

Office Indian Affairs. MICHILIMACKINAC Sept. 30th 1838.

SIR: The accompanying abstracts and sub reports numbered from one to ten, indicate the entire Indian population within the limits of this Superintendency, the number of mechanics and other persons employed for their benefit, the amount of labour done, the number of traders licensed, and other classified facts, necessary to exhibit the organization and operations of this office during the year. Referring to these papers for details, I submit the subjoined observations on the condition & prospects of the Indians, their intercourse with the government and with each other, and the general business and policy of the Indian Department in this quarter.

1 Tribes in charge of this office.

The Indians generally, in the north west, have got through the year, with less abatement of the comforts belonging to their condition, than for several previous years. No epidemic sickness has supervened, and the season has been favourable for raising corn, and such garden stuffs as they rely on, in part, for a subsistence. Damage has been sustained, in a few instances on the alluvial lands, from contiguous hydraulic works, or the premature intrusion of settlers on the recent concessions, but a friendly disposition has been generally kept up on both sides, and the only difficulty of a serious nature, is not attributable to either cause. Nor has any loss occurred from the overflowing of streams, which injured so much the corn crop in 1837. I shall proceed to offer some distinctive remarks on the several Tribes.

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Wyandots: The fractional band of Wyandots, who live on the Huron river, have cultivated corn and other products, sufficient for their subsistence. They possess some cattle and horses, and cut and cure hay for their support. This band numbers about 70 souls, who live on a few sections of land secured to them on the tenure of their perpetuity. They subsist, almost wholly, by agriculture and grazing, and may be regarded as semi-civilized. They are connected with, and receive part of the annuity paid to the Wyandots of Upper Sanduskey. They are also closely connected with the Wyandots located in the vicinity of Amherstburg U.C.

Black River & Swan Creek Chippewas: Very little change is visible in these bands, and this little is adverse. Their population has been somewhat reduced and depressed, and does not now exceed 360, of which number 120 are men, 143 woman, and 97 youth & infants. A few individuals are understood to have joined the Wesleyan Mission near Port Sarnie, U.C. A couple of heads of families have purchased lands from the U.S. land office, and settled on the upper part of Black River. The body of both bands are, however, intemperate, and idle, cultivating but little, and maintaining a bare existence. They still dwell on the reserves ceded by them in 1836, and without a change of habits, or location, are destined to speedy extermination.

Saganaws: This isolated tribe has lived down to the present time, with all the essential traits common to the darkest period of their history. They are heady, bad tempered, fond of drink, and savage when under its influence. Yet are a people of strong mental traits, of independent and generous feelings, and strongly

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attached to their ancient modes of living and superstitions. They speak a well characterized dialect of the Chippewa, holding very nearly the same relation to the Great Algonic family of the north, that the Seminoles do to the Creeks in the South. Their country appears to have been a place of refuge to the other tribes. They succeeded to the possessions of the Sauks, who were driven from the banks of the of the Saganaw, about the close of the 16th or beginning of the 17th Century. They have been observed, for at least two or three generations certainly, to have had a ruling Chief who exercised, more of the powers of a dictator, than is usual, with the other tribes. This tribe is known to have indulged its predatory war like habits, by participating in the scenes of attack and plunder, which marked the early settlements in Western Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky.

The country occupied by the Saganaws is fertile, densely wooded, and abounds in numerous streams, affording valuable water power. It is still but sparsely settled, but in proportion as the lands are taken up, the natural means of subsistence of the Indians must diminish, although it is stated that portions of the public lands west and north of the Tittabawassa will afford a theatre for hunting for many years. The recent ratification, by the Senate, of the the treaty of January 14th 1837 with this Tribe, extinguishes the title to all their possessions in Michigan, saving the right to live for five years on two of the ceded reservations on Saganaw bay.

In 1837 this tribe lost 354 persons by the small pox, of whom 116 were men, 107 women, and 141 children. Their present population, by a census just completed, is 993, 221 of whom are

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males, 298 females and 474 youth and infants. In 1837 their cornfields were either damaged, or wholly destroyed by high water in the Saganaw and its tributaries. The present year they have raised collectively 760 bushels of corn, besides potatoes and vegetables. Two traders purchased of them, within the year, 40 bears, 65 deers, 35 otters, 33 pounds of beaver, 570 muskrats, 140 minks, 55 fishers, 40 foxes, 17 elk, 4 moose, 890 raccoons and 19 cats. How many they sold to others is unknown.

The Department maintains for them a Sub Agent, Interpreter, blacksmith and assistant and one principal & several subordinate farmers. They appear to have been overlooked by philanthropists, having, up to this date, neither schools nor teachers of any description.

Ottawas & Chippewas of the Upper Lakes: These Tribes occupy the entire peninsula of Michigan west of Thunder bay river, and north of Grand river, together with that part of Upper Michigan incorporated by the act of admission, which lies between Point Detour, at the mouth of the St Mary's and Tshiseebing or Chocolate river of Lake Superior. The large area included within these boundaries, was ceded by the treaty of March 28th 1836. No accurate map of the country is extant, and the surveys thus far executed, do not extend beyond 110 miles north of Grand River. The original estimate, made at the time of purchase, was fifteen millions of acres, nine of which, were computed to lie within the lower peninsula. Much of this land is deemed to be of the first quality, (sec. no 7) other sections embrace valuable pineries, with ample water power, comprehending many rivers of the first class, together with numerous bays, harbours, islands, and fishing grounds, indispensable to the future growth and prosperity

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of the state. For the geographical outlines of this cession, embracing also, the boundaries of this Superintendency, I beg leave to refer the Department to a sketch transmitted with my last annual report. The present numerical strength of these tribes is 4.872, shewing an increase of 311, or about 6 1/2 per cent within the last year. The census, indicated by the pay rolls, exhibits the usual excess, with the aboriginal tribes, of females to males, and the usual deficiency in the ratio of children to adults. The geographical distribution of this population as follows. On Lake Superior, east of Chocolate river 215, Straits of St. Mary's 198, Islands of Lake Huron 208, Straits of Michilimackinac 223, north shore of Lake Michigan 81, Green Bay north of Monomonee river 425, Thunder bay 60, Chebolgan 121, Little Traverse bay of Lake Michigan 1043, Grand Traverse bay 476, East coast of Lake Michigan, between Grand Traverse and & Manistee 211, Grand River valley and its adjunct bands 1197, islands of Lake Michigan 113. Instructions were issued to the various sub officers of this Superintendency, to ascertain the precise amount of agricultural products raised by the Indians, the amount of fish taken and barreled, and the amount and description of furs and peltries taken and sold, and also, the number of births and deaths, indicating casualties by death, so as to determine the amount of public crimes, together with data for determining the state of longevity, and the average period of life, the average number of souls to a family, and of children by one wife. But the returns are too imperfect to attempt any generalization from them. The sub reports will indicate such facts as have been collected. It is believed that the leasure time of the officers and others could not be better

