,120, and 731, living chiefly in San Diego and San Bernardino Counties, in Southern California, and aggregating a population of 3,010, under the census enumeration of 1880. It is to be regretted that an annual enumeration of the tribes is impracticable, owing to the large extent of mountain and desert country over which they are scattered and the labor and expense incident to such an undertaking.

The past year, I am glad to report, has been a good year for the Mission Indians.
It is true the goal of my ambition to see them provided with land for permanent homes, which has been so persistently urged in former reports, has not yet been reached. And my faith in the power and influence of agents' reports and letters on subjects of this nature is at this writing very much shaken by results, or, rather, the want of results. But I have not been alone in efforts in this direction, nor yet in want of success. Since my last annual report voluntary and independent action has been taken by a prominent State religious and city-trade association, as well as by prominent individuals, in the way of memorializing Congress in behalf of homes for these people, but with no better result. To me it is doubtful whether Congress will ever take action in the premises, since it has been demonstrated in its past dealings with the Indian question that distinguished consideration is shown to the Indian only in proportion as he has developed a disposition to be troublesome and worthless.

The Mission Indians are peaceable and industrious. Instead therefore of wasting time in efforts at uncertainties, if not at impossibilities, I have resolved to make the best of the situation as it is. Developments during the past year have to my mind very much modified the necessities of the situation. I believe that, under ordinary prosperous seasons, these people will make as comfortable livings for themselves by daily labor, whether they all have lands or not, as that many white people under the same conditions and circumstances. Indian labor in Southern California, on farms, in constructing irrigating canals, in shearing and herding sheep, and, under the prospective absence of Chinese labor, in railway construction and repair, will always be in demand at remunerative wages. Under the stimulus of immigration into Southern California during the past year labor has been abundant. These favorable conditions will continue and increase, and it is doubtful whether on account of the severity of the heat in summer, to which the Indian is accustomed in this climate, his labor will ever be supplanted by white labor.

In this view of the case, therefore, it becomes a question, not so much of necessity, as of expediency, whether this class of Indian laborers, by no means small, who go about working for white people, shall be provided with land on which to make homes, and find subsistence when other sources may fail them. One thing may be observed, that this class of the Mission Indians are not clamoring for land, and it may well be doubted, owing to their past habits of labor, which as a rule brings its reward in silver dollars at the close of the week, whether they would be willing to settle upon land to cultivate it and await the slow and sometimes uncertain results of their labor.

The situation is different, of course, as to those who live in settlements and villages, occupying and cultivating lands embraced within private grants, and who have so lived for generations. These are periodically threatened with ejectment by the ranch owners, which has operated seriously against their progress in civilized industries. With their settled habits, they are averse to roving in search of labor, and request that lands be given them on which they may permanently settle. Most of this class give proof by their industry and their tact in management that, under more favorable conditions, they would make successful farmers or stock-men. Unquestionably, provision should be made for such in the event of their ejectment from the places now occupied by them. And if Congress were to anticipate this event by prompt action in their behalf, it would confer a great blessing upon a deserving class of Indians who, for many years, have been struggling "between hope and fear," believing that this great government would yet deal justly by them. So much in general, as to the situation of these people. Now as to the specific subjects upon which information is required in detail.

AGRICULTURAL.

A very small proportion of the lands reserved for Indian purposes, although aggregating over a hundred thousand acres, are adapted to agricultural purposes. Very little is so adapted without irrigation, and in a desert country like this, water is previously appropriated by whites, exists only in a scanty supply. Notwithstanding, my Indians have made the best of their opportunities in planting and cultivating the soil during the year. Owing to the distribution of 30 plows, 30 sets of plow-harness, and 60 plantation hoes, they have been able to cultivate a larger average than in any past year. Five wagons, furnished to as many villages in the early part of the year, has also enabled them to accomplish more labor in their fields.

