

STATISTICS, ETC., OF THE INDIAN TRIBES.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 649.]

FEBRUARY 9, 1847.

Mr. JACOB THOMPSON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Albert Gallatin, Wm. C. Bouck, John Tracy, and others, of New York, asking an appropriation to obtain the statistics of the Indian tribes, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report :*

The committee most cheerfully approve of the objects proposed to be attained in the memorial ; and at the last session of Congress they directed the chairman to move an amendment to the regular Indian appropriation bill, requiring the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to collect the statistics of the different tribes, and appropriating ten thousand dollars to enable him to effect this purpose. This amendment received the approbation of the House of Representatives ; but it was stricken out in the Senate, and a provision was substituted requiring the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to collect this information by means of the present organization of the department. Appended to this report is a letter of the Commissioner, which gives an account of the progress already made, which it is believed will prove highly interesting to the benevolent and intelligent ; and also an estimate of the amount which will be required to collect the information called for, in a more full, authentic, and satisfactory manner : and an amendment is reported in the bill to amend the act to regulate trade and intercourse among the Indian tribes, appropriating the amount he requires.

It is a source of regret that we have so little authentic information of the resources and customs of the Indians—their past history and future prospects ; and the committee hope there will be no hesitancy on the part of Congress in furnishing the means of correcting this omission.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.*

The memorial of the undersigned, citizens of the United States, respectfully represents :

That the undersigned view with regret the imperfect and fragmentary character of our present knowledge of the Indian race. It is believed, that

by a proper application of the means and opportunities in the possession of the government, acting through the Indian department, a vast body of valuable facts and materials could be collected together, not only to history and ethnology, but important, and indeed necessary, to enable government to perform its high and sacred duties of protection and guardianship over the weak and still savage race placed by Providence under its care.

The undersigned therefore respectfully pray your honorable body to direct the Indian bureau, through its existing organization of officers, and such other aids as its means may make available for the purpose, to collect and digest such statistics and materials as may illustrate the history, the present condition, and the future prospects of the Indian tribes in the United States. And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

John Tracy  
Charles H Ruggles  
John Romeyn Brodhead  
Theodore Sedgwick  
Charles A. Lee, M. D.  
George Folsom  
Theodore Dwight  
Albert Gallatin  
Wm. C. Bouck  
John L. Stephens  
Robert H. Morris  
Alexander F. Vaché  
C. C. Cambreleng  
C. P. White  
R. P. Marvin

John W. Brown  
James Tallmadge  
Charles P. Kirkland  
Henry Nicoll  
A. L. Jordan  
W. G. Angel  
Abel Huntington  
Henry R. Schoolcraft  
Henry C. Murphy  
D. R. Floyd Jones  
John Hunter  
G. Kemble  
L. Stetson  
John R. Bartlett.

Mr. Schoolcraft, in adding his name to the above petition, and thus concurring in the general object thereof, begs leave to express the opinion that the end prayed for must depend essentially upon the character and amount of "such other aids" as Congress may grant, to enable the Indian department, in its existing organization, to act efficiently in the premises. This department is already burdened with duties, and it would be idle to expect it should seek to extend them without the specific directions of Congress. There is no want of "the application of its means and opportunities" *now*. But to collect a "body of valuable facts and materials," bearing on "history and ethnology," and so to shape them as "to enable the government to perform its high and sacred duties of protection and guardianship over the weak and still savage race placed by Providence under its care," is not a *slight*, and cannot be made a *casual*, labor. To attain so important an object, there should be a deliberate and clear expression of purpose and provision of means. The department is confined to the execution of duties imposed by laws or treaties, for which specific sums are appropriated. Even its contingent funds are strictly applicable to carry out these expressed objects, and none others; and the petitioners could not expect that the officers of the department would order a new species of inquiry, unless Congress should clearly denote its wishes, and at the same time provide in all respects for the object. Twenty-five years of congressional scrutiny have both absorbed unlimited Executive power, and rendered the

annual appropriations strictly specific. If the object prayed for is, as the petitioners state, important, it should be provided for independently, but not suffered to rely for its success upon the chance of its not conflicting with *other* duties and *other* funds. The officers of this department are appointed generally from the mass of citizens on the frontiers, to execute certain plain and expressed duties, and are not expected to enter into such researches. Their aid could be relied on, to a certain extent, with a small additional sum in each case to meet contingencies strictly arising from this duty. But, with every co-operation of this nature, there is a depth and purpose in the expressed views of the petitioners which could not be realized, in my opinion, unless the head of the bureau were authorized to employ, for the time being, a competent person, to devote himself exclusively to the inquiry, to visit the agents, superintend their labors hereint, and take in hand the generic parts of the work, and report the results to government, in a complete form. For this, Congress should specifically provide.

NEW YORK, November 30, 1846.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Office Indian Affairs, February 1, 1847.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, accompanied by a memorial of the Hon. Albert Gallatin, Wm. C. Bouck, John Tracy, and others, that this office be required "to collect and digest such statistics and materials as may illustrate the history, the present condition, and the future prospects of the Indian tribes of the United States." You state that the Committee on Indian Affairs also desire to be informed what has been done under the law of the last session of Congress, requiring a census and statistics to be taken and collected, by the different agents and sub-agents, of the Indians among whom they respectively reside; "what it is in the power of the department to effect, without additional means, and what sum will be necessary to collect the information called for in the memorial." The law referred to by you was approved June 27th, 1846; and subsequently, on the 7th of August, the Senate adopted a resolution requiring the Secretary of War "to avail himself of such means as may be afforded by the organization of the Indian department to collect all such information as may be practicable respecting the condition, habits, and progress of the Indian tribes of the United States, and to lay the same from time to time, as may be convenient, before the Senate." The law of 27th June last fixes no time within which the duties imposed upon the agents and sub-agents should be performed; but, desirous of making a report under it at the present session of Congress, the department, as promptly as possible, adopted a form as required by the law, prescribing the manner in which the census should be taken, and the points upon which statistics should be collected. It is regretted, that in consequence of the limited time, and of the agents being occupied with other important duties which could not be deferred, returns have not been received in relation to some of the tribes, such as the Cherokees, the Choctaws, and Chickasaws, whose advancement in civilization, and whose present condition and resources, probably render them objects of greater interest than almost any other of the tribes. The returns, as far as received, are embodied in the accompanying tabular statement and appended notes. From the limited time and the hurried manner in

