

REPORT OF THE DELEGATES

REPRESENTING THE

Yearly Meetings,

OF

PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, BALTIMORE,
INDIANA, OHIO, AND GENESEE,

ON THE

INDIAN CONCERN,

AT

BALTIMORE, TENTH MONTH, 1871.

New York :

PUBLISHED FOR THE YEARLY MEETING.

1871.

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At a meeting of DELEGATES representing the YEARLY MEETINGS of Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Indiana, Ohio, and Genesee, held at Baltimore, 10th month, 29th, 1871.

Present 17 Delegates: Samuel M. Janney, late Superintendent; Asa M. Janney, late Agent of the Santee Sioux, and a number of members of the General Committees on Indian Affairs of the several Yearly Meetings.

An interesting report from Superintendent Janney was read. Not being completed he was requested, when prepared, to forward it to the Secretary, who was directed to have five thousand copies printed and distributed to the several Yearly Meetings.

The Delegates, on their return home, were requested to forward to the Secretary the amount of funds and value of materials and clothing sent to the Agents of the tribes under their care during the administration of Superintendent Janney.

The several important subjects referred to in Superintendent Janney's report were referred to Benjamin Hallowell, Richard T. Bentley, and Benjamin Rush Roberts, who, with Samuel M. Janney, were requested to give immediate attention to the several subjects contained therein, particularly to the sale of their surplus lands, as petitioned for by them last winter.

Extracted from the minutes by.

WM. H. MACY, *Secretary,*

BALTIMORE, MD., *10th Month, 29th, 1871.*

To the CONVENTION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS OF FRIENDS, representing the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Ohio, Indiana, and Genesee.

DEAR FRIENDS:

Having, on the 30th of the 9th month, resigned my position as Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern Superintendency, I deem it my duty to communicate to the Convention a statement of the condition and prospects of the Indian tribes whose welfare was committed to my care.

That Superintendency comprises six Agencies, all situated in the State of Nebraska, namely: the Santee Sioux Agency, situated on the Missouri River, about two hundred miles north of Omaha City; the Winnebago and Omaha Agencies, near the same river, and between seventy and eighty miles north of Omaha; the Pawnee Agency, about one hundred and fifteen miles west from that city, and near the line of the Union Pacific Railroad; the Otoe Agency, near the Kansas line, about seventy miles from the Missouri River; and the Great Nemaha Agency, on the Kansas line, and bordering on the Missouri.

The Santee Sioux Indians number 987, having increased in population within the last year. They were under the care of Asa M. Janney, as United States' Agent, until the 21st of the 7th month last, when he resigned on account of ill health, and was succeeded by Joseph Webster.

Within the last year the allotment of lands in severalty to the Santee Sioux has been completed, assigning to each family eighty acres, and to each unmarried man or woman forty acres. They have not yet received their title papers, but it is understood that certificates from the U. S. Land Office will be issued to them, securing to each individual, and to his or her heirs, possession of their several allotments, without the power of conveying them to any others than members of their own tribe, or to the United States.

These Indians have this year built on their allotments about ninety habitations, most of which are comfortable log cabins. Some assistance was given them in building, and the Agent furnished them with doors, windows, flooring-boards, and nails. He thought it would contribute more toward their advancement and self-reliance to encourage them to build their own dwellings of logs, than to build houses for them, even if he had been furnished with sufficient funds for the purpose, which, however, was not the case. He supplied with a cooking-stove every one who built a cabin on his allotment, which was found to be a strong incentive to individual effort. On each one of a large number of the allotments a few acres of ground have been broken, in order to prepare them for cultivation next year.

These Indians have, within the last two years, shown an increasing desire to improve their home comforts; being no longer content to sleep or to sit upon the floor, many of them have procured bedsteads, chairs, and tables. About one hundred bed-quilts have been made by the women; a large proportion of the tribe wear citizens' clothing, and they pay increasing attention to the clothing of their children.