In the month of June last I visited a village of the San Luis Rey Indians, who had hitherto been wandering about, landless and homeless, but who a year ago settled in the foot-hills near Temecula, ranch, from which they were once ejected. No running water is found where they live, but at great labor they had dug wells and developed water for domestic purposes. They had just harvested their first crops, consisting of wheat and barley, which was grown upon winter rains. One Indian told me he would have about 500 sacks of barley. I estimated that they would have about two car-loads of grain to sell over and above what they would require for their own use. The land they had settled upon I found to be surveyed government land, and I found also
that their success in growing grain upon it had already attracted the attention of the ubiquitous "land grabber." No time must be lost in securing this land for these Indians. The Indians feared they might be driven off, and I promised them I would not sleep after returning to the agency till I had written to Washington and asked that this land be given to them. I kept my promise, and, with commendable promptness, I received an executive order setting apart that land for their use. To me, as well as to these Indians, it was the most gratifying incident of the year.

EDUCATION.

At the date of my last report two day-schools had been in operation nearly a year. Since then three others have been established, making five day-schools at this agency. Under the auspices of a society of ladies a day-school also was established at San Diego, to which assistance was given five months, as salary for a teacher. To meet the necessities of the case, as well as the urgent demands that are made for schools, it would require the establishment of as many more schools as we now have. Every village of settlement of Indians is clamoring for a school. Not the slightest opposition has yet developed itself in any quarter against education. On the contrary, I am continually met with this argument—very logical too: Why do not you give us a school? We have as many children to send as they have at other places, and we do not see why we can't have a school just as well.

For one of the schools authorized a year ago I had furnished the lumber, but the Indians for whom it was intended failed to complete their contract of putting up the adobe walls, the school in the mean time having been kept in an Indian's house. Since then different villages have applied through their head men for the lumber, saying "Give it to us; we will put up the walls." In response to the request of the Indians near Temecula, who have recently been given their land by executive order, I have consented to give it to them. They are now making adobes, and by the end of this month will have the building ready for occupancy.

Meanwhile I have heard that a settlement of Indians of the same tribe, living at what is known as Lecilla, in San Diego County, not knowing that the lumber had already been accorded to the Temecula Indians, are busy making adobes, believing they will be given the school if they construct the walls for a building. One Indian alone among them has thirteen children to send to school. Of course no authority exists for the establishment of another school. But, in view of their great anxiety for a school, I shall make their case a subject of special communication.

While the schools now in operation are doing beyond what had been anticipated, yet I find that day-schools will not accomplish the work of education required by the mission Indians. They are too much scattered. Too many are not within reach of schools, while for the children of that class of Indians who go about laboring no opportunity for education is possible. Regular attendance throughout the year by pupils is too much dependent upon the supply of subsistence held up by parents. When that is exhausted they go and labor for more, and take the family along. The opportunities for teaching them English successfully, as well as habits of cleanliness, are weakened likewise by the influences of Indian village life. They should be removed from these influences, and the constant temptation to speak Indian. Nothing short of the establishment of two large boarding-schools, located, one among the settlements south of the mountains, the other north and away from the influences of village or camp life, will meet the demands of the situation.

MISSIONARY WORK.

No exclusively missionary work is carried on among these people. And it is questionable whether such exclusive attention to this work would be justified by results, at least among the grown-up population, on account of the difficulty of communicating with them, and because of their fixed habits of thought and life. Perhaps the most effectual work that can be done in this line is being accomplished through the influence and teaching of the school employees among the rising population, the only hope of the race. Several of the teachers are thoroughly imbued with the missionary spirit, and all aim to do good, outside of the ordinary routine of official service.

I propose to appeal to the charitable impulses of the denomination (Lutheran) to which this agency stands assigned, the coming winter, in behalf of the pupils of our day-schools, many of whom, during the severe weather of last winter, suffered for want of sufficient clothing, while not a few large boys for this reason quit the school long enough to earn means to clothe themselves. This state of things must not occur again, if it is in my power to prevent it. The denomination that would have the glory of being accorded "a hand" in the Christian civilization of the Indian must expect to come to the front and do something that will touch his native selfishness and show him the better way.
REPORTS OF AGENTS IN CALIFORNIA.