which they had necessarily to be taken, they are probably not as accurate as could be desired, and are not therefore in any great degree to be relied upon. They are believed to be sufficiently so, however, to demonstrate one important fact,—that the tribes having the least means or income, in the form of annuities, under their own control and direction, and who are necessarily compelled to rely upon their own exertions and prudence for the necessities and comforts of life, are by far the most enterprising, industrious, moral, and upright. Such tribes need only the establishment among them of manual-labor schools—the most efficient means yet discovered for the improvement of the Indian race—and some temporary aid in their agricultural and mechanical operations, until they could begin practically to reap the benefit of such schools, to make the most gratifying progress in acquiring the resources and habits of civilized life.

A census and statistics of the kind directed to be taken under the law of the last session, which are confined to the present condition, means, and resources of the different tribes, is of comparatively little interest or value for any practical purposes. Both the memorial and the resolution of the Senate contemplate something more: they require the collection of such materials as will illustrate their past history; explain their former, and account for their present condition; and afford some indication of their probable prospects in the future. In the opinion of this office, a well digested and arranged body of information, if it afforded nothing more than a correct view of the nature of the relations heretofore and now existing between the different tribes and the government, of the policy which has been pursued towards them, and its tendency and results, would be of considerable general interest, and of much value in the management of their affairs, and of our relations with them hereafter. We could thus see how far the tendency and practical effects of the policy of the government towards them has been, and is, beneficial or otherwise, and what changes or modifications, if any, should be made in it, in order more effectually to secure their present and future welfare and happiness.

In procuring information to this extent, other materials, such as those contemplated by the memorial, could, it is believed, at the same time be procured with not much additional labor and expense; which would show the origin of the different tribes; their numbers and condition at different periods; their peculiar manners, habits and customs, superstitions, religious belief, rites and ceremonies; the character and structure of their languages; and such other particulars as would illustrate their past and present condition and history, on all the points of any material interest or consequence.

With the means now possessed by the department, it would not be able in a satisfactory manner to procure and arrange more detailed and comprehensive materials than those contained in the accompanying statement. To collect and digest such as are desired by the memorialists would probably require a period of two years, and an outlay, to meet the expense incident thereto, of about five thousand dollars per annum, for which an appropriation would have to be made by Congress.

The memorial is herewith returned.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. MEDILL.

HON. JACOB THOMPSON,

*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,*

*House of Representatives.*

*Census and statistics of the several Indian tribes, taken and collected by the agents and sub-agents, in conformity with a provision in the first section of the act making appropriations for the service of the Indian Department, approved June 27, 1846.*

Tribes.	Where located.	Number of males about and over 18 years of age.	Number of females about and over 16 years of age.	Number of males under 18 years of age.	Number of females under 16 years of age.	Total number of Indians.	Engaged in trade.	Capital invested.	Engaged in the mechanic arts.
Christian Indians		24	39	19	24	106			
Delawares		250	359	269	254	1,132			
Kickapoos		158	134	83	95	475			
Shawnees		270	283	207	171	931			
Stockbridges		19	19	12	8	58			
Sacs and Foxes		782	805	401	455	2,443			
Sioux						9,139			
Ottowas, Chippewas, and Pottawatomies		675	637	466	465	2,243			
Pottawatomies		324	426	567	413	1,750	4		
Ottowas		63	53	83	81	280	2		
Chippewas		8	9	7	7	31			
Peorias		15	14	16	10	55			
Piankeshaws		23	27	25	24	99	1		
Weas		35	41	44	31	151			
Wyandots		147	132	144	130	553	7	\$8,000	7
Menomones						2,500			
Oneidas						720			
Stockbridges						280			
Seminoles		700	850	900	800	3,250			
Ottowas		870	798	828	1,069	3,565			
Chippewas		814	774	783	885	3,256	3	2,000	2
Pottawatomies		87	76	63	122	378			
Miamies		122	117	197	119	555	1	8,000	
Senecas, on Alleghany reservation		158	154	182	179	673			
Senecas, on Cattaraugus reservation		84	95	93	88	360			
Tuscaroras		69	67	58	83	275			
Iowas		246	259	109	92	706			



*Census and statistics of the several Indian tribes—Continued.*

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Tribes.	Where located.	White persons engaged in the mechanic arts, supported by government, for their benefit.	Indians engaged in the mechanic arts, supported by government, for their benefit.	Supported by themselves, for the general benefit.	Engaged on their own individual account.	Carpenters.	Wheelwrights.	Blacksmiths.	Shoemakers.	Tailors.	Subsist by agriculture.
Christian Indians	Fort Leavenworth agency, north and south of Kansas river	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	106
Delawares											1,132
Kickapoos											475
Shawnees											931
Stockbridges	Sac and Fox agency, on Osage river	4	—	—	4	4	—	2	2	—	58
Sacs and Foxes											2,443
Sioux											—
Ottowas, Chippewas, & Pottawatomies											—
Pottawatomies	St. Peter's agency, on St. Peter's river	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1,600
Ottowas											250
Chippewas											31
Peorias											55
Piankeshaws	Council Bluffs sub-agency, on Missouri river	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
Weas											100
Wyandots											500
Menomonies											300
Oneidas	Osage River sub-agency, on Osage river	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	720
Stockbridges											280
Seminoles											3,250
Ottowas											—
Chippewas	Green Bay sub-agency, Wisconsin Territory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	897
Pottawatomies											—
Miamies											—
Senecas, on Alleghany reservation											—
Senecas, on Cattaraugus reservation	Michigan superintendency, Michigan	13	2	—	—	3	—	11	—	—	673
Tuscaroras											347
Iqwas											274
											706
	Osage River sub-agency, south of the Osage river	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
											—
											—
											—
	New York sub-agency, New York	—	—	—	20	10	—	2	4	4	—
											—
											—
											—
	Great Nemaha sub-agency, on Great Nemaha river	2	—	—	9	2	1	4	—	2	—
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*Census and statistics of the several Indian tribes—Continued.*