There are two Mission Schools at this Agency, one of them supported and conducted by the Episcopalians, and the other by the American Board of Missions. These schools are attended by a large proportion of the children and youth of both sexes, many of whom have learned to read and write in the Dakota language, which is spoken by all the Sioux. Most of the Santee Sioux are members either of the Episcopal or of the Presbyterian Church; their worship is conducted in the Dakota language, and several of them officiate as ministers. In both schools the pupils are taught to read in English as well as in Dakota; but very few of them speak or write English. I concur with the Agents in thinking that an Industrial Boarding School would greatly benefit the tribe, by encouraging among them

the use of the English language, and instructing both sexes in the arts that minister to the subsistence and comfort of civilized communities.

Within the last two years a steam saw-mill, and a flouring mill operated by water-power, have been erected at this Agency.

The Winnebago Tribe of Indians, as reported by Agent Howard White, have, during the last year, increased in population, indicating an improvement in their moral and sanitary condition. They have been building houses on their allotments of land; eight miles of wire fence have been constructed, principally around lots cultivated by Indians, and four acres of the prairie sod have been broken this year on *each* of eighty allotments, making over one hundred Indian farms on which some breaking has been done. A large number of ploughs, wagons, sets of harness, and cooking-stoves have been purchased and distributed among the tribe. The men are improving in habits of industry, and many of them are employed in agricultural and mechanical labor.

In the summer of 1870 we found it expedient to depose all the Chiefs of this tribe, and to appoint others, who were working men and advocates of civilization. The change was sanctioned by a vote of the tribe, and at the end of a year a popular election was held for Chiefs, twelve in number, who each receive a small salary. The election was conducted in an orderly manner, and resulted in the selection of men who were mostly suitable for the position. This measure I consider decidedly beneficial, as it has a tendency to weaken the old tribal relations, with all its superstitious ideas and customs, and to prepare the people for self-government.

Some of the half-breed Winnebagoes have expressed a desire to become citizens of the United States; but a large majority of the tribe are fully conscious that they are not yet prepared for citizenship, and they prefer to remain as

wards of the Government until further advanced in civilization. To admit to citizenship a part, or the whole of the tribe, in their present condition, with the power to sell their lands to white settlers, would be disastrous to the Indians. Certificates from the U. S. Land Office, securing to them and their heirs the possession of their several allotments, have been promised, and will, doubtless, be furnished.

Agent White recommends that an Industrial Boarding School should be established for the tribe, and I heartily concur with him. They have ample means for its erection and support—they are desirous for its establishment, and they ask that a portion of their funds invested in Government securities may, by Act of Congress, be appropriated to this purpose and to other beneficial objects.

At this Agency three day-schools have been supported and well attended; First-day schools have also been kept, and meetings for divine worship occasionally held by Friends and others. The tribe now consists of 685 males and 715 females; total, 1,400.

The Omahas are a well-disposed and improving people, who bear a good character among their white neighbors. In the Third month last they received certificates for their allotments of land, securing to them and their heirs their several portions, without the power of sale or transfer to any except members of their own tribe, or to the United States. These certificates have given them a fresh assurance that they will not again be removed, and have proved a strong incentive to increased industry in the improvement of their farms.

They have by their own labor prepared a large supply of lumber for building on their farms; much of it they have hauled to the sites selected, and a number of comfortable cottages have been constructed by the carpenter and his Indian apprentices.

The Agent, Dr. Edward Pamter, is desirous of pushing forward the building of houses and the fencing of lots; but

a deficiency of funds cramps his endeavors. An excellent school-house, and a dwelling-house for teachers, have been built, chiefly by Indian labor, and a block-house, formerly used for a fort, has been converted into a school-house. There are now three schools in operation; a system of object-teaching has been successfully pursued, and the parents of the pupils take great interest in their education.

In these schools, as in all those under our care, the English language is exclusively taught. A First-day school has been kept at this Agency, and meetings for divine worship have been occasionally held.