CIVILIZATION.

It is scarcely necessary to dwell upon the subject of civilization, as the Mission Indians are generally known to be in the advance line. All wear the garb of the civilized. The old superstitions customs of the race have about all disappeared. Now and then perhaps a lodge is burned when its occupant has died, but the cases are so rare as to pass unnoticed. The medicine-man has likewise disappeared as an "institution." The social condition of women among them has come to be regarded by them much the same as that of women among the whites are regarded. The ties which bind husband and wife and parents and children are held as being sacred. Woe to the bad Indian who invades the sacred precinct of the former! Chiefsdom and tribal laws have about lost their authority and force among them. The punishment by whipping on the bare body is very seldom resorted to, except in aggravated cases. As a rule, fines, in some instances heavy, are imposed upon the culprit, and promptly paid, either by him or by his friends, the sum paid going to the injured party.

SANITARY CONDITION.

The health of the tribes has been unusually good the present year. Through the vigilance of the agency physician, the different forms of venereal disease have been, so to speak, "rooted out." And as they are better fed and better clothed they are better provided against those ailments which come of irregular diet and exposure without proper protection.

The need of hospital accommodations, so frequently referred to in reports and special communications, is still felt. It is a common occurrence that when medicines are prescribed for the sick in their lodges they do not take it as prescribed, and very often not at all, because it tastes bad, or makes them feel sick, or because the first dose did not make them well. The consequences are often fatal. Under the better care that might be bestowed upon the sick in a hospital, and by the proper administering of medicine as well as of suitable food, much more might be done for them.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Referring to the liquor traffic, which a few years ago was the bane and curse of these Indians, resulting in widespread demoralization, with its accompaniments of poverty and crime, I take pleasure in reporting a radical reformation. During the year over thirty persons have been arrested, which might indicate that the business is yet brisk; but it indicates rather the vigilance exercised in the detection of the criminals, for it is rarely that a man furnishes a bottle of liquor to an Indian that he is not, to his utter astonishment, called to answer for it soon after before the United States commissioner.

About fifteen have been punished by fines and imprisonments, varying from eleven months and $100 dollars to ten days and $1, not according as the degrees of guilt of each have varied from that of the other, but rather as each met the varying moods of a court that seems to be annoyed by what it considers "a trivial offense." A total suppression of this traffic might have been attained more than a year ago had the law in relation thereto only been executed. This course would have been more economical to the government, and an act of mercy and blessing to all concerned.

Fifteen persons are at present awaiting trial under indictments by the United States grand jury, many of them arrested as far back as December last. One man, not of this number, "skipped his bond" recently, and his sureties were required to pay $300 for their credulity. This resulted in the remanding of two others to prison by their sureties, lest that might be the price of their credulity. It will have a good effect when once these men find there is no backing between their arrest and the prison door.

On the whole, I congratulate myself that, in spite of the difficulties encountered in the effort to suppress this traffic, not the least of which came of the failure of the courts to execute the law, Indian whisky is very scarce, and the traffickers in it about "driven to the wall." The Indians are correspondingly prosperous, because of the better uses to which their earnings are applied. And it is confidently believed that, by continued vigilance in keeping this traffic suppressed, the insatiable taste for strong drink will be snubbed and habits of sobriety formed that will prove lasting. The outlook to me is every way encouraging as to the future of the Mission Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. S. LAWSON,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.
REPORTS OF AGENTS IN CALIFORNIA.

ROUND VALLEY INDIAN AGENCY, MENDOCINO COUNTY, CAL.,
August 30, 1882.

Sir: I have the honor herewith to submit my fifth annual report for this agency.

RESERVATION.

No changes have taken place in boundaries or possession since my last report, but the settlers still hold all but a small fraction of the lands our Indians are supposed to occupy.

THE POPULATION

has somewhat increased since the last annual report, as 645 Indians drew goods and supplies the past quarter, viz.: 152 Concow, 168 Little Lakes, 30 Redwoods, 219 Ukles and Wylakies, 31 Potter Valleys, and 25 Pit Rivers.