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employed than, in the acquisition of facts of this nature. It is to be remarked that the above indicated increase of population, includes the correction of some inaccuracies, in the actual counts, of the previous year, owing to the inattention of the chiefs, in bringing out all their people, and the ratio is, therefore, somewhat beyond the natural increase. One instance is known where a chief has had 14 children by One wife, three of whom are still infants or children, and 4 have died after reaching maturity. This individual has been, most of his life, a temperate, and industrious man, and has consequently enjoyed more of the comforts of life and a more ample means of subsistence, than is usual with his people. There are many persons, living among the Ottowas & Chippewas, who are beyond 75. There still some individuals living near this place who were youths or infants, at the period of the massacre of Fort Mackinac in 1763, and remember the transference of the British post to this island. The general improvement of these tribes is marked by their dress and manners. They have, years since, abandoned the war and begging dance, and given up the use of the Indian drum and rattle. It is only among the more remote northwestern bands of them, where these customs still exist, and the ceremonies of the meta or medicine dance, are wholly confined to that quarter. A limited number of both tribes can read and write, and profess christianity. And there are strong inducements to their teachers to persevere in their benevolent labours. Some of them have died examples of piety, and a considerable number are strictly temperate, and lead consistent and orderly lives, and make a proper use of their annuities.

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Ojibwas of Lake Superior: This tribe constitutes the body of the nation who are elsewhere, in our treaties with the aborigines, called Chippewas. They occupy the entire shores of this lake, comprising, as it does, parts of the States of Michigan, the territory of Wisconsin, and the province of Upper Canada. They extend to, and beyond the sources of the Mississippi, and under the the sub denominations of Kenistenoës or Crees, and Maskigoes or Gens des Terres, to the banks of the Missinipi of Hudson's bay. So far as they are within my jurisdiction, they occupy the southern shores of Lake Superior, between Chocolate and Montreal rivers, extending south and west to the legal boundaries of Wisconsin Territory. The extent of the lake coast thus possessed by them, is computed by the Fur traders at 320 miles. As we have neither accurate maps, nor surveys of any description, of this part of the country, estimates of the quantity of land held by them, must be vague. So far as comprehended within the bounds of Michigan, it may be put at millions. It is but 18 years* since the U.S. government first sent an Agent to explore this portion of its territory, and it is still too imperfectly known to justify any thing like a complete description of its soil and resources. Travellers have descried from the lake, its imposing mountains, some of which have a volcanic aspect, and gazed with admiration on its varied coast scenery; but its interior has never been subjected to a geological scrutiny. From what is actually known, it may be regarded, as destined to be hereafter considered as one of the principal mining districts in North America. The indications of ores of copper, iron, lead, and even the precious metals, are

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decidedly favourable. There are also detached vallies of rich soil, which are connected by continuous hard wood forests and openings on the south and west borders of the tract. Other portions abound in spar pine, and timber suitable for lumber. The streams descending from the table lands, flow with a velocity which creates an abundant water power, until within a few miles of the lake, where they become tranquil & of sufficient depth for the anchorage of vessels. The coast affords several capacious bays, harbours and anchorage grounds, and the lake abounds in several species of fish, which admit of being cured and barreled for market - a branch of commerce which is already beginning to attract some attention, and together with its lumbering and other resources, cannot but be appreciated, the moment the lake itself is thrown open to the entrance of shipping from below, by the construction of an adequate canal at St. Mary's falls.

The Department first placed an Agency among these bands in 1822, and occupied the country the same year by a detachment of troops, who have continued, with the usual changes, to garrison the pass at St. Mary's, up to this date. The intercourse with the Indians has been managed with a view to impress them with the justice and benevolent regard of our government for their race, and its ability, both to protect them, and its own citizens who are permitted to trade among them. And the hope is indulged that these efforts have not been wholly without favourable effect. Still it is not to be concealed, that their predelictions are towards the British government, under whose jurisdiction they have lived, with little, and certainly feeble efforts to assert our own, since the fall of the French power, in this quarter, in 1763.

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Chippewas & Kenistenoos of Grand Portage & Isle Royal: The act of Congress defining the boundary between Michigan and Wisconsin establishes a line from the mouth of Montreal river "direct across Lake Superior to where the territorial line of the United States last touches said lake northwest," which it is believed will throw the whole of Isle Royal of Lake Superior into the State of Michigan, together with other islands and fisheries lying east and south of Keministequola or old grand Portage. The number of Indians occupying these islands, their means of subsistence, and the condition of the trade, whether carried on exclusively by American Citizens, in conformity to law, or by foreigners, in violation of it, constitute topics of pertinent inquiry; and I should deem a visit to the region in question expedient, as early as is may be found practicable.

Monomonees of Michigan: The number of this tribe located north of the State boundary through the Monomonee River of Green Bay, cannot be precisely stated, and therefore the department is referred to the estimate heretofore submitted. They are understood to be much mixed with the contiguous Chippewa bands, at that point, and speak a dialect of this leading language of the north. This dialect is marked with peculiar inflections of its verbs and other parts of speech, and has more that is peculiar in its accents, than other derivatives from the fruitful Algonic stock. It has been stated that the Monomonees, have engrafted the Chippewa, upon an original language of their own, but if so, its radical forms have been unsuccessfully sought by philologists; nor does it seem probable that one barbarous tribe should have so completely adopted the language of another, radically different, and thrown away their own.

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Ottowas of Maumee in Ohio: It has not been practicable to visit these Indians during the year, nor am I aware of the actual number who have lingered behind their brethren now on the Osage river, west of Missouri. From information derived recently, from the agent who conducted a delegation of the Ottowas & Chippewas of the Upper Lakes to view that region, the past summer, I am assured that the location of the Ohio Ottowas, is every way, favourable to their growth and improvement.

Pottowottamies & Ottowas of Southern Michigan: These Indians are dispersed, at various points on the public lands, where the advantages of hunting and making sugar, from the maple in the proper season, entices them. In these situations the act of Congress regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes, is inapplicable to them; they traffick in ardent spirits without restraint and itenerate through the settlements, the objects of both commiseration and cupidity. What numbers the emigrating officers have drawn together and conducted west, during the year, is not known; but my attention has been directed to the fact, that numbers of them have expatriated themselves to the Manatouline Islands, Lake Huron, within the boundaries of upper Canada. One hundred and thirty seven persons, are reported to me, to have thus gone the present year. They have passed in canoes, taking withe them such effects as usually constitute Indian household property.