The tribe numbers 479 males and 505 females; total, 984, being the same as last year.

The Pawnees are the largest tribe in the Northern Superintendency, and during the last year have increased in population. According to the last report of Agent Troth they numbered two thousand three hundred and sixty-four. They mostly live in earthen lodges grouped together in villages; but many of them have expressed a desire to open farms and build houses on the prairie, in a beautiful valley some miles distant from their present location. The execution of this design has only been prevented by the incursions of the Sioux, their hereditary enemies. During this year five of the Pawnees—three of them women and two young men—have been killed on the reservation by the Sioux.

It has been with me a cherished purpose to negotiate a treaty of peace between the Sioux and the Pawnees. The Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs encouraged my endeavors, and at one time there appeared to be a prospect of success. An overture for a negotiation was made, with the approbation of the Pawnee Chiefs, to Spotted Tail, the head Chief of the Brulé Sioux, who expressed a willingness to conclude a treaty, and to keep it inviolate; but subsequently he sent me word that his people declined to enter into such a treaty, because

their action would be without the consent of the whole Sioux Nation, and would be regarded as a declaration of war against those bands of Sioux who might not be parties to the treaty. The Sioux Nation consists of so many bands, mostly in a nomadic state, and scattered over a wide region, that I see no prospect of obtaining their general concurrence in such a treaty.

The protection of the Pawnees from marauding bands of Sioux will probably be effected by the settlement of white people around their reservation, which is now being rapidly accomplished.

It is known to most of the members of the Convention, that the four Pawnee prisoners confined nearly two years in Omaha jail on a charge of murder, were, in the Sixth month last, admitted to bail and suffered to go to their reservation. The Chiefs of their tribe became their sureties in the sum of five thousand dollars, and the Agent and myself in the sum of one thousand dollars. By a letter from my successor, Barclay White, I am informed that they have been discharged. He says: "It is with much satisfaction I inform thee, that at the request of the Prosecuting Attorney, Cowan, Judge Lake ordered the case of the State against Yellow Sun and others, stricken from the docket, and the prisoners released without bail, with the assurance that it would not again come up unless important additional evidence appeared, and if there was none it would probably be finally disposed of next term."

By the same letter I am informed that a satisfactory change has been made in the manner of distributing the annuity-goods to the Pawnees. The Chiefs of that tribe have, by treaty and ancient custom, the privilege of receiving and distributing them among the people. I found they did it very unfairly, keeping an undue proportion themselves and distributing most of the remainder among their friends or favorites, so that the poorer class received little or nothing. On application to the Department for authority

to distribute the goods to families in proportion to their numbers, I was informed that it could not be done without the consent of the Chiefs. They refused to give their consent, and another issue had to be made in the old way. But some months ago the Pawnee Council, which is composed of Chiefs and soldiers, passed a resolution requesting the Department to allow them salaries for their services, to be taken out of the annuity-money, which is fifteen thousand dollars. On transmitting their resolution to the acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I recommended that their request should be granted on condition that they would relinquish to the Superintendent the privilege of distributing the goods. This recommendation was approved, and the Chiefs in Council consented to the change.

Barclay White, the Superintendent, writes as follows: "I visited the Pawnee Agency last week and distributed the annuity-goods to the heads of families. At my first council with the Chiefs, I informed them of the amount of money and goods for them, and reminded them of their assent that the Superintendent should distribute the goods. Each Head Chief spoke in turn, and pointed out the difficulties I would experience if I attempted to do it. When they found I was firm, they entered their protest against it, and said they would hereafter have all money and no goods. I made no controversy with them on that point, as the treaty is clear that half their annuity shall be in goods. The distribution of money and goods were made together, and so systematized that it all occupied but one and a half days. The result was a success. We heard no complaint except from the Chiefs.

