

was fully understood; and it was gratifying to notice that the subject of the organization of an Indian territory, with provisions securing a certain degree of individuality to the various tribes—indeed, based upon the admirable form of government of the United States, and with a representative delegate in Congress—although at first distasteful to the leading spirits among the Indians, gradually increased in favor by the study of the few copies at hand of the bill proposed by yourself in the Senate last winter, until, near the close of the council, Mr. Boudinot, a man of education and ability, speaking on behalf of the Cherokees and others who had taken part in the rebellion, (his remarks being assented to by all present,) declared in a speech, a note of which is preserved among the records of the council herewith, that the plan was eminently satisfactory, and would entitle its projectors to the everlasting gratitude of the Indians. We may, then, reasonably hope to see this admirable project carried into operation at no distant day.

From the able and elaborate report of Superintendent Sells, and the several agents in charge of the tribes within this superintendency, we obtain much valuable information as to their present condition, in reference to both the loyal portions of them, who have been refugees from their homes during the war; and the disloyal, who made treaties and engaged actively with the late "southern confederacy." The contrast between their condition now and before the war, whether we refer to either loyal or disloyal, is sad indeed. Most of these tribes had advanced far in civilization, and their country was well provided with good schools and academies. Many of their leading men are to-day thoroughly educated men, of statesmanlike views, fully able to express those views in our language, in a manner which can be excelled in few of our deliberative assemblies. Their people were rich in real and personal property, living in the enjoyment of every thing needed for their comfort; and considerable wealth had accumulated in the hands of some of them—the slaveholders—so that they lived in a style of luxury to which our thriving northern villages are mostly unaccustomed. Their crops were abundant, but their chief element of prosperity was stock-raising, and vast herds of cattle were in their hands as a means of wealth. The change is pitiful. Their land has been desolated by the demon of war till it lies bare and scathed, with only ruins to show that men have ever dwelt there. A perusal of the reports herewith will satisfy you that these remarks are no exaggeration, particularly as to the Cherokee, Quapaw, and part of the Creek bands; the condition of affairs in the Choctaw and Chickasaw country is not so serious, for the reason that those tribes went almost unanimously with the rebellion, and of course had no object in destroying their own property; though even there the effects of the war are distinctly visible. But in the Cherokee country, where the contending armies have moved to and fro—where their foraging parties have gone at will, sparing neither friend nor foe—where the disloyal Cherokees, in the service of the rebel government, were determined that no trace of the homesteads of their loyal brethren should remain for their return, and where the swindling cattle-thieves have made their ill-gotten gains for two years past, the scene is one of utter desolation. Of course, the loyal portions of all of these tribes have suffered most; for they became refugees from their homes, leaving them in the hands of their enemies, and everything that they left was destroyed. A large number of the loyal Indians of all the tribes entered the service of the United States, and many of them sealed their fidelity with their life-blood, while many others are maimed for life. Now that the war is over, the survivors of these loyal bands claim the sympathy and aid of the government. They are anxious to return to their country, but they have no homes there, and no subsistence. They are utterly destitute, and entirely dependent upon the government for food and clothing. In another season, if timely assistance in the way of agricultural implements and other aid is afforded them, they may become self-sustaining by

tilling the ground; but for the present, at least, they must be dependent upon the government.

Let us glance at the condition of the several tribes as portrayed in the report of the superintendent and agents:

The Seminoles numbered before the war nearly 2,500, of whom more than half came out with the loyal Creeks and took refuge in Kansas, their able-bodied men joining the United States army. There are about 2,000 of the tribe left. Some 500 of them were furnished with seed and a few agricultural implements last spring, and, upon land near Fort Gibson, in the Cherokee country, labored diligently and with some degree of success for the means of subsistence, having raised produce to the value of \$2,500. The records of their old agency have been preserved through the war, and are safe at Fort Washita. They are anxious to go to their own country south and west of the Creek region, but matters there are not sufficiently settled as yet, and the agent thinks that they should be removed to some point among the Creeks and subsisted there, to be near their own lands at the opening of spring. About 1,000 of them are now drawing rations from government. They are very poor and destitute, and must be fed and clothed, or suffer and starve. Agent Reynolds says that they wish to settle upon individual lands, where they can own and enjoy the fruit of their own labors. As they are closely allied to the Creeks, and speak that language, they might perhaps be consolidated with them; or, if not, it is thought that they would be glad to dispose of the western portion of their lands, to be used for a home for other Indians, and thus procure the means for establishing themselves again in a condition to become self-supporting, and educate their children.

Agent Reynolds has been especially active in efforts to stop the plundering of Indian stock, and thinks that his efforts have been successful.

Of the Cherokees, all of the nation at first joined the rebels, including all factions, of full and mixed blood. Regiments were raised by the order of the party in power, then and now the majority, called the Ross party, which regiments fought against the Union forces at Pea Ridge and on other occasions. All seem to have agreed as to their course of action down to the fall of 1862, when a portion of the troops, under Colonel Downing, 2d chief, and a majority of the nation, abandoned the rebel cause and came within our lines. About 6,500 of the more wealthy portion still continued to co-operate with the south till the close of the war; and about 9,000, early and late, came back to their allegiance.

Two regiments of these people, numbering 2,200 men, deserted the rebel cause as above stated, and since that time, to the end of the war, have fought on the side of the Union. The total population of the nation is now estimated at about 14,000.

Bad as is the condition of all these southern Indians, that of the Cherokees is much worse than the remainder of the tribes. They have a domestic feud, of long standing, which prevents them from coming together for mutual aid and support in their manifold troubles. In 1863 a portion of them had gone back to their country, expecting to be protected by the United States troops in raising a crop for their support; but they were driven from their fields by rebel parties; and while their former brothers were plundering them from one direction, their white friends from Kansas were stripping the country of their stock from the other. The account given by Agent Harlan of the *modus operandi* of the cattle-thieving business would be amusing, if the thing described were not outrageously criminal. Some idea of the extent of this business may be obtained when it is seen that the agent estimates the losses of the Cherokees in stock alone at *two millions* (\$2,000,000.) while Superintendent Sells thinks that the losses of *all* the tribes have amounted to full *four millions*.

About 9,000 Cherokees are now receiving rations from government, and a large portion of those lately disloyal are suffering greatly for the necessaries of life. They need food, clothing, tools, everything in fact, to begin life again;

and their condition must be that of extreme destitution until they can again realize the fruits of their labor upon their own soil. The Cherokees own a tract of 800,000 acres in the southeast corner of Kansas, which should be made available for their benefit; and have, besides, a vast tract of land below the Kansas line, very largely beyond their possible wants. All beyond those wants should be purchased by government, and the avails used for the benefit of the whole people. Superintendent Sells doubts whether the loyal and disloyal Cherokees can ever live in friendship together, and suggests that in case this proves to be impossible, the latter can easily make terms with the Chickasaws to join with them. I have already alluded to the condition in which this southern portion of the nation is left by the action of the party in power, and will only add here, that the sweeping act of confiscation passed by the council takes from them every acre of land, and all their improvements; and that by the hasty action taken under the law, everything has been sold for the most trivial consideration, improvements which were worth thousands selling often as low as five dollars; and when the repentant rebel party, no more guilty at first than the Ross party, came back and proposed to submit and live in peace and harmony with them again, they were told that they might all return, except their leaders, and go upon new lands and begin the world again; but no hope was held out to them of any restoration of property. They are thus left entirely dependent, being stripped of everything by the act referred to.