2. Indian Trade.

The appropriate abstract, will shew, that twenty six individuals have been licensed to trade with the Indians, during the year, who have occupied seven distinct trading posts designated under the

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act of Congress, and have employed, collectively a capital of nine thousand two hundred & eighty five dollars & sixty six cents, bonded for with adequate surities, in the aggregate sum of nineteen thousand and sixty five dollars, and seventy four cents. The trade has been exclusively confined to American Citizens, and but seven foreign boatmen among the crews. No licenses have been revoked, and no applicants have been refused. There has been but a single case, in which the Indians have uttered complaint, owing to the traders having sold the same quality of goods to different Indians at different prices, and the exhibition of an overbearing & bad temper towards them. And this case has been made the subject of an investigation, which is yet undecided. No licenses have been granted for the ceded territory, although yet essentially an "Indian country," because it is impossible for the agents to sustain suits for infractions of the laws, in these positions.

3. Labour done for the Indians.

and cattle and agricultural implements distributed.

Four blacksmiths and four assistants, one gunsmith, two Carpenters and joiners, and three principal and five assistant farmers, have been employed, at the several stations, for the benefit of the Indians. All applications made by them for the repair of their arms, or utensils used in their domestic economy, have been complied with by the smiths, and new iron work issued, in cases demanding it, by the Agents and Interpreters. Blacksmith's stock amounting in the aggregate sum of \$880⁰⁰ has been purchased for the shops during the year, the amount of which and the amount on hand, is designated in the accompanying tables.

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The farmers and their assistants have been employed in clearing, fencing, plowing & cultivating land, at the stations assigned them, in raising and taking care of cattle and other stock for the Indians, and securing hay to winter them, fire wood for the household, and other appropriate and necessary work. One of the assistants, being a female has directed her efforts to teach females some of the ordinary labours of female husbandry and house-keeping. Cattle, ploughs, axes, carts, rakes, scythes, &c have been distributed to as great an extent as was thought a proper use would be made of them, and the men have laboured for them, and with them, aiming to teach by example and by precept. If less has been accomplished than has been desired, the hope is yet indulged that the result has been productive of considerable good. Whatever serves to withdraw the Indian mind from the pursuit of the chase has a direct tendency to his civilization; and with this view several families who had previously learned the art of taking care of them, have been supplied with cattle, and others promised them, should the experiment succeed. It is my impression that better effects will result from effect ~~witt~~ inducing the Indians to labour, than to hire men to labour for them, and that most of the funds, should be applied directly to the Indians, whether living on the reserves or not. The carpenters have been employed in erecting dwellings for these Indians, and for those labouring among them, in preparing trains, repair of buildings, and making plain joiner work, chests, tables, and other objects, appropriate to them on the reserves. Two thousand seven hundred and four feet of lumber, has

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been furnished to, and thus applied by them this year, together with shingles, glass, nails and other materials indicated in their reports. It is found that this class of mechanics, will effect most good, both by their work and their instructions, if sent from village to village, and not left too long, at one particular station. By this distribution of their labour, jealousies among bands occupying so extensive an area, is also obviated.

4. Schools & moral instruction.

Less has been accomplished in this branch, during the last year, than was anticipated, when the distribution of the education and Mission fund, was made. But this has been owing, almost wholly, to the delay consequent on procuring teachers, and getting them on the ground by the respective boards, to whom the disbursement and application of these funds are assigned. From the Bishop & clergy of the Catholic Church of Michigan no written reports have been received at this date, which is probably attributable to the Bishop's long absence in Europe. I have, however, recently conferred with him, since his return, stating in answer to his inquiries, that the department does not wish to prescribe arbitrarily, the mode of applying this fund, but leaves it, in a great measure, to the discretion and experience of the several ecclesiastical or mission boards, whose judgement and responsibility in the application, it seeks to avail itself of. That as a principle, the department looks anxiously to the result of schools for Indian children, and requires reports from each teacher, to exhibit their results, in a classified form, to the country, annually on the 30th day of September. The Revd. Mr Bandwell, of this church, has labored as

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a missionary at Pt. St. Ignace, to the acceptance of the bands in that vicinity, whose chiefs have requested that he might participate in the fund. I have also received a report from M^{rs} Mary Anne Fisher, who has been employed, as a teacher under his direction, at the same place, She has instructed 37 scholars, eleven of whom are Indians of full blood, and twenty six metifs or half bloods. Of the former, 4 were males and 7 females; of the latter 14 males and 12 females. Thirteen of these, can read in the English bible and beegin to write and cypher, the remainder are beginning to read. They are also taught cleanliness, morals, and a regard for our government. It is added, that this school has been kept from November 1837 to the present time, that it is her intention to continue it, and that no funds have been received for its support from the presiding Bishop of that Church.

The mission school of the Baptist Board, at Sault Ste Marie, has been mantained, with faithfulness, although somewhat straitned in its pecuniary means. The Revd. M^r Bingham, who has nearly completed the 10th year of his labours as a teacher at that location, states the number attending his school, the two first quarters to have been 23, and during the 3^d quarter 41, for the instruction of nine of whom the parents paid. Ten of the total number, (6m.4.6.) are beneficiaries who are kept and boarded in the establishment. Five of the number previously reported, have been dismissed, one of whom has been put apprentice to the blacksmith trade. One of the females, has married a man of active and industrious habits, and settled within 30 miles of the school. The branches taught, are reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, and geography, and the attainments of those dismissed, in these studies, are believed to have been respectable, and such as to be of value to

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them in future life. From the Revd. M^r Slater, of the same denomination, who is located in Barry County, no report has been received for the present year.

The school operations of the methodist board, within the ceded district, have been intermitted, chiefly it is believed, from the ineligibility of their present location at Little Rapids on the St. Mary's. Its removal to a point about ten miles above, at Pseisisseeowce bay, is contemplated, and I have no doubt of its expediency, at once. In visiting that point, the present summer, I found the soil fertile, bearing a vigorous growth of hard wood, and quite sheltered from the lake winds by the promontory of Cape Iroquois, added to which there is a fine anchorage in the bay, a good water power on a river falling into it and wild hay on the neighbouring alluvious. The school at Kewywenon is west of the cession. M^r Bangs, the Secretary of this Board at New York, writes to me, that their efforts will be prosecuted, among these Indians, without abatement, and that they are desirous of extending them, as far as practicable, and it is presumed, that the efforts to revive their School among the Chippewas of St. Mary's, will be renewed the present autumn. I have however, no report, of recent date, from which I can deduce facts.

