

particularly anxious that they should return home well-pleased with their visit.

Respectfully, your most obedient servant,  
**WILLIAM ARMSTRONG,**  
*Acting Superintendent.*

**W. HARTLEY CRAWFORD, Esq.,**  
*Comm. of Indian Affairs, Washington city.*

No. 44.

*Report of Henry R. Schoolcraft, agent Mackinac, and acting Superintendent of Michigan.*

**ACTING SUPERINTENDENCY INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Michillimackinac, September 30, 1839.**

Sir: Pursuant to instructions and the standing regulations of this department, I have the honor to forward, herewith, statements and reports which exhibit, in detail, the condition and affairs of this superintendency during the year terminating this day, including the disbursement of public funds during the portion of the year that this branch of business has been performed by the acting superintendent.

The object of this office, as at present organized, is to superintend the general business of the department with the Indians and with the citizens: to enforce the laws of Congress regulating intercourse with the tribes, and preserve peace on the frontier; to fulfil locally with each of them, the existing treaty obligations to the Government. The latter object has largely increased within the year, and embraces at this time the payment of the annuities, the employment of farmers, and mechanics, and teachers, and the application of the laws, or by acts of Congress for the payment of the annuities, or half-breed beneficiaries, and for objects essential to their advancement in civilization and the arts.

Prior to 1836 the fiscal obligations of the department within the limits of Michigan were comparatively light. By the act of March 29, of that year, the Chippewas and Ottowas of the western shore of the Government the entire peninsula of Michigan, from Grand river, and about 6,000,000 acres north of the straits of Mackinac, in that portion of the present State limits which was ceded to the Government as an equivalent for the disputed Ohio boundary. This cession was made by these two leading tribes of the Algonquin system, in pursuance of the principle of making permanent reservations of from 1,000 to 5,000 acres at a few points, reserving at the same time the usufructuary right of fishing and hunting upon and cultivating the ceded portions of the territory, if it was actually required for settlement. To provide for their settlement, they set apart, out of the ample sum paid to them by the Government for this large territory, funds for agriculture, cattle, and mechanics' tools, the pay of smiths and artisans, and the purchase of tools, missions, annual supplies of provisions and salt, to engage in the fisheries, besides a heavy annuity in coin. It is believed that the chiefs of these tribes, in the original sale, to have these means

under the expectation that they would find themselves advanced in agriculture, letters, and the arts, at the termination of the annuity, as to be able to sustain themselves thenceforward on the chase. When the Senate came to consider this measure, they changed the tenor of the reserves from perpetual to a limited term of years, awarding the tribe an equivalent in coin, to be paid for the reserves were surrendered. This measure, when it came under consideration in their councils, induced the Indians to throw themselves upon the usufructuary right to the ceded territory, secured to them by the 15th article of the treaty, and they subsequently gave up the idea of concentrating the reserves, as it was foreseen the time would expire before they could derive permanent benefit from them. Five years appeared to be a short time to justify such of their numbers as were not already employed upon these reserves, to change their location and open new plantations. This policy, which was not so fully known at the public sale held with them in the summer of 1836, soon became manifest, and it is now no idea entertained among them of a concentration on the reserves, which will all expire in 1841.

The change in the term of the reserves made none, however, in the object of the department to employ the mechanics and teachers required to execute all the duties assumed by the treaty for promoting the improvement of the Indians. No time was lost in obtaining the services of competent and industrious men to labor for them and with them.

The accompanying statement, marked A, indicates the number and names of the persons employed in the year ending this day; the salaries and rations consumed, the stations occupied, and their places of nativity; together with the names of the persons thus employed who are of mixed or Indian blood, and the places have been yielded in conformity with a provision of the 15th article of the act to organize the Indian Department.

Statements B and C denote the amount and kind of work done for the Indians at the shops at Michillimackinac during the year, and the amount of steel and tools purchased, and the articles now on hand. It is not practicable to obtain similar evidences of the industry of the Indians at the out-shops in the Indian territory; but the object is one which has been persevered in.

Blacksmiths and assistants have been employed in ploughing the Indian lands, and fencing and clearing land, and taking care of cattle at the various points. Oxen, bulls, milchcows, and swine have been furnished at various points between the Sault Ste. Marie and Manistec rivers, together with carts, ploughs, and other agricultural improvements; mechanic's tools, and lumber for the floors of dwellings, and furniture; and two carpenters have been employed for the past year to aid them in the proper application of the materials and

Statement D shows the amount disbursed for these purposes from the funds provided by the treaty, during the years 1837, 1838, and 1839. The 15th article of the treaty provides, in general terms, for the employment of mechanics, leaving it discretionary with the President to designate the trades, in the selection. It is believed that advantages would result to the Indians, in embracing cabinetmakers, masons, coopers, and perhaps other trades, in the selection. Whenever it is thought this can be done, it is the duty of those no time in appraising the department of the circumstances

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