The Creeks were nearly divided in sentiment at the opening of the war; about 6,500 having gone with the rebellion, while the remainder, under the lead of the brave old chief Opothleyoholo, resisted all temptations of the rebel agents and of leading men, like John Ross, among the Indians, and fought their way out of the country northward, in the winter, tracked by their bloody feet upon the frozen ground. They lost everything—houses, homes, stock, everything that they possessed. Many joined the United States army. A large number have been constantly subsisted, often with scanty rations, by government. A part having gone this year to the Indian country, have raised some crops under many difficulties, and about one half of those who thus went south again will have enough corn to carry them through the winter; the others must be subsisted by government, while 5,000 are now receiving rations. A large number of the southern Creeks are in the same deplorable state. The aggregate number of the tribe is now stated at 14,396. Agent Dunn says that the buildings of the old Creek agency are in ruins, but the valuable mission buildings are standing, though badly injured. He thinks that a new location should be selected for the agency, at a point where there is water and timber; but as there may be other arrangements made as to the final settlement of the tribe, he suggests that such temporary shelter for the agency as is necessary should now be provided.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws, who now number respectively about 12,500 and 4,500, or 17,000 in all, are supposed to have had a population of 25,000 at the beginning of the war, including 5,000 slaves. They have regularly organized governments and legislatures, written laws, and a regular judiciary system. They possessed admirable schools, and education had made great progress among them. Nearly the whole of these tribes proved disloyal, under the various influences brought to bear upon them. Agent Coleman ascribes their disloyalty, in a great degree, to the influence of the whites living among them, some of whom have had the assurance to apply for licenses to remain in the country as traders; but I am entirely satisfied, as the result of my inquiries when lately in the Indian country, that the disloyal action of these tribes is mostly, if not altogether, to be ascribed to the influence of the then superintendent, Mr. Rector, and the agents appointed by the United States government. The tribes are educated to respect the authority and be guided by the directions of these representatives of the government; and when, in the spring of 1861, these men, appointed under President Buchanan, came back from Washington and told the

Indians that there was no longer a United States government to protect them, that its organization was broken up, and that they must join with the new government, (which by its location and its slaveholding basis would be in sympathy with them,) or be ground to powder, they readily acceded. They now see their error. No men were ever more penitent; and since they learned at the Fort-Smith council the wishes of the government, their own council has met and taken prompt action upon the proposition submitted to them, and appointed a delegation to visit Washington to sign a final treaty. This appears more fully in the despatch from General Hunt, commanding at Fort Smith, dated October 24, communicating a letter from Governor Colbert, of the Chickasaw nation, which despatch will be found among the accompanying documents.

Only 212 persons belonging to these tribes are known to have remained loyal to the government. The disloyal portion need some help to get through the winter without suffering, but their country having been held by the rebels all the time during the war, and not traversed by the contending armies, and rations having been issued to them till last March, they have not suffered as much as the other tribes. Two thousand of both tribes are now receiving government rations. I have elsewhere referred to the propositions in regard to a cession of a portion of the Choctaw and Chickasaw lands.

Agent Snow has in charge the Neosho agency, comprising the Osages, and the small bands known as the Quapaws, Senecas, and Senecas and Shawnees.

The Osage lands are in Kansas, and comprise about 4,000,000 acres. In 1859 they had a population of 3,500; the agent thinks that their number does not now exceed 2,800. About 1,000 of the tribe joined the rebellion. Some two hundred and forty of their warriors were at one time in the service of the United States, but left from some difficulty with their officers, and cannot understand the propriety of the rule by which they have forfeited their pay. The report of Superintendent Sells is very full in its information as to the habits and mode of life of this tribe, which is entirely nomadic in its character, using the bow and arrow in the chase, and hunting the buffalo in the ranges southwest of their country. Their special home is near where the Verdigris river crosses the Kansas line. The sad example of the whites, who steal their stock, leads them to retaliate, and frequent collisions and difficulties with the settlers are the consequence. By the recent treaty with this tribe, their factions have become reconciled; and by the cession to the United States of a large body of land, it will be open to settlement, and they obtain from its avails the means of becoming civilized. In view of their nomadic habits, however, Agent Snow suggests their entire removal from Kansas and the neighborhood of the whites, and settlement upon lands in the western part of the Indian country, near the buffalo range; which suggestion I approve, and trust that within a few months their country will be so far at the disposal of the government, through the operation of the treaties now in progress, as the result of the recent council, that these and all of the other Kansas Indians who do not elect to become citizens may be removed into the Indian country.

The Quapaws and other small tribes of this agency, numbering only 670 in all, never showed any sympathy with the rebellion, but came north, abandoning their homes, and continued as refugees upon the Ottawa reservation until last spring, when they were removed to a point eighty miles further south, where they have raised some small supply of vegetables this year. An exploration of their former reservations, just below the Kansas line, exhibited the usual desolation of war; and everything must be provided anew for them. They had attained a fair degree of civilization, and were prosperous and comfortable before the war; and they, like the other loyal Indians, think that the government for which they suffered the loss of everything should in some degree compensate them for such loss. These people all receive rations at present from the United States.

The Catholic mission school at the Neosho agency has been continued in operation, though under great difficulties. On the occasion of the recent visit of Superintendent Sells to the agency, the school had in attendance sixty-five Osage and Quapaw boys, and fifty girls. The Indians regard this school with great favor.

The Wichita agency (Agent Gookins in charge) comprises about 500 Shawnees, absentees from their tribes in Kansas, and who, it is probable, will not return to that State to remain permanently, but who are now in Osage county, Kansas; and the Wichitas and fragments of the Caddoes, Comanches, and others, amounting to about 1,800. These last were, before the war, settled upon lands leased from the Choctaws. They have never had much attention given them by the government, and were driven from Texas by the greed of white men. Thus they have not for years had a settled home. About 1,000 of them are now near Fort Washita, having done but little towards subsisting themselves, a flood having destroyed most of their crops. They are very poor and miserable, and must have help; and they ask to be placed somewhere, where they can feel that they have a permanent home, and go to work in earnest next spring. Rations are issued to 1,400 of the Indians belonging to this agency.