"We had estimated the amount of goods the sixty-six students in the Manual Labor School were entitled to, and proposed giving to the Principal of that school for them their share in blankets for their beds and calico, as soon as we had completed the other distribution. The Chiefs watched the proceedings closely, supposing the balance

would be turned over to them. When they ascertained the school-children were to receive most of it, they made some energetic speeches, but we still had left a blanket for each of the Head Chiefs, and three boxes of tobacco; the latter I gladly turned over to them for division, and we parted harmoniously. I since learn, through Agent Troth, that the Chiefs admit the distribution was fairly made.

“A little incident occurred in our first council that I will relate. After the decision was made concerning the distribution of goods, I inquired of the Chiefs in what proportion I should divide their \$3,000 among the interpreter, Chiefs, and soldiers. They proposed that I should divide it according to my own judgment, but thinking the goods distribution was sufficient responsibility for one day, it was declined. They retired to the interpreter's house for consultation. When we again met in the afternoon, the interpreter informed us the chiefs and soldiers had been about two hours making the division, using a peck of corn in the calculation; they had finally decided to give the interpreter \$360, to the 15 chiefs each \$80, and to 24 soldiers each \$60, and now wished to know if that division would foot up three thousand dollars. It required but a fraction of a minute to inform them of the result, when there was a simultaneous exclamation, Tah-wah-rax-tah! (wonderful), a practical lesson teaching the importance of school education.”

The wagons, harness, ploughs, mowing machines, and other agricultural implements issued to the Pawnees within two years past, are highly prized and successfully employed. Many of the men and some of the Chiefs have manifested a willingness to labor that is very encouraging. I hope they may soon be settled on farms allotted to them in severalty, which will be a great incentive to industry.

The Manual Labor Boarding School continues in successful operation, and is regarded by the tribe with increasing favor. It generally numbers about seventy pupils. The boys have been employed at intervals during the past summer,

under the supervision of a teacher, in cultivating a large garden which, notwithstanding the drought, has supplied an abundance of vegetables for the institution. The girls, in addition to their school studies, are employed in house-work, and when they attain a suitable age are generally sought in marriage in preference to those of their sisters who have not had the same advantages.

A commodious house for a day-school has been built and school opened in it very recently. There were about fifty pupils of both sexes in attendance, who were clothed in garments supplied by Friends. The parents manifested much interest in sending their children to school, but they came almost destitute of clothing.

The Government has not fulfilled its treaty obligations to this tribe in relation to the education of its children. By the fifth article of a treaty with the Pawnees, made in 1857, they are required to keep every one of their children between the ages of seven and eighteen years constantly at school for at least nine months in the year. This implies a correlative duty on the part of the Government to furnish schools for all the children; but there are not now and have never been schools sufficient for half the children of the tribe. In my annual report of this year I have brought this subject prominently forward. At the Manual Labor School a First-day school is kept, which is attended not only by the pupils, but by other Indians, and a meeting for divine worship is regularly held on the First day of the week.

The Otoe and Missouri Indians, now constituting one tribe, number 230 males and 220 females, total 450.

There has been in this tribe a very decided improvement since my first visit to the Agency in the year 1869. Then they were rapidly diminishing in numbers, now they are increasing; then they had no school and apparently no desire for improvement; now they have a flourishing school which they highly prize, and many of them are opening

farms, fencing lots, and building houses. They have cut for building purposes about one thousand saw logs this year. The annuity of this tribe is small, and the agent, A. L. Green, is cramped in his efforts to make the needed improvements by a deficiency of funds.

At this Agency a store has been established by Friends in Philadelphia, intended to supply the Indians with useful goods at low rates. A clerk is employed to conduct it and the profit charged is only sufficient to pay cost of goods and expenses, including six per cent. interest on the capital employed. It has proved a complete success, and given much satisfaction to the Indians.

