

chiefs and principal men of the tribe are fully aware of the evil of intemperance, and have, during the past year, undertaken, apparently in earnest, to apply a remedy. At their request a jail has been built for the punishment of offenders, and the better to enforce the laws, which they have enacted for suppression of vice, for the punishment of crimes, and for the protection of their lives and property. The tone of public sentiment in this tribe is now as correct as is found in almost any community; and less ardent spirit is annually consumed by these Indians than is consumed by any community of an equal population of whites in this Territory.

The Winnebagoes have enjoyed better health than during any previous year since their residence on this reserve; they have nevertheless suffered considerably from chronic diseases, scrofula, and consumption. A severe hail storm in the early part of August injured the crop on some of our farms; with this exception we have had tolerable success in our farming operations. One hundred and fifteen acres of prairie have been broken this season; four hundred acres have been cultivated by employees; of this two hundred and ten acres were in wheat, forty-nine in oats, thirty-three in corn, twelve in potatoes; and the balance in beans, buckwheat, ruta baga, turnips, and garden vegetables. The wheat crop is estimated at four thousand nine hundred and seventy-five bushels, and will be ground by the mill owned by the tribe and issued to them.

The Indians have cultivated some six hundred acres, after the land was ploughed for them, and have raised a good crop. A considerable share of the labor on the farms has been done by Indians, who have been hired by the month and by the day; also, to do some work by the job.

About one thousand rods of fence have been put up; two hundred and eighty tons of hay has been made for the subsistence of the stock in charge of the department; and the Indians being furnished with the necessary tools have made hay to winter their horses. We have made two hundred thousand bricks of excellent quality. Chimneys and ovens are now being made as a substitute for, and in lieu of, stoves. The saw mill has been kept in operation, and we have on hand material for building. A sewing school was put in operation in November last, and a manual labor school for boys was commenced in the month of May; forty girls and fifty boys have attended said schools; the average daily attendance of the boys thirty-five, and of the girls thirty; average age of the girls twelve years, and of the boys ten years.

The boys have cultivated a garden of three and a half acres, built some two hundred rods of fence, dug a well, and made hay to winter a team. The girls have made three hundred and eighty-six garments for themselves and the boys attending the school; also made some seven hundred and thirty bags, which were filled with flour and issued to the Indians; and considerable sewing has been done for the boarding-house. A portion of time each day has been devoted to instruction in reading, spelling, and writing. This reservation contains a much larger amount of land than is needed by the tribe for agricultural purposes; their interest would be consulted by having a

Annul Rep. Comm. Ind. Affairs to Sec. of Interior, 1857

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The reserves of the Sacs and Foxes, Delawares and Pottawatomies of Kansas, and of the Ottos and Missourias, and Omahas of Nebraska Territory, are unnecessarily large; I therefore suggest that treaties be negotiated with each of these tribes for the purchase of the superfluous territory, and that each tribe be restricted to a reserve not exceeding fifteen miles square; also, that the reserves, after having been sectionized, be assigned to families of the respective tribes for their exclusive occupancy; but patents should in no instance be issued to any of these Indians. If these negotiations be deferred the white population will seize upon all these lands, and the Indians, driven from their homes, will soon be reduced to the condition of vagabonds.

In consequence of an error in a certain official map of Kansas Territory, many persons have settled upon the lands of the Kansas tribe. These Indians are now almost entirely excluded from their reserve; this subject should occupy the attention of the department at an early period.

The twenty-three sections known as the half-breed Kansas lands have been subjected to many adverse claims; the rights of these parties under the treaty ought to be referred to the proper authorities for adjudication. In addition to the great value of the soil, this tract contains large quantities of timber, which is being rapidly destroyed in violation of law and the reiterated notices from your office.

The annual average decrease of all the tribes of this central superintendency, including those of the prairie and frontier, exceeds, it is supposed, five per cent.; at this rate they must soon pass away. Justice, policy and humanity require the intervention of the government to prevent still greater suffering.