After a careful consideration of the facts set forth in these reports, and from my information obtained while in the Indian country, I am prepared to recommend prompt and liberal action on the part of the government in providing food, and necessary clothing, and shelter, and the materials for commencing early next spring the labor of getting in the crops which must feed them. In regard to food and clothing, the demand is immediate and pressing; as to the other, it must be provided in good time, and the sooner and better it is done, the sooner will the people relieve the government of the necessity of feeding them. It needs no argument—the bare suggestion is enough—to show the duty of the government towards the loyal and friendly portions of these tribes, who have sealed their devotion with their blood; but the necessity is none the less pressing on the part of many of the others. They *must be fed and clothed*, or their sufferings will surely lead them to steal; and difficulties will at once arise, out of which will come the necessity of stationing several regiments of troops in the country, with their concomitants of contractors, supply trains, &c., &c., the cost of which would amount to double what is needed to take care of these Indians till they can be re-established. The principle that it is cheaper to feed than to fight Indians is illustrated daily, and the cost of sustaining a small army in the far west in a campaign against the Indians, or even at posts where no speck of war ever appears on the horizon, is greater than the whole annual expenditure of the Indian department. On every account, then, of patriotism, humanity, and economy, I trust that there may be quick and liberal action in reference to the wants of these Indians.

In regard to the question of compensation of the loyal portion of these southern tribes for their untold losses and sufferings, I do not feel it necessary to use many words. A great many white people have endured severe losses, and undergone great sufferings, by reason of the rebellion; and many thousands of white people in the south have been abused and outraged, and driven from their homes by the demon of civil discord and war; and government has not yet made provisions for compensation in those cases; but our government was under obligations by solemn treaties to defend and protect these Indians; and without discussing the extent of this obligation, it can do no less now than to aid those who are actually suffering for the simplest necessities of life. This is only the dictate of humanity.

For the rest, the Indians must await their time; but when that time comes, their claim will be very strong, and must be heard. If the government will but act promptly in furnishing them liberally with the ordinary necessities of life

now, and with means to make themselves and their families comfortable till they can raise a crop, it will go far to satisfy them that they have not suffered for a government which, in their distress and poverty, the result of their devotion to its cause, and faith in its protecting care, has *forgotten them*.

Whenever, in the progress towards a final settlement of the questions remaining open in regard to the reorganization of the Indian country, the proper time shall come, it will be advisable to provide for the construction of internal improvements in that region calculated to develop its magnificent resources. With a territorial government organized and in operation, its feuds healed, the scars of war gone from view, a judicious educational system in operation, the missionary establishments which have done so much for the people in the past reopened, and the industry of the country in full process of development, will have come a time when railroads must traverse the country, binding its several parts together, and all to one common Union, and giving a choice of markets and depots for exchange and shipment of produce, either on the Gulf of Mexico, say at Galveston, or northward, to connect with the great central converging points of railroads in Kansas. Whatever can properly be done by the government of the United States in paving the way for these improvements should, in my judgment, be done now, and thus avoid difficulties which may arise in the future.

CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY.

By the reorganization of the northern superintendency the following agencies have been taken from the central and annexed to the northern, to wit: the Omahas, Sacs and Foxes of Missouri, Ottos and Missourias, Pawnees, and Upper Platte agency; and the tribes now under the charge of Superintendent Murphy, who succeeded Mr. Albin on the 1st of July last, are the following: Delawares, Agent Pratt; Pottawatomies, Agent Palmer; Sacs and Foxes of Missouri, Agent Martin; Osage River agency, Miamies, and confederate bands of Kaskaskias, Weas, Peorias, and Piankeshaws, Agent Colton; Shawnees, Agent Abbot; Kansas, (or Kaws,) Agent Farnsworth; Kickapoos, Agent Adams; Ottawas, Agent Hutchinson; Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches, Agent Leavenworth—all of these agencies being in Kansas.

The headquarters of this superintendency have been, until the assumption of the duties of the office by the present incumbent, at St. Joseph, Missouri, but were then changed to Atchison, that being deemed the most convenient point for the transaction of the business of the superintendency.

The location of this superintendency on the border, whence the freighting trains take their departure to cross the plains, has induced the custom of requiring the superintendent to supervise the shipment of the large quantities of Indian goods, annually forwarded to the upper Missouri, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah, and the tribes in the western portions of Nebraska and Kansas. The experience of the last two or three years has developed irregularities and unreasonable delays in the transaction of this important business, which have received the special attention of this office, and which measures will be taken to avoid, if possible, in future, by insisting upon a strict accountability on the part of contractors for transportation, and, if necessary, by the designation of a special agent to attend to this business alone, under instructions.

There are several interesting questions affecting alike a number of the tribes located in Kansas, which do not at present apply to those in other States or Territories. When the present policy of concentrating Indians upon reservations, and inducing them to turn their attention to agriculture was adopted, a large portion of Kansas was set apart for their use. The advance of the white population, and the gradually increasing attention of the Indians to farming, and their abandonment of the chase, resulted in new treaties, by which the In-

dians consented to take allotments of specified quantities of land for each person, old and young, and that the surplus land should be sold for their benefit; though experience has proved that in many cases the avails of this surplus have been swallowed up by debts acknowledged by the Indians. Out of these allotments have arisen questions as to alienation of and heirship to real property, rights of orphan children, distribution of annuities, &c., which frequently embarrass this office; and among these troublesome questions is a feature in some of the treaties, providing that, under certain conditions, such as naturalization in a United States court in Kansas, upon certificate of a judge that the applicant is fit to take charge of his own affairs, the Indian may obtain a patent for his allotted land, and become invested with the rights of citizenship. Experience has shown that in too many cases this process of naturalization has been attempted upon Indians who are notoriously unfit for citizenship; and to avoid the entire waste of the means of living of the family dependent upon him, this office has been obliged to take the responsibility of declining to carry the proposed arrangement into effect. This subject will be made more clear in subsequent remarks referring to particular tribes. Such general rules have been adopted and promulgated from time to time as have been deemed necessary to guard the interests of the Indians, these rules having in every instance received the sanction of your department.

A question of some interest, as relating particularly to the Indians of this superintendency, deserves some notice here. Complaints were made some months since of difficulties arising, and likely to grow serious, from the habit of Indians, lately returned from service in the army, carrying arms, which they drew and used upon the slightest provocation or excitement. An order was at first issued to disarm the Indians generally, but this was modified so as to require them, when in public assemblies, at payments, or on the occasion of their visiting the towns, to deposit their arms with their agent, receiving receipts therefor. The order, it is believed, has had an excellent effect.

I proceed to notice the several agencies in detail, with such suggestions as occur to me:

Delawares.—The Delaware agent, Mr. Pratt, represents the agricultural operations of the tribe as unusually successful, and in this there appears to be a marked improvement over the previous year; the result being a much better condition of the Indians for the approaching winter. Upon the large and fertile tract which they own, much greater results should have been produced, but their crops, as returned, show 56,700 bushels corn, 2,565 bushels wheat, 10,000 bushels potatoes, besides many other articles of farm produce. The Indians number about 1,000, and maintain fully their reputation for devoted loyalty, having furnished many good soldiers to the army.