There have been 22 deaths and 13 births during the year. I cannot report the number of deaths and births among the 6,456 reported last year as falling under the supervision of this agency; but the death rate is much greater among them, as they have no medical care.

AGRICULTURE.

All our Indian families have gardens, and are gradually increasing the quantity of subsistence raised. As stated in former reports, although we have nominally over 100,000 acres of land, yet we cannot control but about 2,500, which lies in this valley. Nearly all the grain produced is raised by the body of our Indians in community of interest, and hence has been considered as raised by the government, although the Indians do all the work.

PRODUCTIONS.

As our crops are not threshed I can only estimate the amount raised, viz.: Wheat, 5,000 bushels; oats, 3,600; barley, 1,200; and about 1,800 bushels of corn, and 550 tons of hay. The hop yield last year was 15,552 pounds, which, owing to advance in price, netted us $3,200. This year the prospect is good for an increase both in quantity and price.

The Indians have raised for themselves about 500 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of oats, 200 bushels of barley. They have also raised about 600 bushels of corn, 1,500 bushels of potatoes, 3,000 pumpkins, 12,000 melons, and cut 100 tons of hay.

STOCK.

The increase in cattle the last year has been only one-third that of the preceding year, from various natural causes, combined with the fact that the stock of the settlers ate up the grass to such an extent that the strength of the herd was greatly diminished.

The increase in mule colts (11) gives promise of good teams for the Indians in the near future. Mules are much better for Indians than horses, as they will endure more on less feed.

During the year some of our unserviceable animals, reported last year, were, by order of the department, condemned and sold, or otherwise disposed of as directed.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Nineteen Indian houses have been built, and the loggers’ house rebuilt at the sawmill. A new building for the saw-mill has also been put up, the work being done under the superintendence of the carpenter and miller. Four hundred and seventy-six rods of board fence have been built and 80 rods of rail fence, and 3,620 rods of rail fence have been rebuilt; 40 rods of ditch have been dug, and 150 rods of ditch cleaned out. Twenty acres of land have been grubbed and cleared off; 50 apple and peach trees have been set out; 5,600 hop-poles cut, and 600 loads of manure hauled into the fields, and several hundred loads of gravel hauled to corrals and barns.

MILLS.

The grist-mill has ground 284,504 pounds of wheat, and 3,156 pounds of corn for the agency, and 10,221 pounds of grain for the Indians; 400,000 pounds of wheat and corn, and 23,663 pounds of barley for citizens. The saw-mill was rebuilt and cut 181,000 feet of lumber.
INDIAN INDUSTRY.

Although we cannot parcel out our lands to the Indians for reasons heretofore stated, yet, as required, all work is done by Indians that they can do; and they are slowly increasing in their ability and desire for that which is only the result of industry.

APPRENTICES.

The first half of the year I had apprentices in the shops, mills, office, and with the herdsman, but could not pay them since December 31, yet most of them have continued to work.

FINANCIAL, ETC.

I was informed, in June, 1881, that for the ensuing year the department could only pay a physician, clerk, and the teachers, and that if I had any other employes I must provide the means to pay them for their services. I have therefore raised from the reservation, as miscellaneous funds, class II, over $6,000 for pay of employes, both white and Indian, and other authorized expenditures.

If government would give us possession of the land nominally ours, we could make this agency self-supporting in a few years. But the Indians are getting tired of waiting, while they see the cattle, horses, and sheep of the settlers occupying the very lands long ago promised to them, and the settlers tell the Indians that they intend to keep these lands.

EDUCATION.

On the 15th of August, 1881, the matron moved into the boarding-school buildings with 13 children, 3 boys and 10 girls. We had been told that "the Indians would not let their children come to the school," and that they "would burn the buildings if necessary to prevent the children from attending." The number of scholars gradually increased, until on the 1st of October there were 37, and at present writing there are 46. Two girls have died during the year. Seven boys have left the school, thinking themselves too old to learn; and 2 girls have been sent home because of disease making the attendance, during the year, 57, besides one day scholar. The school is growing in favor among the Indians.