Bishop M^cCoskry of the Episcopal Church in this state, has had under consideration the establishment of a school and mission for these Tribes, and has executed a visit to the country, to learn the wants of the Indians, and to judge of the feasibility of making a systematic effort for their improvement. With this gentleman I have had several interviews in relation to this subject and entertain a confident belief that no time or opportunity will be

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omitted, to bring about the desired object. In all efforts of this nature it is much easier to run into indiscreet action, than to plan a system of instruction which shall meet the wants of the Indians, and secure at the same time, permanency in the application of the means.

The board of missions of the Presbyterian Church, has sent an Agent to view the conditions and location of the Indians, since their acceptance of the trust committed to them by you. And I have within a few days, received a letter from Walter Lowrey Esq^r the Secretary of this board, stating that the executive Committee have decided on an immediate occupancy of this field of labour. Their plan is not fully indicated, but it is presumed but it will embrace instruction to adults as well as children, and they have, very justly, deemed it important, that this instruction should be communicated, by the teachers themselves, in the native language.

I have thus presented to you a general view of the efforts in progress for applying the education and mission funds assigned to the several boards, and will only add, that as these funds are ample, and will extend through a period of 20 years, the hope may be confidently indulged, that, under the joint efforts of five of the leading denominations of the country, a general and striking improvement, in the condition of these tribes, moral and physical, will be produced.

5. International communication of the northwestern Indians.

The several tribes within the region of the upper lakes, have a free and ready communication with each other. Affiliated by the ties of a common original language (throwing out the Wyandots and Winnebagoes) by long established customs, & the facilities of a wide reaching intercourse by water, they are well advised of each

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others affairs, and keep up a verbal correspondence by persons passing to and fro. The circle of this correspondence is irrespective of political boundaries, & extends wherever the tribes are actually located. Their sympathies and feelings are united on all general questions, and it is known to all who have investigated the subject, that these feelings, in their natural state, are generally adverse to the white race, and to their schools and religion - to their agriculture and the arts, laws and customs, and are as strongly attached to their primitive opinions and modes of action. The politician must encounter these feelings as well as the teacher, moral or religious, and the effort to counteract them, requires perseverance in both cases. As a question between the United States and Great Britian, the feeling is adverse to the former and favourable to the latter. They do not probably subject these feelings to the scrutiny of reason, but follow early impressions, and it is natural to suppose that they should have less regard for the impinging power. Their interests and their judgements, unite them strongly with the Americans, nor is there any reasonable apprehensions of their taking sides openly against us, unless (which is wholly improbable in this age) circumstances should occur to involve us in a war with Great Britian, similar, so far as territory is concerned, to the contest of 1812. Congress having, by resolution, called for information respecting the interference of foreign powers, in our Indian relations, I shall omit here, the introduction, that they may appear in a separate report, of such facts, as would otherwise be proper.

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6. Organization of the department.

There are at present employed, in this Superintendency One Agent and acting Superintendent, two sub Agents, four interpreters, and one Messenger and Acting Clerk, who receive in the aggregate, \$4.565, per annum, including two interpreters employed under treaty stipulations. In the same district of country, including the charge of the same Indian tribes, the department officers received in 1828, collectively, \$10.745. I take the liberty of enclosing a comparative view giving the details of these two periods. Should the Agents be restored to the duties of disbursing agents, as they did previous to the organization act of 1834, some increase of the local officers, within the department would be required.

7. Condition of the Indians.

The Lake Indians suffered an extraordinary loss of members by the late war, not so much from those who fell in battle, (which was not perhaps great) as from Camp diseases, and hunger and misery, consequent upon their return, to their distant villages. Whole villages in the north were depopulated, or reduced to but a few souls, and I have within the present year passed over the ancient sites of towns, populous in 1812, which are now overrun with grass and bramble, and where not a single soul dwells to repeat the tale of their sufferings. For this result the foreign fur Companies, existing in this quarter, at the time, are chiefly chargeable, as the Agents of these powerful monopolies, had the double motive of interest and inclination, to stimulate them in bringing out the Indians, even from the Upper waters of the Mississippi. It is stated by those who were eye witnesses, that there has been no

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period, in their modern history, when these tribes were so reduced in numbers & spirit and so beggared in means as at the close of 1814 and the spring of 1815. And it is evident, from a survey of the country, that their population has never reached its previous numbers. The business of the fur Trade was resumed with a new impulse, about this time, and the Indians were urged in the pursuit by every motive which rivalry and cupidity, could originate. For about ten or twelve years, there was something like a renewal of the prior efforts in this seducing branch of trade, but unfortunately for the Indians, the animals whose furs are most valuable, very rapidly diminished, and the best hunters fell behind hand, in paying up their credits to the traders. A lapse of ten years more, completely prostrated this trade in Michigan. The Indians had been plied freely with ardent spirits (their greatest bane) during this time, and they were, as a body, deteriorated in their tone and independence of mind, and left sadly in debt. Several of the tribes began to think of disposing of their surplus lands, to clothe their families and pay their debts. In 1817 the various N.W. tribes commenced the sale of their hunting grounds, in a general treaty concluded at the Foot of the Rapids of the Miami of the lake, and between that and the present date, they have alienated their title to all their possessions in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, with a trifling exception in favour of the Wayndots & Miamies, and the large tract of the Ojibwas on lake Superior. By the proceeds of these sales, the failure of the chase has been in a measure, repaid, their families clothed and fed, and in many instances, their

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The Ottowas of L.Arbre Croche, have fallen on the plan of laying by, their annuities to purchase lands in Michigan. These people originally came from the Manatouline chain of Islands in Lake Huron, U.C. Some of them have returned to that point, where inducements are held out for their settlement, and should they be pressed, the majority of them would, it may be apprehended, flee thither. The Chippewas, at least those north of the Straits of Mackinac, do not, at present, feel the inconvenience of intrusion from settlers. The country is not yet surveyed, and it will require some time before it can be brought into market. The great and governing motive, with this tribe, in objecting to a removal south, is, however, to be found in the fact, that they possess large tracts of territory on Lake Superior, to which there is a ready access, and free communication during the open season by water.

It is believed that a good effect would attend some general means for disseminating correct information, among the whole number of lake tribes. They march in the dark, not only with respect to our policy, as to their removal, but do not well comprehend their political relations and duties to the United States, as contradistinguished from its enemies or allies. They have never recovered from the successful vituperation vented against the American character by renegates of the character of Simon Girty, and others during the wars of 1790 and 1812. I am of opinion that, if closely inquired of, it will be found that these tribes generally acknowledge fealty to Great Britain. Perhaps a general convocation of the tribes, at this Island, attended by some of the officers of government, would be expedient. At the same time that our policy and wishes were explained, their action might be procured in a general

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treaty of amity and faith with the United States. And this would furnish a suitable occasion for delivering, in a body, the Congress presents and for investing the chiefs with appropriate medals and flags. It will be found, on examination, that most of our recent treaties, are mere land treaties, & are at fault in this particular. Strenuous efforts have been made for a few years past, to colonize the Ottowas and Chippewas in Upper Canada. If it is wisdom, on the part of the Executive of the Canadian government to effect this object, would seem to be equally politic, on the part of ours to prevent it. The question has to me, an aspect, deeper than the ostensible one, of promoting their civilization.