Their school is in a flourishing condition, having won very high praise from the superintendent on the occasion of a special visit, and has an excellent effect upon the whole tribe.

The Wyandotts, who are attached to this agency, do not seem to be in as favorable condition as the Delawares, and are desirous of a new treaty, by which they hope to better their condition. A special report on their case will be submitted for your consideration.

Pottawatomies.—The census of last June showed the population of this tribe to be 1,874, being a decrease of 404 within a year. Most of this decrease is accounted for by Agent Palmer, by the absence of about forty members of the tribe, who went south some months since to hunt and support themselves beyond the restraints of civilized life; and of a much larger number who are said to be wandering about in Iowa and Wisconsin. A considerable number of Pottawatomies, supposed to be a portion of those belonging in Kansas, have been heard of recently as being in the northern part of Wisconsin. The agent for the wandering Wisconsin Indians, Mr. Lamoreaux, who was sent to make in-

quiries as to this party, reports them as doing no harm, and creating no bad feeling among the settlers, but the earliest possible means will be adopted to return them to their proper places. The shiftless conduct of this portion of the tribe, known as the "Prairie band," is very prejudicial to the interests of the remainder, the majority, who have taken allotments and settled down to farming; while the others refused to do so, and had a tract set apart for their use in common. This, however, as is mentioned above, they have abandoned; and it may, perhaps, be well to remove them entirely, and settle them further south, when the way is opened for that purpose.

Agent Palmer represents the settled portion of the tribe in very favorable terms, and, as the result of their farming operations, that they are "as independent as their white neighbors," having raised 64,000 bushels corn, besides other large crops, and owning 2,200 horses, 1,600 cattle, &c. As they become assured of the permanent ownership of their lands, they have become more settled and industrious. This tribe has furnished seventy-one soldiers for the United States army, and the agent states that a large percentage of them have died in the service.

The school (St. Mary's mission) appears to be admirably conducted, and a very efficient help in educating the Indians, not only in the branches usually taught in schools, but in agriculture and the arts of housewifery, and habits of industry generally. The teachers are desirous to accommodate more pupils, who are anxious to receive the benefits of their care and labor, and measures will be taken to make the civilization fund provided by Congress available for this purpose.

The treaty with this tribe provides that, on application to the department by Indians who have taken out certificates of naturalization in the Kansas courts, they shall receive patents for their lands, and their *pro rata* share of the funds of the tribe, and become citizens of the United States. Under this provision about 150 applications for patents, &c., have been made to this office; but on careful inquiry it was found that gross carelessness (or worse) had occurred in furnishing the certificates of good conduct, sobriety, and ability to conduct their own affairs, which certificates were a necessary preliminary to naturalization. The whole matter has undergone a careful examination, and, with your concurrence, a policy has been adopted which will, it is hoped, secure the real interests of the tribe. It has been decided to issue patents to such only as are certified by both the agent and a business committee, (appointed by the tribe to conduct its affairs, and composed of its best men,) to be thoroughly fitted for citizenship and the control of their own affairs, and patents are now in preparation for about fifty who come up to this standard; others will be furnished with patents as soon as they come up to the standard. In regard to the capitalization of their annuities and other funds, it is found that an appropriation by Congress for that purpose, of such amount of the tribal funds as is necessary, should be made before it can be paid to the persons entitled to it. A special report will be prepared and laid before you, showing the number of persons entitled to their *pro rata* share of the funds, and the amount necessary to be appropriated for the purpose.

Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi, and Chippewas and Munsees, or Christian Indians.—Agent Martin reports the Sacs and Foxes under his charge as exhibiting a decided improvement morally, being more quiet and peaceable, more industrious, and willing to contribute something for education, their treaty laying aside nothing for the purpose. They number 805, being a decrease of 86 since last year, a fact for which the agent is unable to account. They have personal property estimated at \$71,900, and raised this year 7,500 bushels of corn, besides other produce. Considering the means available, their school has been reasonably successful.

The Chippewas and Munsees are a small tribe, numbering only 80 persons occupying their lands in severalty upon a small reservation, and are quiet and industrious, owning property to the amount of about \$10,000. They have a good school, and are favorably situated in every respect.

The largest portion of the extensive reservation of the Sacs and Foxes has been sold at public sale, the funds realized being, however, swallowed up in the payment of certificates of indebtedness of the Indians, the tribe having withdrawn to a diminished reservation, which, however, still greatly exceeds their necessities, if they can be induced to turn their attention more to agriculture.

The Chippewas and Munsees, having a small portion of land outside of their allotments, and more than they need, have expressed a desire that it shall be sold for their benefit. Steps have been taken to appraise this land, amounting to 1,428 acres, preparatory to a public sale.

Osage River agency; Miamies, Kaskaskias, Peorias, Weas, and Piankeshaws.—These Indians, under the charge of Agent Colton, are considerably advanced in civilization, and live upon land held in severalty. The Miamies number only 127, and own property averaging about \$120 to each individual, apart from the land valuation. But a small portion of their land is under cultivation, the amount being stated at fifteen acres for each family, but the people maintain themselves comfortably. The agent represents that the progress of improvement has been slower than usual, on account of the disturbed condition of affairs upon the border during the war. The Miamies pay great attention to the education of their children, and contribute largely of their own means for their maintenance at good schools, and they desire to be allowed to set apart still more of their funds for the purpose. They have some trouble resulting from trespasses of unauthorized persons upon their surplus land, and are desirous to effect a sale of it.

A question of much importance to the Miamies is undergoing investigation, having reference to an alleged wrong done to them by the setting apart of some 14,000 acres of land and \$15,000 in money for certain Miamies of Indiana, the Kansas Miamies alleging fraud in the list of persons, &c.

The Peorias and other tribes confederated with them number 236 in all, and own personal property to the average value of \$140 per each individual, and cultivate an average of 20 acres to each family. The Indians of this agency have raised this year nearly 40,000 bushels of corn, and own 600 horses, 750 head of cattle, and 1,100 hogs.

A great defect in the treaty made with these Indians is that the lands allotted to individuals, when patented to them, were patented for whole families in the name of the heads of those families; and as the restriction upon alienation of land only applied to one-half of the amount patented, the result has been that the share of the children has been sold by the fathers in many cases. As a further consequence, orphan children, who were placed in families here and there for enumeration and allotment, lose their proper and just share of land. In regard to the orphan children, the case has a worse aspect, for in most cases the families with whom they are placed care only for them so far as to get their annuities. The agent has suggested, and, to the credit of the leading men of the tribe, they desire, that measures shall be taken to have these orphan children placed under legally appointed guardians, who shall, under proper bonds, take charge of them and see that they are properly educated and maintained till of age, when their accumulated annuities would give them a fair start in life. This whole subject has been referred to the superintendent for investigation and report as to the practical method of bringing about the desired reform.