A fine garden was planted by the school, and will produce something for their subsistence, but not as much as was expected on account of very dry weather. The boys have cut nearly all the wood that has been burned at the school, and done all the outside work incident to the situation and circumstances. The girls have done the washing, ironing, mending, making, &c., of clothes for themselves and the boys, as well as the cooking, baking, &c., necessary for the support of the school. Considerable has been done by the boys in carpentering and shoe mending. The progress in music has been much with both boys and girls that it is a pleasant recreation.

The greatest hindrance I meet with in establishing and conducting the school is from parties who, while professes friends of the school, work against its interests in various ways, either designedly, or by reason of their failing to apprehend the true idea of education for the Indian.

THE SANITARY

condition of our Indians is gradually improving. The past year measles and influenza attacked our people, and, combined with other diseases, proved fatal in some cases. Our Indians are mostly comfortingly housed. Some of the old ones still prefer to live on the ground in campoodles or wickups.

The Indian "medicine men" have less influence now than ever before, and their power is fast waning away.

MISSIONARY LABORS.

Rev. Mr. Fisher was removed in September of last year, and Rev. Mr. Simmons took his place. Each maintained regular services and Sabbath-schools for the Indians. To be a successful worker among Indians requires a man either so well educated that he knows how to use simple language and avoid the use of such words as cannot be understood by the Indians, or a man with so little education that he cannot help being simple in his language, and in either case a devotion to the work which will prompt such self-denial as will make him willing to forego the pleasures of society and worldly or ecclesiastical promotion to save the souls of those for whom Christ died.
CIVILIZATION.

The greatest hindrance to the complete civilization of these Indians, next to their failure in obtaining their lands, is their fondness for whiskey and gambling. The latter seems inborn, as they practice it as soon as they can walk and talk. Their thirst for "fire-water" is so great as to be almost irresistible under temptation, and leads them to squander their means "for that which is not bread, and their money for that which satisfies not."

During the year I have had several parties arrested for furnishing liquor to the Indians, having, as it appeared, good evidence against them; but in every case they could outswear me, and were released. The punishment inflicted on the person when convicted by our district court, as well as others, makes such prosecutions merely farceal, and brings contempt on the agent who tries to do his sworn duty.

Hoping the time will soon come when these hindrances will be done away, I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient servant,

H. B. SHELDON,
United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

TULE RIVER AGENCY, CALIFORNIA,
August 15, 1852.

SIR: In accordance with instructions, I have the honor of submitting my seventh annual report of this agency. This reservation is located in the southeastern portion of Tulare County, California, and contains over forty-eight thousand acres of land. There are about 250 acres of medium quality farming land which can be utilized, about one-half of which can be irrigated. The eastern portion of the reservation abounds in good sawing timber, but is so located in with mountains that it is not available to the agency for lumbering purposes. About one-half of the entire tract affords good pasturage for stock, while the other half is too rocky and rough for any purpose whatever. Perhaps one-half of the pasture land is covered with brush, and the other with scattering oak timber. The oak is valuable only for fuel and the production of acorns. Both cattle and horses will subsist well the entire year without any feeding. Wild animals are abundant in the rougher portions, and quite destructive to young stock. The hunters have killed this season already 25 per cent. of the young colts.

The Indians who are now permanently settled on the reservation number 150. These are so located that each family controls about 100 acres of land. They all live in board houses, and quite a number have cooking stoves, and enough furniture to render them comfortable.

AGRICULTURE.

The returns in this department have not been satisfactory. Owing to the fact that the rainfall came very late and was exceedingly light during the winter, less ground was seeded than for two or three years preceding. Notwithstanding every effort was put forth to irrigate, the yield of hay and grain has been very light. The Indians have produced on their small farms about 250 bushels wheat, 200 bushels corn, 25 bushels barley, 50 bushels potatoes, 20 bushels onions, 20 bushels beans, 20 tons hay, 10 tons melons, and 15 tons pumpkins.