I have the honor to be Sir, with high respect Your obt. Servant

HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT.

HON. C.A. HARRIS Com. Ind. Affairs War Department Washington.

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Office Indian Affairs.
 Michilimackinac Sept. 30th 1838.

Sir:

The accompanying abstracts and sub-reports numbered from one to ten, indicate the entire Indian population within the limits of this superintendency, the number of men, women and other persons employed for their benefit, the amount of labor done, the number of trapper licenses, and other classified facts, necessary to exhibit the organization and operations of this office during the year. Referring to these papers for details, I submit the subsequent observations on the condition & prospects of the Indians, their intercourse with the government and with each other, and the general bearing and policy of the Indian Department in this quarter.

I remain in charge of this office.

The Indians generally, in the north-west, have got through the year, with less abatement of the comforts belonging to their condition, than for several previous years. No epidemic sickness has supervened, and the season has been favorable for raising corn, and such garden stuffs as they rely on, in part, for a subsistence. Damage has been sustained, in a few instances on the alluvial lands, from contagious hydraulic works, or the premature intrusion of cattle on the recent confections, but a friendly disposition has been generally kept up on both sides, and the only difficulty of a serious nature, is not attributable to either cause. No loss has occurred from the overflowing of the river, which injured so much the corn crop in 1837. I shall proceed to offer some distinct remarks on the several tribes.

Wyandots: The fractional band of Wyandots, who live on the Huron river, have cultivated corn and other products, sufficient for their subsistence. They possess some cattle and horses, and eat and use hay for their support. This band numbers

about 70 souls, who live on a few sections of land secured to them on the tenure of their perpetuity. They subsist, almost wholly, by agriculture and grazing, and may be regarded as semi-civilized. They are connected with, and receive part of the annuity paid to the Indians of Upper S. and Mackay. They are also closely connected with the Hyandots located in the vicinity of Omaha, Neb. U. S.

Black River & S. River Chippewas: Very little change is visible in their hands, and this little is adverse. Their population has been somewhat reduced and depopulated, and does not now exceed 360, of which numbered 135 are men, 113 women, and 97 youth & infants. A few individuals are understood to have joined the Washyan Mission near Fort Snare, U. S. A couple of heads of families have purchased lands from the U. S. Land Office, and settled on the upper part of Black River. The body of both bands are, however, intemperate, and idle, cultivating but little, and wanting a bare existence. They still dwell on the reserves ceded by them in 1836, and without a change of habits, or location, are destined to speedy extermination.

Sagawans: This isolated tribe has lived down to the present time, with all the essential traits common to the darkest period of their history. They are heady, bad tempered, fond of drink, and savage when under its influence. Yet are a people of strong mental traits, of independent and generous feeling, and strongly attached to their ancient mode of living and superstitions. They speak a well characterized dialect of the Chippewas, holding very nearly the same relation to the Great Algoni family of the north, that the Seminoles do to the Creeks in the South. Their country appears to have been a place of refuge to the other tribes. They succeeded to the possessions of the Pankts, who were driven from the hands of the of the Sagawans, about the close of the 16th or beginning of the 17th century. They have been observed, for at least two or three generations certainly, to have had a ruling Chief who resided

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None of the forms of a dictator, there is usual, with the other tribes. This tribe is known to have indulged its predatory war like habit, by participating in the scenes of attack and plunder, which marked the early settlements in Western Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky.

The country occupied by the Sagawans is fertile, heavily wooded, and abounds in numerous streams, affording valuable water power. It is still but sparsely settled, but in proportion as the lands are taken up, the natural means of subsistence of the Indians must diminish, although it is stated that portions of the public lands west and north of the Pittsburgh will afford a theater for hunting for many years. The second ratification, by the Senate, of the treaty of January 14th 1837 with this tribe, ratifies the title to all their possessions in Michigan, saving the right to live for five years or two of the cedars, reservation on Sagawans Bay.

In 1837 this tribe had 354 persons by the small pox, of whom 116 were men, 107 women, and 131 children. Their present population, by a census just completed, is 893, 281 of whom are males, 898 females, and 176 youth and infants. In 1837 their cornfields were either abandoned, or wholly destroyed by high water in the Sagawans and its tributaries. The present year they have raised collectively 760 bushels of corn, besides potatoes and vegetables. The traders purchased of them, within the year, 40 beaver, 65 deer, 55 otter, 33 pounds of beaver, 570 muskrats, 160 musk, 55 fish, 60 pounds of elk, 4 moose, 890 raccoons and 19 cats. How many they sold to others is unknown.

The Department maintains for them a Sub Agent, Interpreter, blacksmith and Assistant and one principal & clerical subordinate persons. They appear to have been overlooked by philanthropists, having, up to this date, neither schools nor teachers of any description.

Peewas & Chipewas of the Upper Lakes. These tribes occupy the entire peninsula of Michigan west of Thunder Bay river, and north of Grand river, together with that part

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of Upper Michigan incorporated by the act of admission, which lies between Pink Otter, at the mouth of the St. Marys and Schishiebing or Chocolate river of Lake Superior. The large area included within these boundaries, was ceded by the treaty of March 20th 1836. No accurate map of this country is extant, and the surveys thus far executed, do not extend beyond 110 miles north of Grand River. The original estimate, made at the time of purchase, was fifteen millions of acres, nine of which were computed to lie within the lower peninsula. Much of this land is deemed to be of the first quality, (see No 7) other sections embrace valuable prairie, with ample water power, comprehending many rivers of the first class, together with numerous bays, harbours, islands, and fishing grounds, indispensable to the future growth and prosperity of the state. In the geographical outline of this report, embracing also, the boundaries of this Superintendency, I beg leave to refer the Department to a sketch transmitted with my last annual report. The present commercial strength of these tribes is \$872, showing an increase of 311, or about 62 per cent within the last year. The census, indicated by the gray rolls, exhibits the usual excess, with the aboriginal tribes, of females to males, and the usual deficiency in the ratio of children to adults. The geographical distribution of this population is as follows. On Lake Superior, east of Chocolate river 315, Straits of St. Marys 198, Islands of Lake Huron 208, Straits of Michilimackinac 323, north shore of Lake Michigan 87, Green Bay north of Monomoni river 425, Thunder bay 68, Ojibwa 131, Little Plover bay of Lake Michigan 1163, Grand Traverse bay 476, East coast of Lake Michigan, between Grand Traverse and V. Menistee 20, Grand River valley and its adjacent lands 1197, Islands of Lake Michigan 113. Instructions were issued to the various district officers of this Superintendency, to ascertain the precise amounts of Agricultural products raised by the Indians, the