Kansas, or Kawes.—This tribe, under charge of Agent Farnsworth, numbers 631 persons, showing a decrease of 70 since last year. The agent ascribes the gradual decay of the tribe to the pernicious habit of intermarriage of relatives, and to dissipation. The people are well disposed towards the whites, friendly

and loyal, (the latter characteristic shown by their having furnished 84 soldiers for the army, of whom 24 have died,) but they do not appear to appreciate the benefits of a settled life, and care little for education. The Friends, mission school upon the reservation is, however, reasonably successful with the limited number of children who will attend, and some thirty are able to read in English.

This tribe spent the early part of the season in the buffalo country, and had a successful hunt, from which they returned to put in their corn crop, which was also successful.

Nothing of special interest has occurred relative to these Indians since the last report, except a kind of negotiation entered upon, and carried forward with every pretence of solemnity by some of their chiefs with the Pawnees, having reference to the return of certain horses stolen from the Kawes by the Pawnees. The latter tribe were profuse in their joy at the idea of making peace, but reticent of horses. They, however, succeeded in finding a few, which they were ready to return; whereupon the Kaw agent refused, on their behalf, to receive these horses, unless the remainder were returned. The agent was instructed to receive the instalment, and the Pawnee agent to return the remainder when found.

Kickapoos.—Agent Adams represents this tribe as numbering 238 persons on the reservation, including a number of Pottawatomies, who, a few years since, purchased a right to share the head-rights and annuities of the Kickapoos. Only thirty families were found willing to accept separate allotments of land, and they are doing well. The remainder reside upon a diminished reserve, held in common, there being also reserved a sufficient quantity of land for 120 Kickapoos, who have for a long time been absentees from their tribe, and in regard to whom it is rumored that they have been destroyed in an encounter with the wild Indians of the southwest. The remainder of the lands of the tribe, amounting to 123,832 acres, has been disposed of at \$1 25 per acre, in accordance with the terms of treaty, to the Atchison and Pike's Peak Railroad Company; and the interest upon the purchase money will furnish a handsome income for the tribe. No school now exists upon the reservation, the mission school which formerly existed having been abandoned, but the agent promises a special report, with a plan for its re-establishment. The crops raised by the tribe are abundant for their support.

Ottawas.—None of the Kansas tribes have advanced in civilization with greater rapidity or certainty than this, and they are independent and self-sustaining, and will soon assume the position of citizens of the United States, and abandon their tribal relations entirely. Many of them are doing very well as farmers, and are independent of all outside aid. They number two hundred in all, their loss of some thirty by small-pox, besides deaths from other diseases, having been made up by accessions to their number from the Ottawas of Michigan. They have made excellent provision for educating their children, and an extensive building is in progress, aided by large contributions from white friends. Sales of their lands, aside from those reserved for educational purposes, have amounted to about \$10,500 during the past year.

Kiowas, Comanches and Apaches.—Although the headquarters of this agency is in Kansas, it is rather an independent agency, reporting directly to this office. The Indians have no reservation, but were entitled, under treaty stipulations, to a periodical distribution of goods, and after receiving these goods, left for their various places of resort. Their agent, Colonel J. H. Leavenworth, has for a long time possessed their confidence, and by his influence over them they have, for the most part, if not entirely, abstained from all hostilities or interference with travel over the Santa Fé road. A portion of those who escaped from the Chivington massacre took refuge with them, and they have had many temptations to join the other Indians of the plains in their hostilities. Various communications from their agent, dated at Crow Creek ranch, sixty miles west of Fort Larned,

during the last spring, assured this office that the Indians had promised him to keep away from the emigrant road, and abstain from hostilities; but it was only by great efforts, in which the agent was assisted by Hon. J. R. Doolittle, then acting as one of the congressional Committee of Investigation into Indian matters who was furnished with special authority from the department for the purpose, that a collision between these Indians and the military was prevented, and an arrangement was finally made by which a formal conference for treaty purposes was agreed upon, to take place on the 4th of October, instant, and for which purpose a mixed commission of civilians and military officers was appointed to attend on the part of the government. This commission comprises the agent, Colonel Leavenworth; the superintendent of the Kansas tribes, Thomas Murphy, esq.; James Steele, esq., detailed from this office; Brigadier General Sanborn, commanding the military district; and Major Bent, an old resident of the Indian country. Major General Harney, of the commission to the southern Indians, was also present as a commissioner with this party. The party from Leavenworth left that place late in September, taking with them a large amount of goods provided for these Indians under the treaty, but which had been retained pending the question as to their connexion with the hostilities upon the plains.

The Kiowas had in 1862 an estimated population of 1,800, the Comanches 1,800, and the Apaches 500, making 4,100 in all, included in this agency.

With these Indians are a large number of Arapahoes and Cheyennes, parties to the treaty of Fort Wise, although a portion of them fled northward after the Sand Creek massacre, and joined their people connected with the Upper Platte agency.

Several communications have been received from the commission *en route* to, and since their arrival at the place of rendezvous, which appears to have been finally fixed at a short distance above the mouth of the Little Arkansas river; and, under date of October 23, General Sanborn telegraphed that a treaty had been concluded with the Arapahoes, Cheyennes, and Apaches, and that the Kiowas and Comanches had sent out runners to bring in several white captives which they held, and that on their return a treaty, the terms of which had been agreed upon, would be concluded with the last-named tribes.

By later advices, which have just been received, I learn that the prisoners alluded to had been brought in, and a treaty had been concluded with the Kiowas and Comanches, the Apaches preferring to join with the Arapahoes and Cheyennes, by which they have agreed to accept a reservation south of the Arkansas river, and leave unmolested, so far as they are concerned, the great travelled routes across the plains. So soon as I am in possession of all the facts I will lay this treaty before you, with a special report.*

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

As constituted at the date of the last annual report from this office, this superintendency comprised the various bands of Chippewas in Minnesota and Wisconsin, together with the Sioux and Winnebagoes who had been removed to the reservation at Crow Creek, in Dakota Territory; the Winnebagoes, however, having already migrated to the Omaha reservation, in Nebraska Territory. The headquarters of the superintendent were at St. Paul, Minnesota. Clark W. Thompson, esq., being the incumbent of the office. Early in the last summer changes were made, by which the agencies at Bayfield, Wisconsin, for the Chippewas of Lake Superior, and at Crow Wing, Minnesota, for the Chippewas of the Mississippi, &c., became independent, and reporting directly to this office; and the Sioux remaining at Crow Creek were transferred to the Dakota superintendency; and the northern superintendency as now constituted,

* For report of this commission see Appendix.

having its headquarters at Omaha, Nebraska Territory, under E. B. Taylor, esq., comprises the following tribes and agencies, all in Nebraska, to wit:

Omahas, Agent Furnas, at Omaha agency, estimated population 1,000.

Winnebagoes, Agent Matthewson, at Omadi, occupying a part of the Omaha reservation, estimated population 1,900.