The agency farm, consisting of about 30 acres, is cultivated for the exclusive purpose of producing forage for the government teams. The surface of this tract is so uneven that it could not be irrigated to advantage, and hence, was this year almost an entire failure; 5 tons of hay was all that it produced. This is the poorest yield during the past five years, and only one-sixth as much as was cut off of the same ground two years ago.

EDUCATION.

As no funds were appropriated for educational purposes there has been no school during the past year. Quite a large proportion of the pupils formerly in the boarding-school, have been married this year, and now think (although mere children) they are too old to attend school. This, and the mortality among the children of this agency, has, within the last two years, so decreased the number of school children that I think it would not be advisable to make an effort to revive the boarding-school. There are, however, about 17 small children old enough to attend a day-school who ought to have that privilege.

The mission has been all that could be expected; the children have continued to improve, and the whole school is in a better condition than at any previous period, in the history of the school. The missionaries are working up a new school, and have a large number of pupils under their care. They are doing good work among the Indians, and are well liked by the white people. The school is well supported, and is in a better condition than ever before.

The most zealous and energetic of our agents have been most successful in the work of education. The white people have been very kind to the missionaries, and have assisted them in every way possible. The most zealous and energetic of our agents have been most successful in the work of education. The white people have been very kind to the missionaries, and have assisted them in every way possible.

To an unprejudiced mind, there is a respectability in the present condition of the Indians, and their improvement which cannot be denied. The present citizens' rights are not alienable, and the Indians, to a great extent, are civilized.

I am, with respect to your honor,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
have that privilege. If the Department would furnish an organ I am satisfied this could be made a success; besides it would add very much to the interest of the Sunday school and regular Sabbath services. I wish to call attention to this question, and will make a special request in another communication.

MISSIONARY WORK.

The missionary work in behalf of these Indians at the agency for the last fifteen years has been almost exclusively done by agents and employees; outside of the agency and among the Mexicans for a greater period, they have been drilled in the Roman Catholic faith. They all profess this form of Christianity, and though many of them are drunk and dissolute, are highly incensed if they are not recognized as good Christians. Some of them are unquestionably improving, but a large majority are so addicted to drink that missionary work meets with poor encouragement and very meager results.

INDIAN INDUSTRY.

The most of these Indians have, during the past year, worked with commendable zeal and energy. Owing to the excessive drought their wheat and barley yielded less than formerly. Their gardens and corn indicate careful attention and cultivation. Some of them are thoughtful and make calculations for the future equal to many whites. The women cut and make their own clothing; quilt as well as their white neighbors. The only thing that is discouraging is their appetite for strong drink.

SANITARY.

There has been during the past twelve months no very severe type of sickness. Six Indians have died, and two have been killed. The natural deaths were either extremely aged or very young; the two killed were young men under the influence of liquor, and at the hands of Mexicans. There have been seven births, one more than the natural deaths. Very little attention is now paid to the medicine-men.

CIVILIZATION.

To an unprejudiced mind but one conclusion can be reached; the younger Indians are much more genteel in their deportment than the older ones are. While all are respectful, there is a marked superiority in general appearance and intelligence with the present generation over the past. All of these Indians have long since adopted citizens' dress, and are scrupulous in their costume to the extent of their means. Inalienable homes and exemption from the blighting influence of rum, and these Indians, to all intents and purposes, would be recognized as meriting the appellation, civilized.

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

C. G. BELKNAP,
United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

SOUTHWESTERN UTE AGENCY, COLORADO,
September 2, 1882.

Sir: In obedience to instructions received from the honorable Commissioner, I have the honor to submit my first annual report of affairs at this agency:

The Southern Utes are located on their reservation in the southwest part of Colorado. The reservation is a strip of country 15 by 120 miles, and borders on New Mexico and Utah. It is a rough mountainous country, suitable only for grazing purposes. It being well watered by the Piedra, Rio Los Pinos, Florida, Animas, La Plata, and other sources of agricultural land