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from, the St. Lawrence, accurate. This part of the amount of the present of the 1871 population, to the fishing property, my, I say to with strength or about noted by horizontal in the distribution in, each land of north shore and river bay of Lake St. Lawrence of Lake various le present Indian, the

amount of fish taken and bartered, and the amount and distribution of furs and pelts taken and sold, and also, the number of births and deaths, indicating casualties by death, so as to determine the amount of public crime, together with death for determining the state of longevity, and the average period of life, the average number of souls to a family, and of children by one wife. But the returns are too imperfect to attempt any generalization from them. The sub reports will indicate such facts as have been collected. It is believed that the leisure time of the officers and others could not be better employed than, in the acquisition of facts of this nature. It is to be remarked that the above indicates increase of population, include the conversion of some inaccessibility, in the actual count, of the previous year, owing to the inattention of the Chiefs, in bringing out all their people, and the error is, therefore, somewhat beyond the natural increase. One instance is known where a Chief has had 14 children by one wife, three of whom are still infants or children, and he has died after reaching maturity. This individual has been, most of his life, a temperate, and industrious man, and has consequently enjoyed more of the comforts of life and a more simple means of subsistence, than is usual with his people. There are many persons, living among the Ottawas & Chippewas, who are beyond 70. There are some individuals living near this place who saw growth as infants, at the period of the massacre of Fort Mackinac in 1763, and remembered the transportation of the British pack to this Island. The general improvement of these tribes is marked by their dress and manners. They have, years since, abandoned the war and begging dance, and given up the use of the Indian drum and rattle. It is only among the more remote Northwestern bands of them, where these customs still exist, and the ceremonies of the war or medicine dance, are wholly confined to their quarters. A limited number of both tribes can read and write, and profess Christianity. And there are strong inducements to their trade as to preserved in their benevolent labors. Some of them have died for miles of journey, and a considerable number are directly transported.

and lead consistent and orderly lives, and make a proper use of their annuities.

Ojibwas of Lake Superior: This tribe constitutes the body of the nation who are elsewhere, in our treaties with the aborigines, called Chippewas. They occupy the entire shores of this lake, comprising, as it does, parts of the State of Michigan, the Territory of Wisconsin, and the province of Upper Canada. They extend to, and beyond the sources of the Mississippi, and under the the last denomination of Kewistons or Crees, and Mackigos or gens des Lacs, to the banks of the Mississippi of Hudson's bay. So far as they are within my jurisdiction, they occupy the southern shores of Lake Superior, between Chocoma and Montreal rivers, extending south and west to the legal boundaries of Wisconsin Territory. The extent of this lake coast thus possessed by them, is computed by the fur traders at 330 miles. As we have neither accurate maps, nor surveys of any description, of this part of the country, estimates of the quantity of land held by them, must be vague. So far as comprehended within the bounds of Michigan, it may be put at millions. It is but 18 years since the U. S. government first sent an Agent to explore this portion of its territory, and it is still too imperfectly known to justify any thing like a complete description of its soil and resources. Travelers have descended from the lakes, its towering mountains, some of which exhibit volcanic aspects, and gorges, with admiration in its various coast scenery; but its interior has never been subjected to a geological scrutiny. From what is actually known, it may be regarded, as destined to be hereafter considered as one of the principal mining districts in North America. The indications of ores of copper, iron, lead, and even the precious metals, are decidedly favorable. There are also detached valleys of rich soil, which are compassed by continuous hard wood forests and openings on the south and west borders of the

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tribe. Other portions abound in spruce, and timber suit-
able for lumber. The streams descending from the table lands,
flow with a velocity which creates an abundant water power, ex-
tending within a few miles of the lake, where they become tranquil &
of sufficient depth for the anchorage of vessels. The forest affords
several capacious bays, harbours and anchorage grounds, and the
lake abounds in several species of fish, which admit of being caught
and hauled for market — a branch of commerce which is
already beginning to attract some attention, and together with its
lumbering and other resources, cannot but be appreciated. The mon-
ument the lake itself is thrown open to the entrance of shipping from
below, by the construction of an adequate canal at St. Mary's falls.

The Department first placed an Agency among these
bands in 1822, and occupied the country the same year by a dis-
bandment of troops, who have continued, with the usual changes,
to garrison the pass at St. Marys, up to this date. The intercourse
with the Indians has been managed with a view to improve them
with the justice and benevolence regards of our government for their
Race, and its ability, both to protect them, and its own citizens
who are permitted to trade among them. And the hope is
indulged that these efforts have not been wholly without suc-
cessful effect. Still it is not to be concealed, that their predilection
and toward the British government, under whose jurisdiction
they have lived, with little and certainly feeble efforts to assist
our own, since the fall of the French power, in this quarter, in the

Chippewas & Menistons of Grand Portage & Lake Royal: The act
of Congress defining the boundary between Michigan and Wisconsin
establishes a line from the mouth of Keweenaw River "directly
Lake Superior to show the territorial line of the United States
last touches said Lake Superior," which it is believed will
throw the whole of Lake Royal of Lake Superior into the State
of Michigan, together with other islands and fisheries lying
east and south of Keweenaw or old Grand Portage.
The number of Indians occupying these islands, their means
of subsistence, and the condition of the trade, whether carried

on exclusively by American citizens, in conformity to law, or by foreigners, in violation of its constitutional topics of justice and inquiry; and I should deem a visit to the region in question expedient, as early as it may be found practicable.

Monomones of Michigan: "The number of this tribe located north of the State boundary through the Monomonee River of Green Bay, cannot be precisely stated, and therefore the Department is referred to the estimate heretofore submitted. They are understood to be much mixed with the contiguous Chippewa bands, at that point, and speak a dialect of this leading language of the North. This dialect is marked with peculiar inflections of its words and other parts of speech, and has more that is peculiar in its accents, than other deviations from the faithful Algonic stock. It has been stated that the Monomones have suggested the Chippewa, upon an original language of their own, but if so, its radical forms have been unsuccessfully sought by philologists; nor does it seem probable that one barbarous tribe should have so completely adopted the language of another, radically different, and thrown away their own.