Ottocs and Missouriias, Agent Daily, at Dennison, population 708.

Sacs and Foxes of Missouri and Iowas, (or Great Nemaha agency,) John A. Burbank agent, population 389.

Pawnees, Agent Wheeler, at Genoa, population 2,800.

Sioux, Arapahoes, and Cheyennes, of the Upper Platte, at Fort Laramie. Agent Vital Jarrot, population estimated as follows: Sioux, (Brulés and Ogallalas,) 7,865; Arapahoes, 1,800; Cheyennes, 720—total, 10,385.

The total Indian population in the superintendency is thus estimated from the latest sources at 17,182. I proceed to notice such matters in regard to each of the above tribes and agencies as are deemed worthy of special remark.

Omahas—From the annual report of Agent Furnas, as well as from a special report made at an earlier date by the superintendent, we obtain the most satisfactory information in regard to this tribe. Located upon an ample reservation of good land, and well disposed to the pursuits of agriculture, the Indians have cultivated nearly one thousand acres during the present year, with such success as to raise enough for their own use, with a surplus for sale. Their school, under the charge of missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Missions, appears to be doing great good, though receiving a much less number of pupils than the joint contributions of the tribe and the mission board would seem to provide for.

The tribe appears to be satisfied with the terms of the treaty made last spring, by which they cede to the United States a portion of their reservation for the use of the Winnebagoes, and are impatient to realize the purchase-money, in order that a portion of it may be used for their permanent benefit. They have so far advanced in civilization as to begin to desire separate allotments of land, so that they may feel that the products of their industry are their own. Sundry complaints made by the chiefs to the superintendent at the time of his visit to them have been made the subject of examination by this office, and explanations made and such grievances redressed as were in the power of the office to redress. It was found that the mill had not been run, nor certain employes kept in service, for the full time provided in the treaty, and the agent has been directed to continue them in service. The Indians have a just cause for complaint in certain depredations upon them by the hostile Sioux, and the government having failed to protect them, they ask compensation from Congress. A special report upon this subject has been called for from the agent, and when received will be laid before you.

Winnebagoes.—I regret that I am unable to report much improvement in the condition of this unfortunate tribe since the last annual report. Full details as to their condition, wants, and suggestions for their benefit, are furnished in the accompanying reports, and your attention is particularly invited to the special report of Superintendent Taylor. The urgent request of the chiefs for a change of agent has been granted, and such measures have been taken as will, it is hoped, render the people more comfortable than hitherto, and enable them still to support, with the commendable patience which has thus far characterized them, the necessary privations and troubles incident to their unsettled condition, until Congress can ratify the treaty providing for their permanent settlement upon the Omaha reservation. This I earnestly hope will be done at an early day, so that preparations can be made at the first opening of spring for the necessary work towards establishing them in comfortable quarters, and enabling them to support themselves by agriculture as soon as possible.

I doubt whether there is another tribe of Indians in the country—indeed I doubt whether there is an equal number of white men—who would have sub-

mitted patiently, as these Indians did, to be taken from their homes and farms in the "very garden of Minnesota," as it has been called, where they were independent and happy, and always friendly to the whites and loyal to the government, and transferred to a region from whence they were compelled to migrate or starve; and to continue thus without homes, and in the condition of paupers for three years. With the ratification of the treaty referred to, and such legislation as may be deemed necessary by Congress, we may look for better things. The resources of the tribe, with their industrious habits, when once a place is found for their application, are sufficient to place them in comparative comfort, and it will be the duty as well as the pleasure of this office to aid this interesting tribe by every means in its power.

Connected with this tribe are a number of persons who, being residents of Minnesota at the time of the semi-compulsory removal of their brethren, refused to leave their homes. Their case has recently been brought to the attention of this office, and, with your concurrence, the parties have been assured that their lands shall be secured to them.

They ask also that their share of the property of the tribe shall be paid to them at one payment, so that they may have the benefit of it upon their farms, and release the government from further liability to them. If practicable, I beg leave to suggest that provision might be made for these Winnebagoes by a special act of Congress, so that the treaty with the tribe may not be delayed by amendments requiring the delay involved in a submission to the tribe.

You will not fail to observe the request of the tribe, approved by the agent, for the addition to their proposed reservation of a small strip of land well adapted for farming, and convenient for their agency. A special report upon this point will be made by the present agent.

Ottos and Missourias.—The reports from these two tribes, under the charge of Agent Daily, are decidedly favorable as to their peaceable and sober conduct and increased attention to farming. Failure in their hunt last year drove them to cultivate more land this year; but the agent fears that their successful hunt this season may again draw them from their fields.

Their excellent crop, however, has this year so encouraged them, that there are good hopes of their settling down to the pursuits of agriculture; and the expiration of the time when they can, under their treaty, have the benefit of the aid of a farmer and other employés, makes it quite necessary that they should labor for themselves. This they appear quite ready to do. Some 12,000 bushels of corn have been raised at this agency this year, of which nearly half was by the Indians themselves.

There is now no school upon the reservation, and the treaty provides for none. I shall endeavor to interest some of those who have been most successful in teaching the Indians, in the re-establishment of a school for these tribes, in order that their children may not grow up in ignorance.

Sacs and Foxes of Missouri and Iowas.—Agent Burbank, who has these Indians in charge, makes a very favorable report as to the latter and more numerous tribe, the census showing a population of 294. As evidence of their loyalty, it appears that no less than forty-three of their number have been enlisted in the army of the United States during the late war, and those who have thus served have been commended by their officers as good soldiers. What is more and remarkable, they have come out of the army able to speak English well, and with hearts not spoiled by dissipation, earnestly desirous to live like white men, cultivating the soil. Those who remained at home cultivated the fields for the families of the soldiers, and with the aid of the returning braves a handsome crop was harvested. The chiefs desire that a liberal share of the tribal annuities should be expended in agricultural implements to enable these soldiers to make further progress in civilization by means of agriculture; and they express a de-

sire to have their treaty so amended as to enable them to allot their lands in severalty and become citizens. The agent does not regard the school as a very successful one, on account of the irregular attendance of the pupils.

The Saes and Foxes are but a small tribe, numbering but 95 persons, and occupy some twenty-five sections of land. They make but poor progress in civilization, being represented as lazy and shiftless, and have raised but little for their own support this year. Of course they are negligent of the interests of their children, and will not send them to school.

Both of these tribes will be permitted to send delegates to this city during the coming winter, and it is hoped that satisfactory measures for their improvement may be devised.

Pawnees.—This tribe, numbering now 2,800 persons, has for a long time been friendly to the whites, though enjoying a high reputation among their own race for their skill in possessing themselves of the property of others. It is gratifying to know that their character for honesty is much improved of late years, as a natural consequence of their improvement in civilization, and accumulation of home comforts by their own labor on their reservation.