There are many schools established within this superintendency, some of which are productive of beneficial influences, others are worthless and ought to be abolished. The employment of mechanics within the several agencies, so far from being beneficial, is, in my opinion, injurious to the tribes, and I would recommend that the system be entirely abandoned.

A growing spirit of insubordination is everywhere manifested among the wild tribes of the prairies. To subdue and control this spirit a cordial co-operation among the various civil and military agents of the government is indispensable, and this can only be effected by restoring to the War Department the control of the Indian service.

Many thousand Indians in the region of the upper Missouri and Yellow-stone have fallen victims to the small pox during the last and present year. Reckless men will continue to spread this terrible disease in that region until the law provides adequate punishment for their inhuman conduct, or until a general system of revaccination be ordered by the department.

By the provisions of the treaty of the Judith, liberal arrangements are made for the advancement of the Blackfeet nation in education and other useful employments; no portion of that fund has yet been expended; I would therefore recommend that contracts be made with suitable persons to carry into effect the provisions of that treaty.

An admirable institution for the education of the Indians on the

No. 55.

FORT BENTON, *August 20, 1857.*

SIR: In conformity with the regulations of the Indian department, I have the honor of submitting my annual report, showing the affairs and condition of the four different bands of the Blackfeet nation, as far as the limited time and means of informing myself will enable me. I forward it at this early day by Major A. Culbertson, who is on the eve of leaving, having tarried but a few days after our arrival, as the only opportunity which will present itself for it to reach you in time to meet the requirements of the department.

Captain John Shaw, commander of the steamer *Twilight*, having obtained the contract for transporting the Indian annuities to the different points about the Missouri, I left St. Louis on the 30th May, in company with Colonel Redfield, agent for the eight different bands of Sioux, the Arickarees, Mandans, Gros Ventres, Assinaboines, and Crows, all of which tribes and bands were waiting with anxiety the arrival of the steamer at the different points where they had formerly received their annuity and presents, save the Assinaboines and Crows. A large portion of the former arrived at Fort Union, and the balance were expected there, when I was compelled to start by land for Fort Benton. I saw little or no signs of dissatisfaction among the various band and tribes, but apparent satisfaction.

The Crows I have no doubt would have met their agent at Fort Union at the time appointed but for their unfortunately taking that terrible scourge the small-pox at Fort Union, when I delivered them their annuity presents the past year, killing a large number of their people. It was confined to the five upper tribes on the upper Missouri agency—the Crows, Assinaboines, Arickarees, Gros Ventres and Mandans. The aggregate number that fell victims to the disease is estimated at two thousand; the Assinaboines, from what I could learn, lost twelve hundred.

Of the four different bands of Blackfeet under my charge, known as the Gros Ventres of the Prairie, Piegans, Bloods and Blackfeet, I most reluctantly state that time and opportunity will not enable me to place you in possession of but little information pertaining to this agency.

In journeying from Fort Union by land to this point, I fell in with the entire village of the Gros Ventres. They were comfortably located, with a plenty of buffalo and various kinds of wild fruits. They were peaceable, contented and happy, and I am rejoiced to state that I learned from the lips of the principal men that they had listened to their Great Father's talk, and not a murder or depredation had been committed by any of their people since they signed the treaty and had the big talk at the Judith. They intended for the future to listen to the words of their Great Father, for they found the road was good he had marked out for them to travel. I found them truly kind and hospitable. Two of their principal men presented me with a fine horse each, saying, "Father, accept of them as a token of regard. You have travelled far to see us; you as well as your horse must be



On the 30th we arrived at the village of Arrickarees. These people, as you know, reside in fixed habitations—earth-covered huts or lodges. The village is pleasantly situated on the left bank of the river. By invitation, I visited the lodge of "Black Bear," the principal chief, and found assembled there all the principal men of the nation. The lodge was large enough to seat easily more than a hundred men. We had a smoke, a feast of buffalo (not dog) meat, and a long, very interesting and satisfactory talk. A white man by the name of La Brune, in the employ of one of the fur companies, was shot and killed in May last by an Indian of this nation. The guilty Indian was present, confessed the act and gave his reasons. It seems that he lost all his family last winter by the small-pox, (which destroyed a large portion of these people,) and he slew the white man because the disease was brought into the country by the white people; and because, as is asserted, a certain half breed Pawnee, in the employ of the other fur company, told him, and made him believe, the disease was brought in the country by the whites on purpose to destroy the Indians, or, at least, that the whites were greatly in fault for bringing it into the country and permitting it to spread among the Indians. Believing this, the poor, ignorant, superstitious savage felt it his duty to sacrifice one white man to atone for the death of his whole family.