Ottawas of Maumee in Ohio: It has not been practicable to visit these Indians during the year, nor am I aware of the actual number who have lingered behind their brethren now on the Pease river, west of Michigan. From information derived recently, from the Agents who conducted a delegation of the Ottawas & Chippewas of the Upper Lakes to visit this region, the first summer, I am assured that the location of the Ohio Ottawas, is every way favorable to their growth and improvement.

Pottowattamies & Ottawas of Southern Michigan: These Indians are dispersed, at various points on the public lands, where the advantages of hunting and making sugar from the maple in the proper seasons entice them. In their

situations, the act of Congress regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes, is inapplicable to them; they traffick in Indian spirits without restraint and intermingle through the settlements, the object of both commination and expiation. What number the Congress officers have drawn together and concentrated west, during the year, is not known; but my attention has been directed to the fact, that numbers of them have separated themselves to the Okanagon and Kootenai, Lake Kootenai, within the boundaries of Upper Canada. One hundred and thirty seven persons, are reported to me, to have thus gone the present year. They have passed in canoes, taking with them such of their property as usually constitute Indian household property.

2. Indian Trade.

The appropriate sketch, will show, that twenty six individuals have been licensed to trade with the Indians, during the year, who have occupied seven distinct trading posts designated under the act of Congress, and have employed, collectively a capital of nine thousand two hundred & eighty five dollars & sixty six cents, bonded for with a duplicate security, in the aggregate sum of nineteen thousand and sixty five dollars, and seventy four cents. The trade has been exclusively confined to American citizens, and but few foreign boatmen among the crew. No licenses have been sought, and no applicants have been refused. There has been but a single case, in which the Indians have uttered complaint, owing to the trader having sold the same quality of goods to different Indians at different prices, and the exhibition of an overbearing temper towards them. And the case has been made the subject of an investigation, which is yet undecided. No business has been granted for the ceded territory, although yet essentially an "Indian country", because it is impossible for the agents to sustain suit for infractions of the law, in these portions.

3. Labour done for the Indians.

and cattle and agricultural implements distributed.

Four blacksmiths and four assistants, one gunsmith, two carpenters and joiners, and three principal and five assistant farmers, have been employed, at the several stations, for the benefit of the Indians. All applications made by them for the

repair of their houses, & utensils used in their domestic economy, have been completed both by the smiths, and now iron work issued, in cases demanding it, by the agents and interpreters. Blacksmiths stock amounting in the aggregated sum of \$880 has been purchased for the shops during the year, the amount of which and the amount on hand, is designated in the accompanying tables.

The farmers and their assistants have been employed in clearing, fencing, plowing & cultivating lands, at the stations assigned them, in raising and taking care of cattle and other stock for the Indians, and dressing hay to winter them, fire wood for the households, and other appropriate and necessary work. One of the assistants, being a female has directed her efforts to teach female some of the ordinary labours of female household and housekeeping. Cattle, ploughs, axes, saws, axes, scythes, &c. have been distributed to as great an extent as was thought a proper use would be made of them, and the men have laboured for them, and with them, striving to teach by example and by precept. It has been accomplished, there has been desired, the hope is yet made good that the result has been production of considerable good. Whatever serves to withdraw the Indian mind from the pursuit of his chase has a direct tendency to his civilization, and with this view women families, who had previously learned the art of taking care of them, have been supplied with cattle and other provisions, should the experiments succeed. It is my impression that better effects will result from ~~inducing~~ inducing the Indians to labour, than to have men to labour for them, and that most of the funds, should be applied directly to the Indians, whether living on the reserve or not. The Carpenters have been employed in erecting dwellings for the Indians, and for those labouring among them, in preparing trains, repair of buildings, and making plain joiner work, chests, tables, and other objects.

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Appropriated to them on the reserves. Two thousand seven hundred
and four feet of lumber, has been furnished to, and thus applied
by them this year, together with shingles, glass, nails and other
materials indicated in their reports. It is found that this
class of mechanics, will effect much good, both by their work and
their instruction, if sent from village to village, and not left too
long, at any particular station. By this distribution of their
work, jealousies among bands occupying so extensive an area, is
also obviated.

4. Schools & moral instructions.

It has been accomplished in this branch, during the last
year, than was anticipated, when the distribution of the education
and Indian funds, was made. But this has been owing, almost
wholly, to the delay consequent on procuring teachers, and getting them
on the ground by the respective boards, to whom the disbursement and
application of these funds, are assigned. From the Bishop of the
Catholic Church of Michigan no written reports have been received
at this date, which is probably attributable to the Bishop's long
absence in Europe. I have, however, recently conferred with him,
since his return, stating in answer to his enquiries, that the department
does not seek to prescribe arbitrarily, the mode of apply-
ing this fund, but leaves it, in a great measure, to the discretion
and confidence of the several ecclesiastical boards, whose plan
and responsibility in the application, it seeks to avail
itself of. That as a principle, the Department looks an-
xiously to the result of schools for Indian children, and en-
quires reports from each teacher, to exhibit their results, in a
brief form, to the country, annually on the 30th day of
September. The Revd. Mr. Bonduelle, of this Church, has lately
acted as a missionary at St. Ignace, to the reception of the
bands in that vicinity, whose chiefs have requested that he
might participate in the funds. I have also received a re-
port from Mr. Mary Anne Fisher, who has been employed
as a teacher under his direction, at the same place. She
has instructed 37 scholars, eleven of whom are Indians.

of full blood, and twenty are mulatto or half blood. Of the former, 12 were males and 7 females; of the latter 10 males and 13 females. Thirteen of these, can read in the English Bible and begin to write and explain, the remainder are beginning to read. They are also taught cleaning, mending, and a regard for our government. It is added, that this school has been kept from November 1837 to the present time, that it is her intention to continue it, and that no funds have been received for its support from the presiding Bishop of that Church.

The mission school of the Baptist Board, at Saint Peter's Mission, has been maintained, with faithfulness, although somewhat straitened in its pecuniary means. The Rev. Mr. Bingham, who has nearly completed the 10th year of his labors as a teacher at that location, states the number attending his school, the two first quarters to have been 38, and during the 3rd quarter 41, for the instruction of some of whom the parents paid. Ten of the total number, (600. & 6) are beneficiaries who are kept and boarded in the establishment. Five of the number previously reported, have been dismissed, one of whom has been put apprentice to the blacksmith trade. One of the females, has married an man of active and industrious habits, and settled within 30 miles of the school. The branches taught, are reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, and geography, and the attainments of those dismissed, in these studies, are believed to have been respectable, and such as to be of value to them in future life. From the Rev. Mr. Slater, of the same denomination, who is located in Barry County, no report has been received for the present year.