During last winter eighty-seven of their braves were regularly mustered into the United States service as scouts, and employed in the military operations on the plains; and a still larger number is now in the government service against their old enemies, the Sioux. The superintendent, in his visit to the agency in September, found that the tribe had returned from a successful summer hunt, and were harvesting a fine crop, raised by themselves upon the excellent land of their reservation; and their condition for the winter was expected to be favorable to their comfort. The superintendent found that affairs at the agency proper were not in so satisfactory a condition, the late agent not having, for reasons stated in the special report of the superintendent, attended to the raising of any crop upon the agency farm; the consequence being that grain and other supplies must be purchased for the use of the employés.

It is suggested that the steam mill provided by treaty causes a useless expenditure of money, and that a fine stream in the immediate vicinity may be availed of for running a mill by water-power, which will save the salary of an engineer and laborer, as well as a large consumption of fuel. Although the treaty provides for a steam mill, the benefit to be derived from this change is so apparent, that I think a diversion of the funds for this object would be proper, and have no doubt the Indians would gladly consent to it.

The posting of a company of United States troops at the agency has given the employés as well as the Indians a sense of security which they have not enjoyed for several years, and protected the latter during their hunt. The present agent, Mr. Wheeler, represents the Indians as desiring that their annuity provided for in goods by treaty be given to them in money, to be expended by their agent for agricultural implements. This office will take pleasure in carrying into effect, so far as is practicable, this laudable desire of the tribe.

The manual labor school-house, which has been in course of construction for parts of the two years past, is nearly completed, though it has not been formally accepted. It has cost a large sum of money, and there are deficiencies in its construction, and irregularities connected with the operations of the late agent and the contractors, into which an investigation is being made. It has been deemed advisable, however, to remove the scholars to it from the unhealthy quarters where they have been, and it is intended to provide at the earliest possible day for at least one hundred children at the school. Great hopes are entertained by the better class of the Indians of the good to be done by this school, and there is now some prospect of their being realized.

The agent recommends an appropriation of \$100 to satisfy with presents, in a manner approved by this people, the relatives of a Pawnee who was not

long since, murdered by some unknown white man, and this request will be granted.

Indians of the Upper Platte.—Early last spring, it being then understood that peace could probably be made with the Sioux, Arapahoes, and Cheyennes, who had been and are confederated in hostilities upon the emigrant route over the plains, the late Secretary of the Interior deemed it advisable to send an agent to the then abandoned agency at Fort Laramie; and Mr. Vital Jarrot, who from long residence among the Indians, and their known friendly disposition toward him, was supposed to be peculiarly well adapted for the mission, was sent out with instructions to attempt a negotiation, acting in concurrence with the military officers of the district. On his arrival at or near his post, however, he found an active campaign going on against these Indians, who had been already driven far to the north and west. The campaign against them has been a severe one, and entailed very heavy losses upon them, as well as great expense upon the government; and it is to be hoped that the punishment of the Indians will be sufficient to compel a peace. At the same time, it must be confessed that these hostilities are doubtless protracted and bitter in proportion to the sense of wrong felt by the refugees from the Chivington massacre of last fall, who have gone north among these tribes. It will be long before faith in the honor and humanity of the whites can be re-established in the minds of these barbarians; and the last Indian who escaped from the brutal scene at Sand creek will probably have died before its effects will have disappeared.

Hopes are entertained that representatives of these Indians, authorized to speak for them, may be present at the council to be held at Fort Sully, on the Missouri, inasmuch as they were, with the Upper Missouri Indians, represented at the Fort Laramie treaty. If such attendance cannot be secured, the arrangement anticipated as the result of the military campaign must be postponed till the next spring.

From the latest advices from the region of hostilities, it would appear that so far as the Indians especially belonging to the Fort Laramie agency are concerned, the campaign against them is one tending towards extermination; and Agent Jarrot has been directed to return to his post, to be at hand in case anything can be done by him, in concert with the military, for such of the Indians as remain. Agent Jarrot is decided in the expression of his opinion that there have always been many of the Sioux and Arapahoes who would have been glad to make peace if their lives would have been safe in approaching the posts; but he thinks the Cheyennes so exasperated that they will almost suffer extermination rather than submit.

I feel confident, however, that when these Arapahoes and Cheyennes learn the terms of the treaty negotiated with their brethren on the Arkansas, and when they know, as they will from the proceedings of that council, the merited and unmeasured condemnation bestowed by the government upon the Chivington massacre, they will bury the tomahawk and accept the proffered peace.

GREEN BAY AGENCY.

The annual report of this agency is, as usual, punctual as to time and full in information. The tribes under charge of Agent Davis are the Menomonees, Oneidas, and Stockbridges and Munsees.

The Menomonees number one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, having increased to some extent since last year, notwithstanding the ravages of the small-pox the past summer, and the death, in battle and in hospital, of about one-third of the one hundred and twenty-five men whom they have furnished to the United States army, enlisted in Wisconsin regiments. Their reservation, although of abundant extent, is not well adapted for agricultural pursuits, unless by clearing out farms in heavy-timbered lands, which has been

done to some extent, and considerable produce has been raised. Depredations upon the timbered (pine) lands of the tribe have been made to a large extent by whites, and the agent has taken the necessary steps to prosecute the guilty parties, and recover for the tribe the value of the timber.

There were one hundred and fifty cases of small-pox among the Menomonees, the ravages of the disease being greatly increased by the conduct of a priest, as stated by the agent, in insisting upon taking to the church the bodies of the deceased, and holding services over them in the presence of a crowd of the people. This practice was only terminated by the expulsion of the priest from the reservation. Some eight hundred of the Indians were vaccinated, and the disease was after a time stayed, but the agricultural operations of the people were much interfered with. In other respects, referred to by Agent Davis, the conduct of the same priest has been reprehensible and prejudicial to the interests of the tribe; and measures will be taken towards an improvement in this respect. While there is no disposition on the part of this office to interfere with the rooted religious prejudices of Indian tribes who have long been accustomed to the ministrations of particular denominations of Christians, a just control over these matters must be maintained, where the interests of the Indians clearly require it.

The schools upon the reservation are under the charge of devoted Catholic women, who have been long in the service, and are doing much good. The blacksmith employed for the tribe is a native Menomonee, and does his work well.

An interesting question as to the right of the State of Wisconsin to the 16th sections in the townships comprising this reservation, which has been in dispute for some time, has been decided in favor of the Indians by the department.

The Oneida reservation is near Green Bay, and includes an abundance of good land, which is availed of to a very limited extent by the Indians. Their vicinity to several thriving towns, where they are readily supplied with liquor, has had a bad effect upon them. Many of them find it easier to cut and sell the timber from their reserve than to engage steadily in farming; and the best among them, having no allotments of land, have not that incentive to effort which a home of their own would give them. I propose, with your concurrence, to endeavor to bring about an improvement in this respect. The Oneidas furnished one hundred and eleven men for the United States army, their total population being one thousand and sixty-four by the last census—a decrease of fifty-seven since last year. Their crops have furnished them a sufficient subsistence. The small-pox prevailed among them to some extent, there being forty-three cases and fifteen deaths by that disease.