Tribes.	Where located.	Agricultural assistants, furnished them by government.	Subsist by hunting.	Acres of land in culti- vation.	Product of wheat, in bushels.	Product of corn, in bushels.	Product of rye, in bushels.	Product of oats, in bushels.	Product of potatoes, in bushels.
Christian Indians									
Delawares				118	10	2,360		60	188
Kickapoos	Fort Leavenworth agency, north and south of			1,381	1,043	27,620		2,215	2,766
Shawnees	Kansas river			635		12,700		1,180	1,718
Stockbridges				2,366	1,620	34,380		8,449	4,324
Sacs and Foxes	Sac and Fox agency, on Osage river		2,443	171		4,700		180	354
Sioux	St. Peter's agency, on St. Peter's river			35		700			
Ottowas, Chippewas, & Pottawatomies	Council Bluffs sub-agency, on Missouri river								
Pottawatomies					370	16,720		750	220
Ottowas						4,260			260
Chippewas	Osage River sub-agency, on Osage river					330			180
Peorias						1,050		180	
Piankeshaws						1,181		260	
Weas						2,087			320
Wyandots	Wyandot sub-agency, on Kansas river			885	150	23,400		287	663
Menomonies			2,200	150		500		200	1,000
Oneidas	Green Bay sub-agency, Wisconsin Territory			2,800	2,000	3,000		2,500	2,500
Stockbridges				1,000	400	1,000			
Seminoles	Seminole sub-agency, north of the Canadian river			1,000		25,000			
Ottowas									
Chippewas	Michigan superintendency, Michigan	21	6,302	3,175		15,346			24,996
Pottawatomies	Osage river sub-agency, south of the Osage river								
Miamies									
Senecas, on Alleghany reservation				1,868	417	11,000	230	11,892	13,509
Senecas, on Cattaraugus reservation	New York sub-agency, New York			1,863	1,856	8,170	15	7,850	4,000
Tuscaroras				2,134	2,245	3,555		2,028	1,385
Iowas	Great Nemaha sub-agency, on Great Nemaha river	1	706			5,000			100

*Census and statistics of the several Indian tribes—Continued.*

Tribes.	Where located.	Product of beans, in bushels.	Product of melons, in number, all kinds.	Pounds of butter.	Estimated value of their agricultural and horticultural products.	Horses.	Mules.	Work oxen.
Christian Indians	Fort Leavenworth agency, north and south of Kansas river	83	5,194	1,801	\$900	23	-	18
Delawares		620	89,860	10,470	10,286	1,353	12	153
Kickapoos		176	23,900	137	4,112	652	10	60
Shawnees		468	79,848	10,812	14,287	1,030	2	366
Stockbridges		80	10,535	830	1,489	45	-	14
Sacs and Foxes	Sac and Fox agency, on Osage river	40	-	-	303	2,947	27	-
Sioux		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ottowas, Chippewas, and Pottawatomies	St. Peter's agency, on St. Peter's river	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	-
Pottawatomies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ottowas	Council Bluffs sub-agency, on Missouri river	540	11,620	163	3,350	720	5	28
Chippewas		204	9,076	-	1,350	216	-	6
Peorias		40	1,180	-	180	32	-	-
Piankeshaws		150	4,750	26	331	88	-	6
Weas		212	6,572	-	500	92	-	-
Wyandots	Wyandot sub-agency, on Kansas river	127	5,200	-	585	242	-	8
Menomonies		154	40,000	944	6,747	308	-	66
Oneidas	Green Bay sub-agency, Wisconsin Territory	50	-	-	1,000	-	-	4
Stockbridges		200	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seminoles	Seminole sub-agency, north of the Canadian river	-	-	-	8,000	805	-	-
Ottowas	Michigan superintendency, Michigan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chippewas		483	101,246	850	-	876	-	24
Pottawatomies	Osage River sub-agency, south of the Osage river	-	-	-	-	220	-	-
Miamies		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senecas, on Alleghany reservation	New York sub-agency, New York	512	7,793	8,381	13,298	112	2	127
Senecas, on Cattaraugus reservation		339	8,760	3,833	10,458	151	-	94
Tuscaroras		100	1,400	4,992	6,074	123	20	40
Iowas		70	31,000	-	1,400	300	-	-



*Census and statistics of the several Indian tribes—Continued.*

Tribes.	Where located.	Milch cows.	Other neat cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.	Estimated value of agricultural implements.	Value of the product of their hunts annually.	Amount of their annuities.
Christian Indians	-	35	47	-	101	\$310	-	\$400
Delawares	-	419	619	117	1,257	3,675	-	6,500
Kickapoos	Fort Leavenworth agency, north and south of Kansas river	183	162	-	690	1,845	-	5,000
Shawnees		492	696	61	2,498	4,460	-	6,000
Stockbridges		30	46	-	94	160	-	70
Sacs and Foxes	Sac and Fox agency, on Osage river	-	-	-	-	750	\$4,500	81,000
Sioux	St. Peter's agency, on St. Peter's river	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ottowas, Chippewas, and Pottawatomies	Council Bluffs sub-agency, on Missouri river	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,912
Pottawatomies	Osage River sub-agency, on Osage river	85	285	-	392	1,500	1,750	33,300
Ottowas		61	149	-	291	500	800	2,600
Chippewas		6	12	-	8	50	250	300
Peorias		16	46	-	31	200	150	-
Piankeshaws		27	30	-	21	250	260	800
Weas	Wyandot sub-agency, on Kansas river	31	52	-	131	300	370	3,000
Wyandots		159	269	20	1,443	4,400	-	17,500
Menomones		-	-	-	-	800	20,000	24,000
Oneidas	Green Bay sub-agency, Wisconsin Territory	80	-	-	-	-	800	1,150
Stockbridges		-	-	-	-	-	-	280
Seminoles	Seminole sub-agency, north of the Canadian river	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	6,000
Ottowas	Michigan superintendency, Michigan	76	163	-	756	1,000	-	67,593
Chippewas		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pottawatomies	Osage river sub-agency, south of the Osage river	70	150	-	-	-	-	62,418
Miamies		142	232	70	670	3,640	-	3,715
Senecas, on Alleghany reservation	New York sub-agency, New York	132	216	479	638	5,311	-	-
Senecas, on Cattaraugus reservation		56	78	144	437	3,398	-	-
Tuscaroras	Great Nemaha sub-agency, on Great Nemaha river	-	-	-	-	300	-	-
Iowas		-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Census and statistics of the several Indian tribes—Continued.*