I told him and the chiefs that the act was wrong, and the reasons given for it entirely unsatisfactory, and that I should report the case to the government for such action as might be thought proper.

They also confessed that they had killed one Sioux for attempting to steal their horses. They expressed much satisfaction that they had just effected a friendly settlement of their difficulties with the Gros Ventres. "Four Bears," the chief of the Gros Ventres, was present, and joined them in expressing their thanks for the ratification of peace between them. He and his young wife were their honored guests, and received some very respectable presents from the Rees. These people also spoke well, and gave good promise of peace and tranquillity. I delivered them their presents, for which they were very thankful, and wished me to call and see them again when I came down the river, which I promised to do.

The same day, about six miles above, we passed the old village of the Mandans. There were but five or six of the dirt lodges occupied, the rest being deserted, as the larger part of the Mandans have gone up to Fort Berthold, and put themselves under the protection of the Gros Ventres. In the afternoon we passed the winter lodges of the Arrickarees, on the right bank of the river, in a fine grove of cotton-wood, well sheltered from the winds by high bluffs, which surrounded the grove completely, except near the river.

On the 1st of July we beheld the high, beautifully situated villages of the Gros Ventres and Mandans, on the right bank of the river. The boat being detained here all day by wind, a good opportunity was afforded me to become acquainted and talk with these poor, unfortunate, but interesting people.

I held formal councils in separate lodges with these nations, for their languages are entirely different. They also, like the Arrickarees, live in permanent habitations, and all of them cultivate corn, and

vines, and vegetables, to a considerable extent. With proper assistance and instruction, I believe they, as well as the Yanctons and the Arrickarees, might, in a few years, be brought into a state of comparative comfort and plenty, and much advanced in the arts of civilization. The Arrickarees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans, however, must not only be assisted and instructed by the government, but they must also be effectually protected against the continual attacks and depredations of the roving, predatory bands of Sioux and Assinaboines, by whom they are surrounded, or they will soon be destroyed.

These three distinct nations do not now number over fifteen hundred or two thousand souls in all. That terrible scourge, the small-pox, during the year past, it is confidently believed, swept off full one-fourth of their number. These people all expose the dead bodies wrapped in clothes, or blankets and skins, and placed upon scaffolds some six or eight feet above the ground. I visited their place for the dead, very near to the village, and a more disagreeable sight I never beheld; the scaffolds soon decay and fall down.

The Mandans only a few years since numbered five hundred lodges; they cannot now count over thirty or forty. They wish to join the Gros Ventres for protection, but fear they might thereby lose their separate annuity. I told them there was no danger of that, as long as they preserved a distinct organization. They are peaceful and friendly, and they most piteously implored protection. Their complaints of the murders and robberies committed on them by the Sioux were really most affecting. I think the best speaker, and most sensible man I have found among the Indians, was "Bat-sa-a-ra-han-secha," or "Long Hair," the orator of the Gros Ventres. He is a fine looking, large man, about fifty years of age. I am indebted to Captain John Frost, of St. Louis, who was present at the council, for a very correct synopsis of his speech. Much of it, from my best recollection, is given verbatim; and as it presents an accurate view of the condition and feelings of these people, I transmit herewith a correct copy thereof.

At evening, having completed all my business with these people and delivered their presents, which they much needed, and for which they were really thankful, we moved up the river.

On the 4th of July we met a large band, the Canoe band, of Assinaboines, on the right bank of the river, and about sixty or seventy miles by land below Fort Union.

