

NEAH BAY AGENCY, WASH.,
August 13, 1885.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions and the requirements of the Indian service, I have the honor to submit the following report of affairs at this agency for the past fiscal year.

Since my last annual report reasonable progress has been made in civilizing and educating the Indians belonging to this agency, but perhaps not as much as might be expected by persons deeply interested who have only a limited knowledge of Indian service. It has been thought and asserted that with a few years of proper management the Indians could be led to abandon their hereditary and traditional superstitions, renounce all tribal relations, and become educated up to a fair standard of civilization. A few years' work among them will readily eradicate this idea from the minds of the most sanguine friends of the Indians, and satisfy them that to change the nature, customs, and habits of the Indian race years of earnest, patient labor are required. And even then many will be found among them who are unchangeable, so far as adopting and practicing the habits of civilization are concerned; and this same class never neglect an opportunity to oppose any and every effort made toward improvement. Contact and intercourse with the whites help to eradicate many of their superstitious and heathen practices, but they are apt scholars in adopting and practicing the vices of the lowest class of whites, and it is a question whether or not their heathenish rites are not preferable to the debasing vices common among a certain class of whites.

Since July 1 I have taken a careful census of the Indians, and find 523 Makahs and 253 Quillehutes—divided into sexes, 372 males and 404 females. I also find 225 males above eighteen years of age, 282 females above fourteen years of age, and 136 children between six and sixteen year of age.

Fifty-seven of the latter class have attended the industrial school at the agency, and 52 have attended the day school at Quillehute in the past year. The cost of maintaining the industrial school during the year has been \$4,471.08, to wit: Salaries of school employes, \$2,795.15; and all other expenses, \$2,675.93; and the cost of the day school at Quillehute has been \$569.50, to wit: Salary of teacher, \$500; and all other expenses, \$69.50, which includes \$50 paid for rent of building for the school; making a total expended for maintaining the two schools during the year, \$6,040.50.

The Episcopal Church has given material assistance in sustaining our Sunday service by contributing such books as were necessary for conducting the service, and magazines and papers for the use of the scholars, thus affording them an abundance of reading matter. Right Rev. J. A. Paddock, bishop of this diocese, has taken an interest in these Indians, has established a mission here called St. Mary's, and has baptized seventeen of the scholars, one of whom died during the year.

But very little progress in mechanical work has been made by the scholars, for the reason that Indians were the only authorized employes in the shops, and they were not qualified to give instruction to apprentices. The blacksmith and carpenter had but a limited knowledge of the trades they represented, and I had to oversee and direct all their work personally; and it would have been a waste of time and money to have undertaken the instruction of apprentices. This difficulty is now obviated, an industrial teacher is authorized, and I have secured the services of one fully competent to instruct them in several useful trades.

The inducements for agriculture on this reservation are not encouraging, and but little farm products are raised. It is only by hard labor and great care that vegetables are raised in quantities sufficient for the school and a small amount of turnips to feed the weaker cattle in winter and spring. This season has been more than usually unfavorable; the weather has been dry almost constantly since the 1st of March, and the vegetable crop will be small indeed. More than the usual amount of work was done to prepare the soil and cultivate it, but the extreme dry weather has hindered the growth so much that in places it will not be worth harvesting. The hay crop was also very light on most of the meadow land, and had I not broken about eight acres of it and sowed in oats I would have been very short of feed for the coming winter. The oats are a very light crop, did not ripen enough for thrashing, and I had them cared for and will feed them the same as hay. I seeded the land again at the time of sowing the oats, but owing to the extreme dry weather the seed did not germinate, and it will be necessary for me to purchase grass-seed and sow again as soon as there is rainfall enough to grow the seed.

Much has been said and done at some of the agencies to divide up the lands and make allotments in severalty to the Indians. In my judgment this is the true way where the lands can be divided so that each Indian can have a reasonable share of lands suitable for agriculture. At this agency such a policy is not practicable; the lands are too mountainous and worthless for cultivation, except a small area of sandy beach, the soil of which is very thin, requiring fertilizing every year to raise a crop of vegetables, and a few

hundred acres of tide-marsh suitable for pasturage; and on the highest parts considerable quantities of hay are cut.

There were 87 head of cattle wintered, and up to June 30 there had been an increase of 30. The Indian farmer now informs me that there is an increase of 5 since then, making a total at the present of 120 head, one having been slaughtered for beef to supply the school. Six or eight more will be slaughtered to supply beef to the school during the winter.