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Tribes.	Where located.	Amount of annuities per capita.	Amount of annuities paid in money.	Amount of annuities paid in goods.	Tobacco furnished them by government annually.	Salt furnished them by government annually.	Iron and steel furnished them by government annually.
Christian Indians		\$3 72	\$400				
Delawares		5 74	6,500	-	-	\$100	\$320
Kickapoos	Fort Leavenworth agency, north and south of Kansas river	10 52	5,000	-	-		
Shawnees		6 44	6,000	-	-	60	220
Stockbridges		1 20	70	-	-		
Sacs and Foxes	Sac and Fox agency, on Osage river	38 37	81,000	-	\$600	200	660
Sioux	St. Peter's agency, on St. Peter's river						
Ottawas, Chippewas, & Pottawatomies	Council Bluffs sub agency, on Missouri river						
Pottawatomies		1 19	33,300	-	2,000 lbs.	160 bush.	1,850 lbs.
Ottawas		9 00	2,600				
Chippewas	Osage River sub-agency, on Osage river	9 50	300				
Peorias							
Piankeshaws		8 00	800				
Weas		20 00	3,000				
Wyandots	Wyandot sub-agency, on Kansas river	20 00	17,500	-			\$220
Menomonies		10 00	20,000	-	2,000 lbs.	30 bbls.	440
Oneidas	Green Bay sub agency, Wisconsin Territory	-	11,500				
Stockbridges		1 00	280				
Seminoles	Seminole sub-agency, north of the Canadian river	2 00	3,000	\$3,000			
Ottawas							
Chippewas	Michigan superintendency, Michigan	9 53	67,593	-	7,176 lbs.	100 bbls.	1,040
Pottawatomies							
Miamies	Osage river sub-agency, south of the Osage river	72 56	-	-	1,000 lbs.	160 bush.	220
Senecas, on Alleghany reservation		5 00	3,715	571			
Senecas, on Cattaraugus reservation	New York sub-agency, New York	5 50	-	937			
Tuscaroras		-	-	251			
Iowas							
	Great Nemaha sub agency, on Great Nemaha river						

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*Census and statistics of the several Indian tribes—Continued.*

Tribes.	Where located.	Schools.	Teachers.	Male scholars.	Female scholars.	Churches.	Male professors of religion.	Female professors of religion.
Christian Indians	Fort Leavenworth agency, north and south of Kansas river	1	1	19	13	1	13	27
Delawares		1	1	30	39		36	35
Kikapoos		3	4	43	42	1	33	37
Shawnees		1	1	6	8	2	91	84
Stockbridges	Sac and Fox agency, on Osage river					1	9	16
Sacs and Foxes								
Sioux								
Ottawas, Chippewas, and Pottawatomies								
Pottawatomies	St. Peter's agency, on St. Peter's river	3	6	68	72	3	540	610
Ottawas						1	120	130
Chippewas								
Peorias								
Plankeshaws	Council Bluffs sub agency, on Missouri river							
Weas								
Wyandots		1	2	8	7	1	49	57
Menomonies		2	2	40	30	1	98	100
Oneidas	Green Bay sub-agency, Wisconsin Territory	1	2	20	18	1	56	44
Stockbridges		2	2	35	40	2		
Seminoles		2	2	50	60	1		
Ottawas								
Chippewas	Seminole sub-agency, north of the Canadian river							
Pottawatomies								
Miamies								
Senecas, on Alleghany reservation								
Senecas, on Cattaraugus reservation	Michigan superintendency, Michigan	12	16	228	254	10	295	367
Tuscaroras								
Iowas								
	Osage River sub-agency, south of the Osage river	4	4	70	75	2	27	34
		6	6	124	90	2	36	49
		1	1	21	31	1	22	44
		1	2	2	6	1		1
	New York sub-agency, New York							
	Great Nemaha sub-agency, on Great Nemaha river							

*Census and statistics of the several Indian tribes—Continued.*

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Tribes,	Where located.	Sabbath schools.	Male scholars.	Female scholars.	Proportion that still adhere to their national or ancient religion.	Temperance societies.	Members of temperance societies.	Licensed traders.
Christian Indians								
Delawares	Fort Leavenworth agency, north and south of Kansas river	1	7	9				
Kickapoos		3	103	91				
Shawnees		1	25	27				
Stockbridges					2,443			4
Sacs and Foxes								
Sioux	Sac and Fox agency, on Osage river							
Ottawas, Chippewas, and Pottawatomies	St. Peter's agency, on St. Peter's river							
Pottawatomies	Council Bluffs sub-agency, on Missouri river							
Ottawas	Osage River sub-agency, on Osage river				250			5
Chippewas								1
Peorias								
Piankeshaws								
Weas								1
Wyandots	Wyandot sub-agency, on Kansas river					1	110	
Menomonies	Green Bay sub agency, Wisconsin Territory							
Oneidas		1				1	90	3
Stockbridges		1	50	50		1		1
Seminoles	Seminole sub-agency, north of the Canadian river							
Ottawas	Michigan superintendency, Michigan							
Chippewas		10	221	245		12	1,514	
Pottawatomies								
Miamies	Osage River sub-agency, south of the Osage river							
Senecas, on Alleghany reservation	New York sub-agency, New York	2	15	20	9-10	1	70	
Senecas, on Cattaraugus reservation		2	30	33		2	4	
Tuscaroras						1	153	
Iowas	Great Nemaha sub-agency, on Great Nemaha river	1	2	6	705			1

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## APPENDIX.