Their principal chief is Broken-Arm, a man some fifty years old, and having considerable influence with the nation. I directed them to proceed as fast as they could, with their dog teams to Fort William to receive their presents; which they agreed to do.

This night a most unusual and exciting incident occurred. It was about midnight; I was sitting up with a sick person, when the boat ran into an immense herd of Buffalo, which were swimming across the river. Until the boat could be stopped we could plainly feel the wheels strike against them; on going out we found the boat entirely surrounded by the poor, frightened creatures, struggling and panting in the strong current of the river. Many of them in their

confusion must have become exhausted and drowned. The moon was shining brightly; it was a scene worth a journey of two thousand miles to behold; it was, however, painful to know that many of them must have perished. Such an incident has probably never before occurred, and it must not be supposed from this that buffalo are very abundant.

On Sunday evening, the 5th of July, we at last arrived at Fort William, at the mouth of the Yellow-stone river, some twenty-two hundred miles, by the River Missouri, from St. Louis, having occupied thirty-five days in the passage. Our boat proved an excellent one, and was most ably conducted, but it was heavy loaded, and we were once forced to take off a large part of the cargo to get over a bad sand-bar, and we were often hindered and delayed the greater part of the way up by sand-bars and the extreme crookedness of the channel. Nevertheless, the time occupied was not much greater than usual, and not by any means an unreasonable time in which to overcome two thousand miles of the strong and swift current of the mighty Missouri.

On the 6th, the chiefs and head men of the band of some seventy lodges of Crows, encamped near here under the lead of Be-sit-se-sash, or Horse Guard, called on me. They had been waiting near here some days and desired their portion of the presents. I could not break the bales and boxes and make a proportional delivery to so small a part of the nation, unless I could reasonably expect that at least a majority of the nation would be in this summer or fall, but of which I was confidently assured by Mr. Robert Meldrum, who has spent twenty or thirty years with the Crows, and by others, that there was not the least chance or prospect. I, therefore, informed the chiefs of this band that all I could do for them at that time was to give them some provisions, groceries, powder, balls, tobacco and clothes. I gave them a liberal amount of these articles and took their receipt for the same. They were well satisfied, and agreed to try and get the remainder of the nation here during the season.

All the remainder of the Crow annuity I stowed securely with Frost & Company at Fort William, taking the receipts of the company therefor.

During the time I have remained at this post, I have made every effort in my power to get the Crows here, but am satisfied it is impossible, at least this season.

The nation is very widely dispersed, it is not known where some of the bands are, and it is known that a large part are even over the mountains. This unusual dispersion of the Crows has been caused by their terror of the small-pox, which spread among some of the lower bands to a considerable extent and caused many deaths. But for this unfortunate circumstance, it is thought the Crows could have been collected here to receive their presents. I should state, however, that they strongly insist that they have by the terms of the treaty, as they understand it, a right to have their presents delivered to them in their own country. As I have not been able to find a copy of the treaty of Fort Laramie, of 1851, I cannot decide how much, if any, weight there may be in this claim. They also state, I suppose

truly, that they cannot come here without incurring a considerable risk from the Sioux and the Blackfeet, and I believe also the Gros Ventres of the Prairie.

I found the Assinaboines nearly as much scattered as the Crows, in small parties and bands, hundreds of miles apart, and on both sides of the river. These people doubtless suffered more from the small-pox in the last year than any other nation. From the best calculations that can be made, more than one-fourth have perished. Many whole lodges or families have died. At Forts Union and William, I am told, fully one hundred and fifty were buried. At one place, thirty miles below this post, I am informed, thirty lodges are now left standing, the owners having all died or fled, and forever abandoned the lodges and the dead within and around them. It was not till the 18th of July, that I could get any of the bands of the Assinaboines to the fort. "The Gosha band," the "Rock band," and seven lodges from the "North band," seventy-nine lodges in all, appeared. The greater part of these were on the opposite side of the river, and could not be induced to bring their lodges over. They intend to remain on that side and camp with some of the lower bands of Crows.