The Iowa Indians, together with the Sacs and Foxes, are embraced in the Great Nemaha Agency under the care of Agent Thomas Lightfoot. The Iowas number 109 males and 106 females, total two hundred and fifteen, being a small increase since last year. They have during this year been extending their farming operations, improving their houses, and adding to their furniture. Most of them dress like white people, and the mothers pay increased attention to the washing and dressing of their children, especially those that attend school. The school kept by Mary B. Lightfoot is well attended, and the pupils make good progress. A sewing department has been added to the institution for Indian women and girls. An Industrial Home for orphans has been established, which now accommodates fourteen children and would be capable of receiving a greater number, if a larger fund could be had for its support.

At this Agency there is a store established by Friends in Philadelphia, similar to that kept at the Otoe Agency, and with the same beneficial results.

The Sacs and Foxes number eighty, being the same as reported last year. Agent Lightfoot reports that they have this year shown same disposition to labor on their lands. They receive the largest annuity, in proportion to their number, of any Indians in the Northern Superintendency;

but owing to intemperance and indolence, they have fewer of the comforts of life than any others.

They live six miles from the Agency, and have no teacher or other employee of the Government residing near them. The Government is bound by a treaty made with them in 1861 and promulgated in 1863, to build them a school-house and a dwelling-house for a teacher. I have in my annual report this year earnestly recommended the fulfilment of this obligation.

The vice of intemperance, so common and so destructive among many tribes of Indians, does not prevail to any considerable extent in the Northern Superintendency. In most of the tribes the chiefs use their influence to prevent the introduction of spirituous liquors, and the Agents punish by imprisonment or otherwise, those of the Indians who are found intoxicated or in possession of intoxicating drink.

At all the Agencies, pains have been taken by the Agents to promote the stability and purity of the marriage relation among the Indians. At the Santee Agency it has become a common practice to solemnize their marriages at the meeting-houses with religious rites. At the Omaha and Pawnee Agencies several Indian marriages have been solemnized nearly in the manner of Friends; the parties promising to be faithful till separated by death, and signing a certificate in the presence of witnesses.

Although I believe the standard of morality has been advanced among them, there is still a great deficiency in this respect, which demands our Christian care.

Three of the tribes in the Northern Superintendency, namely: the Omahas, the Pawnees, and the Otoes, continue to hunt the buffalo and generally go twice in the year to their hunting grounds, situated south of the Platte in the western part of Nebraska and Kansas. In these excursions the hunters take with them their women and children. They live sumptuously on buffalo meat and bring home from their winter hunt as much meat and as many robes as

their ponies can carry. The summer hunt is for the purpose of procuring meat for subsistence and skins for moc-casins and other purposes.

These hunts are not favorable to Indian civilization, but cannot well be discontinued until those tribes become possessed of flocks and herds from which a supply of meat may be obtained. Their most thoughtful men are well aware that the time is not distant when the white man will occupy their hunting grounds and the chase will have to be relinquished forever.

The Winnebagoes and the Santee Sioux have abandoned the chase as a means of subsistence and are supplied by the Government with beef and flour, which are paid for out of the tribal funds. I deem it very desirable that this practice shall cease as soon as those tribes are settled on their farms and supplied with a sufficiency of live stock to render them self-sustaining.

To settle the Indians on their farms, to assist them in building houses, to break the prairie sod, to fence their fields, to furnish them with live stock and implements of agriculture, and to establish Industrial and other schools, will require a large amount of funds.

In my Annual Reports for 1869 and 1870, I recommended that some portions of certain reservations, which contain more land than the Indians need, should with their consent be sold at their fair market value, and the proceeds applied to the proposed improvements. With this view, the Omahas, who have 205,000 acres, have petitioned the President to sell 50,000 acres; the Otoes and Missouriias, who have 160,000 acres, have expressed a desire to sell about 80,000 acres; and the Pawnees, who have 288,000 acres, would sell about 50,000 acres. During the last session of Congress the President of the United States, at the request of a committee of Friends, sent a message to the Senate and House of Representatives, submitting the draught of a Bill intended to effect the object desired. It did not pass, owing,

as was believed, to its being of too wide a scope and applicable to Indian lands in general. I have, in my report of this year, recommended that a special Bill, describing the lands to be offered for sale in the Northern Superintendency, be submitted to Congress at its next session, authorizing the President to appoint Commissioners to effect the sale.