My predecessor endeavored to supply the agency with water from a small ravine in the bluffs a half mile back from the agency buildings. A reservoir was dug, a dam was built, and pipes laid to carry the water direct to the school buildings. The enterprise is successful in rainy weather, but practically worthless during the summer, as nearly all the water used has to be carried a hundred yards or more from a small stream below the bluff on which the agency school buildings are situated. In June I obtained authority to purchase a small quantity of lumber to build a laundry on this stream. The building is now completed and the labor of carrying water for the laundry is obviated. I have tried digging for water in several places, but on reaching a few feet below the surface I have struck large rock, which has prevented going deeper with any appliances we have at the agency. The only practical way that I see to supply water to the agency buildings is to erect a small wind-mill on the stream above mentioned, and with a force-pump force the water into a tank on the bluff.

The Makah Indians live in four separate villages: One at Neah Bay, 10 miles from the agency; one at the mouth of the Waatch River, on the ocean beach, 6 miles south from Cape Flattery; one at the mouth of the Tzues River, 4 miles farther south, and another at the mouth of the Osette River, 10 miles farther south and 8 miles south of the boundary of the reservation. The land at their villages is better than at other places, and the Indians locate them so as to have places for small gardens, and potatoes, turnips, carrots, and pease are raised by them in small quantities. They do not depend very much on what vegetables they raise for subsistence. From the proceeds of the sales of furs, whale and seal oil they receive not less than \$15,000 per annum, and in favorable seasons nearly or quite double that amount; and after the whaling and sealing season is over they go to the hop-fields and among the farmers on the straits and sound and work by the day, month, or job at rates agreed on, and they receive from this source several thousands of dollars annually. Some of them are prodigal in their expenditures and never rest easy while they have a dollar on hand. Others save their earnings, spend only enough for clothing and subsistence, and have funds at all times and in considerable quantities.

At my suggestion one of them purchased a schooner for sealing and made a profit of nearly \$1,000 during the season. He paid coin for the vessel at the time of purchase, and is so much encouraged that he proposes to buy another and a larger vessel in time for sealing next year. I am encouraging the notion as much as possible, as it would be far better if the Indians had vessels enough to accommodate all the Indians that go sealing and save a greater profit for themselves, and also save the agent no end of trouble from the advent of white men who come here for sealing, and are never satisfied unless allowed their own way and a free run on the reservation at all times.

Many of these Indians have comfortable frame houses, very well supplied with such furniture as is common among white people, and quite a number have sewing machines, which the females can work very well.

The Quillehutes are 35 miles south from the agency, and all have their homes in one village, and, not having so good opportunities for improvement, are not as far advanced as the Makahs. Since a school has been started among them there has been marked improvement in conduct, cleanliness, and dress, not only among the scholars but among the adults; and as the children advance in education it is fair to say there will be greater improvements among the older ones. It is a difficult matter to reach these Indians, as the only mode of travel is on foot, over a trail too rough for horses, or by sea in a canoe, and for this reason I do not visit them as often as I would like to.

A great deal of dissatisfaction has been manifested by these Indians for the past year and a half, and with good reason. Something like two years since a white man named Daniel Pullen made entry on the lands on which their village is located, and ever since that time he has tried to exercise full control of all the premises and endeavored to have the Indians pull down their houses for his accommodation. On receipt of circular No. 128, I immediately wrote the Indian Office, giving full particulars of the entry and asked to have the entry vacated and the land set apart for use of the Indians. No action has been taken so far as I am advised, although I have frequently called attention to it in my monthly reports. The Indians make frequent complaints of the acts of Pullen, but as they are off the reserve I am powerless to give them such protection as they should have. They have occupied this land from before the knowledge of the oldest Indian on the coast or any of their traditions. They have built some very comfortable frame houses and

have several very large buildings built in Indian style from lumber manufactured by themselves, and they feel it would be a great hardship to be driven off and lose all their buildings and improvements, and all fair-minded people will agree with them.

I have never organized a court under the rules governing the court of Indian offenses, and for the reason that none of the Indians who were qualified to act would serve without pay. In all offenses I have examined into the matter or had it done by the agency physician, and punishment awarded if necessary. In disputes among them as to rights of property, or something of that character I name some of the leading men among them as arbitrators, and there is rarely ever an appeal from their decision.

The police have as a rule done good service; only two instances where changes were necessary, and these were promptly made when the offenses were committed.

I herewith transmit all the required statistics.

Very respectfully, yours,

OLIVER WOOD,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.