On the 30th, two hundred and ninety-eight lodges of the "Canoe" and "Girls" bands came in; and on the 1st of August, forty lodges of the "North band" arrived. By those best acquainted with this nation, it was thought there are not more than thirty or forty lodges more of the nation. If this is correct, there are now about four hundred and fifty lodges only of this nation left. The lodges cannot average over eight persons each. This would make the entire nation thirty-seven hundred. They are all very poor, and appear dejected and discouraged. They have but a few poor horses, and part of these were stolen while here by Sioux or Crees. Their entire dependence for the transportation of their lodges and scanty effects is upon their dog-teams. I am bound to say, they seem to me the poorest and most miserable looking Indians I have seen. The custom of burying valuable articles with the dead, after so great mortality as they have recently suffered, has perhaps caused much of their present destitution. They are also greatly depredated upon by the Sioux and other nations, but it must be admitted that, according to their ability, they are not slow to depredate back again. I delivered the government presents to these bands at three different times, and as they came in, it being impossible for them to remain long for the want of food. I talked with them a great deal, heard all they had to say, and gave them such advice as I deemed appropriate; urging upon them the policy as well as the duty of a strict observance by them of the treaty. They had taken some half-breed children and some horses from the trading-posts here, which they readily returned at my request. All of them promised good behavior, and professed much friendship; and yet immediately after leaving here, and only a few miles from the fort, they chanced to meet two or three Gros Ventres of the Prairie, who were probably coming to the fort, fired on them, and killed one woman, scalped her, and most brutally cut her in pieces. The other Indians escaped, it is said, but nothing has been heard of them since. This

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portion of the nation engaged in drying corn, and the male in putting up hay, and making preparations for winter, in the way of building houses and providing for their stock. They are putting up large quantities of hay, which, with their corn fodder, will enable them to winter their stock in a better condition than they ever have done. I would here state that the stock and farming implements that have been purchased for the Kickapoo Indians have been distributed, and are held by individuals of the nation who have made locations separate and apart from the balance, and have commenced cultivating the soil and farming upon their own responsibility. I have advised and recommended, in all my councils, the advantages they would receive by making separate locations, and making permanent improvements. By so doing they would be enabled to collect around them many conveniences, which will add much to their domestic happiness. I find it has a great tendency to create a spirit of enterprise, and each tries to excel the other in producing and making improvements, raising stock, &c. I think there is nothing that can be of greater importance and benefit to the Indian than to place something in his hands that is valuable, and that can ensue to his benefit, and daily let him realize something that increases in value, and shows him his accountability.

There has been a disposition manifested, on the part of the chiefs and headmen of the Kickapoo nation, to suppress the use of intoxicating drinks among their people the past year that is truly commendable.

The health of the Kickapoos had been remarkably good until the 7th of July, when the small-pox broke out among them, which caused great alarm, and many fled and left their fields and wigwams. I took all precautionary measures, as far as possible, to prevent the disease from spreading, and to confine it to the locations where it first made its appearance, by requiring those that had been exposed to remain where they were, and quit their roving for a season, or until the dreadful disease had abated; and, I am happy to say, that the chiefs and headmen of the nation rendered me all the assistance that lay in their power to accomplish the object.

After meeting them in council for the object expressed above, I repaired to St. Joseph, Missouri, and employed Dr. Knight, the health officer of the city, who had been vaccinating the citizens of St. Joseph, and who had the vaccine matter of the purest kind, to repair at once to the Kickapoo reserve, and, in company with Dr. Campbell, commenced the labor of vaccinating, and continued from day to day, until all the Kickapoos and a band of Pottawatomies, with but few exceptions, were vaccinated. Some few refused to be vaccinated, and would depend upon the Great Spirit to protect them from the dreadful disease, who have since taken the disease and died. Twenty-four deaths in all have occurred from the disease.