During the last two years very liberal donations of clothing, sanitary supplies, and money have been made by members of the Six Yearly Meetings in connection with us. Nearly all the school-children in the Northern Superintendency, except those at the Santee Agency, have been clothed in this way; many garments for the aged and infirm have been furnished, and suitable food for the sick has been supplied. The children in the Mission Schools, at the Santee Agency, have been mostly clothed by contributions from members of their respective churches.

Having been engaged during two years and four months in the Indian service, I deem it appropriate to give the result of my observations and reflections on Indian civilization. It is well-known that in all cases of advancement from savage to civilized life the progress has been slow, and that the transition has usually occupied several generations. It may, however, be accelerated by bringing the subjects to be acted on into familiar intercourse with enlightened and pious persons interested in their welfare.

The peculiar adaptation of women for this work has been too much overlooked in the efforts that have been made to civilize the Indians. The Indian women are generally less enlightened than the men, and are exceedingly shy and timid in their intercourse with white people. They love their children, but through ignorance, are not able to train them properly, or to nurse them successfully in time of sickness; hence, many of them die from improper diet or unskilful nursing, and those that survive receive from their mothers superstitious notions that are difficult to eradicate. It is found by experience that an enlightened and good

woman who will go among the Indian women and manifest an interest in them and their children, can soon gain their confidence. She may then instruct them in the proper care of their children, and in other household duties, and she will often find opportunities of imparting religious knowledge, which, being associated with deeds of love, will make a lasting impression.

I would, therefore, recommend that in the selection of Agents and employees, those should be preferred who have wives or daughters adapted to the service and thoroughly interested in it. They should be willing to visit the Indians in their dwellings, especially in times of sickness, and should instruct them in the proper treatment of their children, thus leading them by example and precept to appreciate the beauty and excellency of Christian principles.

We have found that many of the Indian men may be induced to perform agricultural labors formerly imposed on the women; and that many of the women readily learn to attend to household duties. Our chief reliance, however, is on the education of the young, who by proper training may be moulded in the habits of civilized life. The Indian children show an aptitude for learning and are very amiable, scarcely ever quarrelling among themselves.

There should be on every reservation a sufficient number of day-schools for all the children between the ages of six and twelve years. They should be taught to speak, read, and write the English language, and should then be transferred to an Industrial Boarding School, of which there should be one or more on each reservation. In these schools they should be instructed in useful learning, and the boys taught farming, gardening, or the mechanic arts, while the girls should learn housekeeping and sewing. By these means a tribe may be civilized and taught the English language in a single generation.

While this system of education is in progress, allotments of land in severalty should be assigned to every family, ag

ricultural implements, live stock, and seeds should be furnished them, and they should be assisted in building cottages.

Religious instruction adapted to their condition should be given them and illustrated by examples of practical righteousness.

In this manner I feel assured that the just and humane policy of President Grant may be successfully carried into practice, and the Indians not only saved from extinction, but prepared to perform the duties and enjoy the privileges of American citizens.

SAML. M. JANNEY.

The Delegates from the several Yearly Meetings have reported the following amount of funds, and the estimated value of Clothing and Supplies, sent to the Agents for the Indians under their care during the years 1869 and 1870.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Philadelphia Yearly Meeting..... | \$9,729 | 10 |
| New York do. do. | 4,467 | 98 |
| Baltimore do. do. | 2,025 | 00 |
| Indiana do. do. | 3,589 | 31 |
| Ohio do. do. | 432 | 60 |
| Genesee, N. Y., Yearly Meeting..... | 796 | 00 |
| | <u>\$21,039</u> | <u>99</u> |

WM. H. MACY, *Secretary.*

NEW YORK, 11th Month, 29th, 1871.