They have two schools, one under charge of the Methodist, and the other the Protestant Episcopal church, the reports of both schools being herewith. Recently, application has been made by a native Oneida, educated at a college in Wisconsin, for the appointment as teacher of the first named of these schools.

The Stockbridges and Munsees, being the remains of the tribes formerly settled on the east side of Lake Winnebago, and who declined to take allotments and abandon their tribal relations, were placed upon a reservation of two townships on the west end of the Menomonee reservation as at first established. They number 338 persons, but at latest dates only about one-half of them were upon their reservation, the remainder being absent among the white settlements, employed by the farmers as laborers.

They justly complain that the lands given to them are poor and barren, and unfit for their use. They are an industrious people, and would do well upon good lands, and be entirely independent. Out of their small population they had 43 soldiers in the United States army. Their school has been successful during the year.

Last winter, Congress provided, by a section of the Indian appropriation bill, that any of these Indians might select 160 acres of the public lands as a homestead; but, the subject having been brought to their attention by the agent, they have, as a tribe, declined to avail themselves of the privilege, alleging that they have not the means to remove upon and work such new farms. Many of them are desirous that their lands in Wisconsin, which are valuable for their pine timber, may be sold, and a new home provided for them in the southwest. It is probable that such an arrangement can be made to advantage as soon as treaties are completed with the tribes occupying the country south of Kansas. In such case, doubtless, many of the tribe would decide to take the portion of the lands offered to them in Wisconsin, and with their proportion of the funds of the tribe open new farms and become citizens. The loyalty and good conduct of this tribe deserve the favorable consideration of the government.

AGENCY FOR THE WINNEBAGOES, POTTAWATOMIES, ETC., IN WISCONSIN.

No report has been received from this agency. The Indians comprised within it are wandering bands, having no settled homes; and who, having refused to remove west with their tribes, obtain a precarious subsistence by hunting, fishing, gathering berries in their season, and by begging, in the northwestern counties of Wisconsin. Congress in 1864 provided a special agent to take charge of them, and made an appropriation for their relief. They number some 1,500, their aggregate having, it is supposed, been increased this year by the addition of some 350 Pottawatomies, who have wandered thither from Kansas and Iowa.

CHIPPEWAS OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

At this agency, at Crow Wing, Minnesota, Agent Clark has in charge the various bands of Chippewa Indians of that State, comprised under the following classifications: Chippewas of Mississippi, numbering about 2,050; Chippewas of Red Lake and Pembina, about 2,000; Pillager and Lake Winnebagoish bands of Chippewas, population last year 1,966—total, 6,016.

No report has been received from the agent—for what reason does not appear; and we are unable to present any statistics as to the condition and progress of these tribes, many of whom are industrious, thriving farmers. Last year they made and harvested a large quantity of maple sugar and wild rice, besides selling furs to a considerable amount. By recent treaties with two of the classes of tribes above mentioned, provision was made for the expenditure of a large amount of money in their behalf, in addition to the sum previously due to the Chippewas generally; and the removal of the agency establishment to a point further north and more central has been determined upon. Agent Clark some time since submitted a report with plans for the proposed buildings, upon a designated location near Leech lake; but action in the matter awaits the report of a special agent, who has been directed to make more particular inquiry as to the site and plans proposed. The large amount disbursed at this agency makes it one of the most important in the service, and I very much regret that, by the neglect of the agent to forward his report, I have no means of presenting a full statement of its condition.

CHIPPEWAS OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

This year, as well as last, the annual statement of Agent Webb fails to reach us in time to be made available for the annual report of this office. The Indians of this agency are all Chippewas, residing on and about reservations in northern Wisconsin, and number about 4,500. They have their farms and schools, receive annually a considerable sum of money, besides having the benefit of the labors of sundry employés of the government, and ought to be in a comfortable condition, but we have no data to show it.*

* For Agent Webb's annual report, see appendix.

MACKINAC AGENCY, MICHIGAN.

The annual report of this agency has but this moment been received, and too late for special notice. It will be found among the accompanying documents. From the statistics at hand, and which form a part of this report, we learn that the various tribes and remnants of tribes connected with the agency, and scattered along the shores of Lake Superior and at other points in Michigan, have had a very prosperous year. The various tribes and bands are classified as follows, with the more important footings of the tables referring to each:

Chippewas of Lake Superior: population, 1,058; individual personal property, \$24,900; two schools, with 91 pupils. Ottawas and Chippewas: population, 4,923; property, \$257,822; twenty schools, with 578 pupils. Chippewas of Saginaw, &c.: population, 1,581, property, \$7,691; six schools, with 214 pupils. Chippewas, Ottawas and Pottawatomies: population, 287; property, \$39,080; two schools, with 9 pupils.

These Indians have furnished 196 soldiers for the United States army. A large number of them are far advanced in civilization, fully deserving of and actually exercising the rights of citizenship. They are peaceable and industrious to a great extent, as is shown by the following aggregates of the principal crops raised, viz: 8,249 acres cultivated, producing 2,877 bushels wheat, 28,390 bushels corn, 88,492 bushels potatoes, 453,252 pounds maple sugar, and 9,877 barrels fish for sale, besides the quantity used for themselves; and have sold \$54,000 worth of furs.

They own and occupy 883 frame and log houses, and have, as is seen above, about 900 of their children at their numerous schools, taught for the most part by the self-denying missionaries of various denominations, who have long labored among them with success. For other interesting details I must refer to the report of the agent, not having time to make a summary of them.

NEW YORK.

The annual report from this agency is very unsatisfactory as to details, the agent, Mr. Rich, having depended for his statistical information upon the persons engaged by the State of New York in taking the census, who have failed to furnish him with the information in time for this report. This is very much to be regretted, as there are no full and reliable statistics of the agency since 1862. By a careful census that year the total population of the New York Indians was found to be 3,958. Of that number, the principal tribes, the Senecas, upon their reservations, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Tonawanda, had a population of 2,854. A census of the Senecas in 1863 gave their number at 2,988, an increase of 134.

It is not probable that there has been any increase, and the present population of the "Six Nations," which now includes Senecas, Cayugas, Onondagas, Oneidas, and Tuscaroras, is probably about the same as in 1862, as given above. In that year these Indians had in operation nineteen schools upon their various reservations, including the mission schools and those organized under State laws, and 661 pupils were in attendance. The value of personal property belonging to individuals that year was estimated at \$262,500. This has doubtless largely increased.*

Agent Rich reports the Indians as paying increased attention to their farms, and, in many cases, doing in every respect as well as their white neighbors; and that their schools seem to be prosperous. The annual distribution of annuity money and goods has been made and accounts returned, the Oneidas expressing a desire to have the value of their goods in money hereafter.

There is some evidence that the influential men among these Indians, who

* For statistics of N. Y. agency, see appendix.