The health of the nation is now very good, the small-pox having very nearly or quite disappeared; and those that had left on account of the sickness have pretty much all returned, and are now attending to their domestic concerns. The Pottawatomies living upon the Kickapoo reserve number some two hundred and fifty souls, and de-



pend solely upon their own resources for living, having received no annuity for several years, owing to some misapprehension, occasioned by an article of agreement or national compact made by and between D. D. Mitchell, superintendent of Indian affairs, and the representatives of the Keotuc band of Pottawatomies and a portion of the chiefs and headmen of the Kickapoo nation, copies of which I forwarded to your office immediately after closing the council in February last.

This band has been making considerable improvement the past year in the way of making fields and building houses, and their crops look well; which, if they were at home upon their own land, together with their annuity, would enable them to subsist comfortably during the winter. But they have committed depredations the past year, which they would not have done had they been able to provide themselves with the proper necessaries to subsist upon. They have also made many encroachments upon the Kickapoo timber, which should not be permitted; and when appealed to to desist from further depredations, their answer invariably is, "Father, we have no other way to procure anything to satisfy hunger." I would recommend that some immediate steps be taken in their behalf, and have them removed at once to their own land, where they can enjoy the full benefits of their treaty.

The school under the charge of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has been under the supervision of W. W. Howell, as missionary and general superintendent, until in May, when Walter Lowrie, esq., secretary and agent of the board, arrived at the mission and dissolved all connexion existing between said board of missions and W. W. Howell, since which time the school has been under the special supervision of E. M. Hubbard, teacher. The whole number of scholars at any one time has been twenty-two, but the average has not been more than eight or nine. It is a subject of extreme regret that so many of the Indians are so averse to sending their children to this or any other school; they know they are well fed and clothed and cared for, and yet they prefer having them with themselves and raise them in idleness, half naked, with scarcely anything to subsist upon. They think and believe, that if they become educated and learn to be industrious and frugal farmers and housekeepers, they will be lost to themselves and their nation. I can account for this only by their own degraded condition and ignorance. I shall endeavor to get as many as possible to send their children to school and fit them for the great change that awaits them.

All of which is most respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

R. BALDWIN,

*Indian Agent.*

JOHN HAVERTY, Esq.,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri.*

The Chippewas of Swan Creek and Black River numbered, at the last annual payment, forty-two, (42); 11 men, 11 women, and 20 children. They are all farmers, and live in tolerably good log houses. Their land is between that of the Sacs and Foxes and Ottowas; having thirteen sections of land, which is tolerably good for farming purposes, and well adapted for grazing. Were it equally divided among them, they would have one hundred and ninety-eight (198) acres each. This tribe complains, and I think justly, of their neighbors, the Sacs and Foxes, for stealing what few hogs they raise; they say they would raise more stock but for this. They have an annuity in money of three hundred (\$300) dollars per annum, with some trust money at interest, which accrued to them from the sale of some lands left by them in the State of Michigan. This has been a very dry season, there having been but little rain; notwithstanding, I think the Ottowas and Chippewas will raise a sufficiency for a support during the coming year. They have plenty of fine wild grass in the bottoms upon the Osage river, which they are having made into hay for the purpose of wintering their stock during the coming winter.

Health has been good within the limits of this agency, with the exception of a few cases of measles, which proved fatal to a few children of the Sac and Fox Indians.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. A. JAMES,  
*Indian Agent.*

Colonel A. CUMMING,  
*Superintendent of Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri.*

No. 80.

KANSAS AGENCY, *September 26, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my annual report of 1857:

The Kansas having made but little advancement in civilization during the past year, I have therefore but little to report concerning progress. Since their country has been taken from them, and occupied by the whites, the cultivation of the soil has been on a much smaller scale than heretofore, and even this has been carried on by a few individuals only, who availed themselves of the precious privilege granted them by their kind friends, the "intruders," to cultivate the ground which they had been accustomed to do heretofore; and some of these Indians then only to be deprived of the privilege of reaping the fruits of their own labor.

As the Territory of Kansas becomes populated, drunkenness and other vices become more prevalent. Their treatment has been unlike that of some tribes that were located at an early day in juxtaposition to the white settlements of Missouri, where provisions, farming utensils, and the general necessaries of life, could be easily obtained, and where laws were provided and regularly enforced to prohibit the sale