*Notes of agent R. W. Cummins, in regard to the Christian Indians.*

Their agricultural implements consist of hoes, axes, and plough-gear. I am clearly of opinion, that it would be very beneficial to these people to increase their agricultural implements; they greatly need about 15 yoke of oxen, 27 ploughs, 30 axes, 30 hoes, 16 pairs plough-gear, and 15 log chains.

The Christian Indians came here poor, and are still poor; the most of them occasionally hire to work for the white people, particularly in time of harvest, as they are good hands in the harvest field. All, or nearly all of them, are temperate. I think none of them ever use ardent spirits. They have the character of a moral, upright, and good people. It certainly would be a very fortunate circumstance for them to receive some assistance in the way of agricultural implements; sure I am, that hardly any thing could be given them that they need more.

*Notes of the same agent, in regard to the Delawares.*

Their agricultural implements consist of wagons, ploughs, hoes, axes, froes, iron wedges, plough gear, &c. It would, I have no doubt, be beneficial to the Delawares to increase the number of their agricultural implements; they need about 200 ploughs, 500 hoes, 250 axes, 200 pairs of plough-gear, 12 cross-cut saws, 50 handsaws, 50 drawing-knives, 200 augers, 200 chisels, and 1,000 gimlets. There is a provision in the supplementary article to the Delaware treaty of the 3d of October, 1818, in the following words: "and to supply them with all necessary farming utensils and tools necessary for building houses," &c. I do not consider that this provision has ever been complied with; a large appropriation was made by Congress to carry it into effect, a very small amount of which was used for that purpose, for the reason that the Delawares were not at that time an agricultural people; and I thought it would be a foolish expenditure of money to lay it out for agricultural implements they would not use, but trade them off for whatever they could get for them. The whole nation subsist entirely by agricultural pursuits. The Delawares are a sprightly, active, enterprising people; it is frequently said they go everywhere; they go to Texas, Santa Fe, Oregon, California, and all through the Stony mountains. When they leave home it is generally for a hunt; they seldom of late years return with any thing.

The worst evil I think the Delawares, and I may add all other Indian tribes in this country, have to contend with, at times, is the intemperate use they make of spirituous liquors. It is only a finable offence under the present laws to sell them spirituous liquors. I think, if the law went a little further and made the penalty imprisonment, in addition to the fine, that much good would result from it. There are very few of those fellows who vend spirituous liquors to the Indians that care for a fine; they have nothing, and consequently nothing can be collected from them.

*Notes of the same agent, in regard to the Kickapoos.*

Their agricultural implements consist of a few old wagons, ploughs, plough-gear, hoes, and axes. The Kickapoos certainly stand in need of agricultural implements. Those they have had I think they have taken good care of, and used them profitably; they need about 20 wagons, 90 ploughs, 85 pairs of plough-gear, 125 hoes, 20 log-chains, and 25 yoke of oxen. I think it best that these people receive their annuities in money. The Kickapoos are a lively, fearless, independent, persevering people. I think they use less spirituous liquors than any other people in this country, except the Stockbridges and Kanzas.

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*Notes of the same agent, in regard to the Shawnees.*

Their agricultural implements consist of wagons, carts, ploughs, hoes, axes, and plough-gear. The Shawnees never have had as many agricultural implements as they absolutely needed; they are an industrious people, and would engage in agriculture to a much larger extent than they do at present, if they had wagons and teams to haul rails to enlarge their farms, and other farming utensils to cultivate them. They need about 30 wagons, 125 ploughs, 230 axes, 450 hoes, and 75 log-chains.

I feel sure that it is best for the Shawnees and Delawares to receive their annuities in money, particularly the Shawnees; it enables them to purchase agricultural implements. I consider a large portion of the Shawnees temperate; many do not touch spirituous liquors at all; they are also an enterprising, industrious people, many of them highminded and honorable.

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*Notes of the same agent, in regard to the Stockbridges.*

Their church regulations forbid the use of ardent spirits. Their agricultural implements consist chiefly of ploughs, plough-gear, hoes, axes, iron wedges, froes, drawing knives, augers, chisels, a few handsaws, one cross-cut saw, and a few wagons, but more sleds and truck-wheel wagons, (no iron about them,) made by themselves for the want of means to purchase wagons. It certainly would be very beneficial to these people to increase the number of the agricultural implements. The Stockbridges, I believe, are most all temperate; very few of them ever touch spirituous liquors. I consider them an honest, upright, and truthful people. As a proof of this, I will state that they came here poor, by water, without a horse, cow, wagon, or plough, and with but a very few tools of any description. They bought some on credit, pledging themselves to pay for them when they received their money from the sale of their lands in Wisconsin; for these tools they had to pay a high price. They all went to work as soon as they could get any thing to work with; with hardly an exception they have built comfortable hewn-log cabins, and have made farms of various sizes, and fenced them in with rails, well made; straight fences, rails



nicely made, and laid up. Upon their farms they raise plenty to subsist on; indeed, although poor, there are but few Indians in this country that live as comfortable as they do. They are industrious—take good care of every thing they have; and I will add, I do not believe that agricultural implements could be given to any of the red people that need them more. Only a part of their money for the sale of their lands was sent here; by the time it came, they were indebted for nearly the whole amount of it, and they paid it out as soon as they received it—many of them the last dollar they had.

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*Notes of agent John Beach, in regard to the Sacs and Foxes.*

The means of subsistence which the Sacs and Foxes derive jointly from hunting and agriculture are very small, which arise in a great degree from the large annuities now received by them from the government; whence they have become more indolent and less addicted to hunting than formerly. In addition, their lands now afford but little game. Their annuities will in a few years be much reduced, and the necessity of their becoming cultivators must appear irresistible.

From the fact that the Sacs and Foxes only commenced their settlement here at a late period of the present season, the amount of their crop falls far short of what is usually raised by them. In 1845 the estimated quantity of corn raised was 1,500 bushels, beans 130 bushels; melons in large quantities are invariably planted, but never permitted to arrive at maturity, mostly through the instrumentality of the younger portion.

The agricultural implements mostly used by these Indians are hoes and ploughs of the ordinary kind. Their hoes are made by the smiths employed by the government among them, yet a thousand were purchased by me last spring.

There is an ample fund now on hand from which to supply them with any additional implements, should an increase of them appear necessary by another season. Probably a few ploughs will be needed, with harness, two or three wagons, and some work oxen. But in their present state, labor requiring employment of oxen and wagons could more beneficially be performed by contract, or hiring, than by supplying the Indians with such articles.

Their hunt since their removal to this country has been confined to the buffalo, which, probably, with a few deer, will continue to be their chief game. When in Iowa, in addition to the buffalo, muskrat, beaver, otter, and racoon, with deer, were usually found. The buffalo hunt of last summer, valuable only for the meat obtained, would not, at the value of beef, exceed \$1,500.

I have stated their annuities to be paid in money, but it should be remarked that two principal chiefs have annually \$500 each set apart for them, which is expended for such articles as they may need; and a retained fund of \$30,000 is kept, out of which articles are furnished for interring the dead, and for any purposes of general utility or charity which may demand its expenditure. Said fund being at each payment made up to its full amount, the balance only is really paid in money to the Indians.

During the past year, also a portion (\$7,683 19) of their annuity has been expended for provisions.

I deem it a question open to much discussion, whether or not it would be better for the Sacs and Foxes to receive their annuity in money, or in goods. Their goods pass at the whiskey shops for almost or quite as acceptable a currency as money; in fact, I am not sure if the venders of whiskey do not derive a more lucrative traffic when bartering for goods, as the Indian has a better idea of the worth of his money. Some years since, I expressed, in a communication to the department, my conviction that the welfare of the Indians could never be consulted but by a complete isolation of them from all white persons, except such as treaty or necessity requires (in which I would include all benevolent designs) the President of the United States to send among them. My opinions have not changed; but I believe that under the operation of such a system, besides their every real want being abundantly supplied, there would be a surplus of their means which they would willingly apply, under the advice of judicious friends, at least to efforts for their enlightenment and improvement. But this would involve a complete and radical disruption of present systems, and a wise divergence from a long beaten track, upon the practicability of which it may more properly devolve on others to decide.

At the only time at which I know of goods having been offered to these Indians, (in September, 1837,) the goods manifestly were not of as good quality, nor at as reasonable prices, as usually furnished by traders; nor had they been selected with a correct view to a proper adaptation to the wants of the Indians.

The Sacs and Foxes have made no advancement in learning, having hitherto resisted every effort, and rejected every invitation, for the establishment of schools or missions among them. But that this is the consequence of any inherent prejudice, or that it is based upon a fixed principle of their own, I deem more than questionable. Whenever they are called upon for a reply in such cases, it is invariably adverse. I look upon them as mere automata, governed by others, with whom motives of self-interest, for the time, predominate over the better principle which may naturally exist.

There are four trading companies resident among the Sacs and Foxes, employing a capital of about \$25,000, and from twenty-five to thirty persons with stocks of goods now upon their shelves to the value of \$50,000.

The Sacs and Foxes are lamentably intemperate, and usually, at every returning period of annual payment find themselves stripped of every thing not of indispensable necessity, wherewith the previous year had supplied them, which has been squandered in the gratification of their increasing and insatiable thirst for whiskey. In regard to uprightness and integrity, I have invariably claimed for them a high rank. Perhaps a strong partiality and attachment may have sometimes led me to portray a too highly colored picture, yet I cannot think so; and the fidelity with which in general they have conformed to their last treaty, besides comparing favorably with the conduct, under like circumstances, of other tribes, will, I trust, sustain the character ascribed to them.

Laws and regulations to suppress the traffic in liquor, even within the Indian country, it would seem, must partake more of an arbitrary charac-

ter than those now existing, in order to be effective ; and should also involve with their infraction penalties of the severest character. A mere pecuniary fine offers but little terror to one possessing nothing from which it could be collected, to which class most of those who introduce liquor to the Indian country belong. The penalty of imprisonment would seem more certain. Again : a general power to search all boats, wagons, &c., passing into the country, should be allowed to the officers. If it seem vexatious, most of those who would fall within its exercise (chiefly persons having no legitimate business in the country) are the very ones who are usually obnoxious, and could relieve themselves from it by remaining at home. But perhaps it is within the limits of the border States where this traffic is carried on most extensively and iniquitously ; and, in view of the constant evasion of the local laws, as well as of the difficulty of obtaining conviction, even upon detection, the entire prohibition and exclusion of the Indians from the settlements by law of the United States would prove most effective. The State laws forbid the Indian ingress to its borders ; but let the general government render the execution of such a restriction imperative upon the agent, and arm him with due power of enforcement, and much good might result.

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*Note of agent A. J. Bruce, in regard to the Sioux.*

These bands and tribes of Sioux are all included in the St. Peter's agency, of which only the Mendawakantons (2,141) draw annuities.

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*Notes of sub-agent R. B. Mitchell, in regard to the united band of Chippewas, Ottowas, and Pottawatomes.*

They took up the idea that government wished to tax their property, and they utterly refused to give me information necessary to base a satisfactory report upon. They have about 1,500 horses in the nation, a small number of hogs and cattle—say from four to five hundred. Perhaps there is one-half of the nation who subsist principally by agriculture and their annuities. The remaining half of the nation subsist by hunting and raising small patches of corn. There are two blacksmith shops supported by the government, and furnished with iron and steel, &c. They render ample service by furnishing them with traps, guns, knives, fire-steels, and such other articles as are necessary for their hunting excursions and farming operations. They have a grist and saw mill, and a miller, furnished by government ; he also renders them service in manufacturing their corn into meal, and by furnishing them lumber. For the last six months the mill has yielded a tolerable profit to the nation.

There are two half-breeds engaged as assistant blacksmiths ; but I fear their continuance will do but little, if any good. They have but few agricultural implements, and they of a very inferior character. I would recommend an increase of their agricultural implements when they remove to their new homes ; and if I remain with them, I will then give a statement of the number required, and the kind that would be most useful. The products of their hunts are principally deer,

muskrat, otter, beaver, coon, and wolf skins; the value I am unable to give, but it generally supplies them through the summer with food and necessary articles of clothing. This nation received an annuity of \$40,912 50, one-third of which, at least, is wasted with the whiskey sellers at or near the line of the State of Missouri. Some more effectual law should be passed to prevent the introduction of whiskey near the lines. I am of opinion that if the government would make a judicious selection of goods to the amount of at least one-half of their annuities, it would add much to the prosperity and happiness of the nation. Bacon and breadstuffs are always much needed here through the months of June, July, and August. If the government could advance them a portion of their annuities, at that season of the year, in breadstuffs and bacon, it would be much better for them than at any other season.

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*Notes of sub-agent A. J. Vaughan, in regard to the Pottawatomies, Ottawas, Chippewas, Peorias, Piankeshaws, and Weas.*

The Indians engaged in trade are persons with small means, buying and selling provisions principally. The amount of capital invested, it is impossible to ascertain. Very few are regularly engaged in the mechanic arts, although some of them are good rough carpenters, stone masons, can fabricate household furniture for their own use, such as tables, stools, and most of them are capable of raising and finishing off their log-cabins; bedsteads, &c.; are handy with tools. Some are tolerable tailors; making their own blanket coats, or capes. Shoes are not much in vogue, buckskin moccasins having the preference.

The bulk of the corn raised by these people is of the small kind, called squaw corn; which they convert, while the grain is still soft, into sweet corn, by parboiling, then sun-drying, which they use as their general food—for hominy, soups, &c. The value of the agricultural products is estimated at the market price of the State of Missouri—that is, the border settlements—and not at the value the Indians themselves attach to such property, which is generally very exorbitant.

The agricultural implements in use amongst these people are such as those used by the small farmers of State settlements, viz: ploughs and plough-gear, hoes, axes, ox wagons, scythes, cradles, &c. Certainly it would be desirable to increase their stock of ploughs, (one-horse ploughs, to be worked by their ponies,) grass scythes, fan-mills, &c. As these Indians evince a very laudable desire to improve themselves in farming, an increase of their agricultural implements would no doubt lead to a good result. Amongst those under my charge, and to the industrious only, should be distributed at least 30 wagons and carts, 100 horse-ploughs and gears, 100 grass scythes, 5 fan-mills, 1,000 hoes, axes, &c.

The product of their hunts vary materially, according to the season: in mild winters the furs are not so good, nor so plenty, as in cold ones. They consist in racoon, deer, muskrat, otter, wolf, mink, &c. These Indians do not hunt the buffalo: their hunts generally take place (not so much with a view to profit, as to a desire for change) after their farming operations have terminated for the year, and the produce of their fields housed and secured.

The Indians under my charge do not receive any part of their annuities in goods. It is all paid in specie, pursuant to their treaty stipulations. But experience has taught me that the system should be changed entirely in relation to the manner that trade and intercourse are carried on with them. Could a change be brought about, by which they could receive their annuities in goods, provisions, &c., they certainly would derive much greater benefit. The kind, quantity, and description of goods used by them could be furnished by the government 50 per cent. cheaper than they are enabled to procure them under the present system. It is a notorious fact, that not more than one individual family in fifty have one dollar in hand 24 hours after they receive their annuity, having paid it out to their traders, at an exorbitant high price, and for many articles entirely valueless. It is well known to those who are acquainted with the Indian character that it is their nature, whenever an article strikes their fancy they will have it, cost what it may. They are an improvident race of the human family; they never look beyond the present. Another very important consideration why a general change should be made in the trade and intercourse with the Indians is, that there are so many conflicting interests that it keeps the traders and the Indians in a constant state of excitement. I am satisfied from experience that but few whites should be suffered to remain in the Indian country: they put bad ideas and notions in the heads of the Indians, which they are eager at all times to catch at; consequently produces dissatisfaction and restlessness, that cannot be quieted. I feel satisfied, should the change be effected as suggested above, that strong objections would be urged against it, (not by the aborigines,) and no pains or exertions would be spared to impress upon their minds the ruinous consequences that would result from it; but one twelve-months' operation would satisfy them that it would be greatly to their interest and convenience.

The Pottawatomies only receive tobacco, salt, iron, and steel, by virtue of their treaties: half of the iron and steel they throw into the government smith shops. Nothing is furnished to the other bands.

The schools of the Pottawatomies are conducted by the missionaries of the Catholic and Baptist churches. The Wea school is likewise under the direction of the Baptist church. The children of parents attached to the Methodist Episcopal church are generally sent to the Shawnee mission manual-labor school. The scholars taught in the schools here (in this sub-agency) go through the rudiments of an English education, and some are proficient in reading, spelling, writing, and figures; the females, moreover, are taught sewing, knitting, tailoring, and the domestic arts.

The principal church among the Pottawatomies is the Catholic, to which persuasion are attached most of the Peorias and some Ottowas. The other churches are the Baptist and Methodist, among the other portion of Pottawatomies, Ottowas, Chippewas, Piankeshaws, and Weas. Those who still adhere to their ancient rites are a small band of Pottawatomies, who, although surrounded by so many good people, still cling to their old religion, if the last term may with propriety be used. The general character of these Indians for integrity and uprightness is without reproach; those attached to the churches are temperate. There are no temperance societies. The adherents of the old customs will drink liquor during their religious medicine dances, but they are by no means sots or



habitual drunkards. They will drink and have their frolics and dances three or four times a year; at other periods, they are as peaceable and as manageable as the others. The traffic in liquor is carried on by persons residing within the State of Missouri, immediately on the line. They are out of the control of the agent or sub-agent; they are generally known as whiskey-sellers; their names are familiar to all. The law of the State of Missouri seems to be a dead letter as regards these whiskey-sellers, for they carry on their nefarious trade with impunity. In order to punish such men, the Indians should be permitted to give evidence; an attorney should be appointed by the Indian department to advise with and render assistance to the agent or sub-agent, and to conduct suits, which ought to go before the United States district court.

The appointment of an attorney, to be consulted in reference to Indian matters, and living within a reasonable distance of the Indian territory, would be of great service to the cause of humanity.

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*Notes of sub-agent R. Hewitt, in regard to the Wyandots.*

Herewith I forward you the statistical information, together with a census of the Wyandot nation of Indians, under my charge, as directed by the circular of September 1, 1846. The procuring of this information has been attended with some difficulty and labor. Notwithstanding, I believe the facts set forth are generally correct.

You will discover that the Wyandots depend upon the cultivation of the soil for their subsistence. Correct their intemperate habits, and they are at once a happy and prosperous people. Much has been said and written upon this subject. My own opinion is, that the Indians will drink as long as there are white men found to furnish them the liquor; it would seem that they cannot control their propensity for whiskey. They will exchange their last-mouthful of bread for it, and we have men among us who are mean enough to take advantage of their uncontrollable appetite.

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*Notes of sub-agent Albert G. Ellis, in regard to the Menomonies.*

These Indians are strictly honest; they are intemperate, but civilization will reclaim them. The farming band, which is increasing, is evidence of this, there being comparatively less intemperance among them than the balance of the tribe. There is not a necessity so much for further legislation to suppress the traffic in liquor, as for the means of enforcing the laws already existing.

This report is necessarily, from the brief time allowed, very imperfect. At the coming annuity payment, opportunity will be sought to perfect it.

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*Notes of the same sub-agent, in regard to the Oneidas.*

These Indians are all farmers, and live almost exclusively by cultivating the soil. They have cleared their farms from the heavy timber; they are



well fenced—have on them some 100 houses, log and frame, and 75 or 80 barns. A good proportion of the tribe are sober; a large portion still adhere to intemperance. No liquor is sold on the reserve; they obtain it at the dram-shops in Green Bay.

They have not a proper sense of the importance of learning the English language. Until they have, they must remain comparatively in a state of ignorance, and be the prey of designing white men.

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*Notes of the same sub-agent, in regard to the Stockbridges.*

This tribe is civilized; speak and write the English language. Three years ago an act of Congress passed admitting them citizens of the United States; but a part of the tribe availed themselves fully of this law. At the late session of Congress the law was repealed. About half the tribe still maintain that they are, and will ever remain, citizens of the United States.

They are a sober, industrious, well-behaved people, and only need quiet to make them happy.

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*Notes of sub-agent M. Duval, in regard to the Seminoles.*

Their agricultural implements consist principally of axes, hoes, ploughs, grubbing hoes, &c., and the quantity, as at present distributed, is sufficient. Have no schools, and they don't want any.

The foregoing is sent for what it is worth, merely to comply with the request of the department, as the circular was not received before my arrival here, (Washington,) and consequently I am forced to *guess* the answers to the queries. At a future time I will, if it is desired, collect correct information, which may be acted on.

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*Notes of acting superintendent William A. Richmond, in regard to the Ottowas, Chippewas, and Pottawatomes.*

The articles of agricultural implements consist of ploughs, harrows, hoes, log-chains, axes, saws, and such other articles as are generally required for farming purposes.

Many of the Indian bands are making considerable progress in the cultivation of the soil, and in a great measure depend for their subsistence from that source. It seems to me that it would be humane, as well as a wise policy in the government, to encourage the different tribes in their efforts to abandon the chase and depend on the cultivation of the soil for subsistence, by giving them additional means to carry them on with success.

The value of their annual hunts could not be ascertained with any degree of accuracy, as the Indians (except in very few instances) keep no account of them.

From all the information which has come to my knowledge, I am de-

cidedly of opinion that many of the Indians in this superintendency are advancing in learning, as well as in the social relations of civilized life.

The Indians within this superintendency, (recently,) from the efforts of the missionaries, &c., have become quite temperate; but when in the way of temptation, many still indulge in the use of intoxicating drinks, though, on the whole, I think that a very great reformation has taken place amongst them.

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*Notes of sub-agent J. Sinclear, in regard to the Miamies.*

The Miamies, with a very few exceptions, are in the habit of getting intoxicated whenever they can obtain liquor; and it is very difficult to get along at our necessary councils or payments without more or less drunkenness. In the Indian country it may be in the power of an agent to prevent the selling of liquor to the Indians; it cannot be done in any other.

Whenever a tribe of Indians become as deeply indebted as the Miamies are, no reliance can be placed upon their integrity; the traders will induce them to disregard their obligations to the government.

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*Notes of sub-agent Wm. P. Angel, in regard to the Senecas on Cattaraugus reservation.*

The above enumeration includes only about one-fourth of the population, and about one-half of the improvements, agricultural productions, and stock. The balance of the inhabitants refused to give the necessary information.

The implements in use are such as are usually used by the farmers in the neighborhood, to wit: ploughs, harrows, hoes, and axes, together with wagons, sleds, chains, yokes, and harness.

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*Note of the same sub-agent, in regard to the Tuscaroras.*

The Tuscaroras receive no annuity except their portion of the goods paid to the Six Nations.

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*Notes of sub-agent W. E. Rucker, in regard to the Iowas.*

In furnishing the above statistics, we have been compelled to resort to the best sources of information within reach, and thence form estimates. Those items enumerated in the prescribed form, which are not here produced, I have left blank.

Since the Indians live partly by hunting and partly by agriculture, it is impossible to distinguish them, in accordance with the prescribed

form. Their agricultural implements consist mostly of hoes and axes. I cannot advise an increase of agricultural implements at present.

The products of their hunts consist principally of buffalo meat, venison, and deer-skins, with very few furs.

I would advise the payment of their annuities in money. Whether the goods furnished by government are of as good quality, or as cheap, as those sold by the traders, I am not able to say, since I have had no opportunity for judging.

Of the pupils taught in the school, two are quite advanced in reading, writing, &c., and speak English well; the other six are spelling, having just commenced with the opening of the school.

I regret having to repeat the oft-told tale of the intemperate habits of the Iowas. It is a painful fact that no artifice which they can invent is left untried to obtain that which drowns their reason and corrupts their integrity. They have been known in some instances to come from their sinks of pollution, which infest our borders, in cold weather, nearly in a state of nature, leaving leggins and moccasins behind.

I know not what more effectual means can be devised for the suppression of the traffic in spirituous liquors than making it a penitentiary offence.