The school operations of the Methodist board, within the ceded district, have been intermittent, chiefly it is believed from the unsuitability of their present location at Little Rapids on the St. Marys. It is deemed to a point about ten miles above, at Painesburg Bay, is contemplated, and if found so suitable

of its expediency, at once. In visiting that point, the present summer, I found the soil fertile, bearing a vigorous growth of tobacco, and quite sheltered from the cold winds by the promontory of Cape Henry, added to which there is a fine anchorage in the bay, & good water passes on a line falling into it and will lay on the neighbouring alluvions. The school at Kewgon is west of the capion. Mr. Bangs, the Secretary of this Board at New York, writes to me, that their efforts will be prosecuted, among these Indians, without abatement, and that they are desirous of extending them, as far as practicable, and it is presumed, that the efforts to cover their schools among the Chippewas of St. Marys, will be renewed the present autumn. I have however, no report, of recent date, from which I can deduce facts.

Bishop Mc Barker of the Episcopal Church in this state has had under consideration the establishment of a school and mission for these tribes, and has recently a visit to the country, to learn the wants of the Indians, and to judge of the feasibility of making a systematic effort for their improvement. With this gentleman I have had several interviews in relation to this subject and entertain a confident belief that no time or opportunity will be omitted, to bring about the desired object. In all efforts of this nature it is much easier to run into individual action, than to plan a system of instruction which shall reach the wants of the Indians, and secure at the same time, permanency in the application of the means.

The board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church, has and are about to view the condition and location of the Indians, since their acceptance of the treaty committed to them by you. And I have within a few days, received a letter from Walter Bangs Esq. the Secretary of this board, stating that the executive Committee have decided on an immediate occupancy of this field of labor. Their plan is not fully indicated, but it is presumed that it will embrace instruction to adults as well as children, and they have very justly, deemed it important, that this intention should be announced, by the teachers themselves, in the native language.

I have thus presented to you a general view of the efforts.

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in progress for applying the education and mission funds assigned to the several boards, and will only add, that as these funds are ample, and will extend through a period of 20 years, the hope may be confidently indulged, that, under the joint efforts of five of the leading denominations of the country, a general and striking improvement, in the condition of these tribes, moral and physical, will be produced.

5. International communication of the northern Indians.

The several tribes within the region of the upper lakes, have a free and ready communication with each other. Affiliated by the ties of a common original language (throwing out the Wyandots and Winnebago) by long established customs, & the facilities of a wide reaching intercourse by water, they are well advised of each other's affairs, and keep up a constant correspondence by persons passing to and fro. The circle of this correspondence is irrespective of political boundaries, & extends where the tribes are actually located. Their sympathies and feelings are united on all general questions, and it is known to all who have investigated the subject, that their feelings, in their natural state, are generally adverse to the white man, and to their schools and religion - to their agricultural arts, and to their laws and customs, and are as strongly adverse to their primitive opinions and modes of action. The politician must encounter these feelings as well as the teacher, moral or religious, and the effort to counteract them, is given perseverance in both cases. As a question between the United States and Great Britain, the feeling is adverse to the former and favorable to the latter. They do not probably attribute these feelings to the doctrine of usury, but follow early impressions, and it is natural to suppose that they should have less regard for the impinging form. Their interests and their judgments, unite them strongly with the Americans, and it is there any reasonable apprehensions of their taking sides openly against us, under circumstances (which is wholly improbable in this age) circumstances

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should seem to involve as in a war with Great Britain, similar to far as territory is concerned, to the contest of 1812. Congress having, by resolution, called for information respecting the entire power of foreign powers, in our Indian relations, I shall send here, the introduction, that they may appear in a separate report, of such facts, as would otherwise be proper.

6. Organization of the Department.

There are at present employed, in this Department One Agent and Acting Superintendent, two Sub-agents, four interpreters, and one Messenger and Acting Clerk, who receive in the aggregate \$4,565, per Annum, including two interpreters employed under treaty stipulations. In the same district of Country, including the charge of the same Indian tribes, this Department Office received in 1838, collectively, \$17,745. I like the liberty of sending a Commission view giving the details of these two powers. Should the Agents be reduced to the duties of Disbursing Agents, as they were previous to the Organization Act of 1834, some increase of the local Office, within the Department, would be required.

7. Condition of the Indians.

The Lake Indians suffered an extraordinary loss of numbers by the late war, not so much from those who fell in battle, (which was not perhaps great) as from Camp Diseases, and hunger and misery, consequent upon their return, to their distant villages. Whole villages in the North were depopulated or reduced to but a few souls, and I have, within the present year passed over the ancient sites of towns, populous in 1803, which are now overrun with grass and brambles, and show not a single soul dwell to express the tale of their sufferings. For this result the foreign fur Companies, existing in this quarter, at the time, are chiefly chargeable, as the Agents of these powerful monopolies, had the double motive of interest and inclination, to stimulate them in bringing out the Indians, even from the Upper States of the Mississippi. It is stated by those who were eye witnesses, that there has been no glimpse, in their modern history, when these tribes were so reduced in numbers as at present.

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state communities, is adverse to their prosperity as whole tribes, and their emigration has therefore naturally found itself upon the attention of the public as the only practicable mode of securing them, and preserving them, as a distinct race.

9. Policy.

The northern Indians are generally adverse to a removal south of the Missouri. The strong points of their objection are, that the country is deficient in forests & game & fish — that they are woodsmen and watermen, and not able to support the fatigue of field labor, in the prairie, without a sacrifice of health. Much prejudice is felt against the entire plan, and but little true cooperation is evident on the subject. The recent delegates have differed in their reports and some of them have used dysphetic speaking, both of the country, and its position in our position, & ill of it, in another. These tribes would generally prefer a location on the Upper Mississippi, for which they memorialized the President in 1836. To the Ottawa of Grand River this question, has assumed more of a definite shape, than it has to the other bands. Little mention was upon them at that point, they have parted with all their lands, and will probably be the first to migrate west. Judicious measures would probably meet with some success and gain. The Ottawa of Lake Superior, have fallen on the plan of laying by their annuities to purchase lands in Michigan. These people originally came from the Mainabowlin chain of islands in Lake Huron, U. C. Some of them have returned to that point, where indentments are held out for their settlement, and should they be refused, the majority of them would, it may be apprehended, flee within. The Chippewas, at least those north of the Strait of Mackinac, do not, at present, feel the inconvenience of intrusion from settlers. The country is not yet surveyed, and it will require some time before it can be brought into market. The good and growing mixture with the tribes, in objecting to a removal south, is, however, to be found in the fact, that they possess large tracts of country on Lake Superior, to admit them in a ready access, and free communication during the open season.

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by water.

It is believed that a good effect would attend some general means for disseminating correct information, among the whole number of Lake Indians. They stand in the dark, not only with respect to our policy, as to their demands, but do not well comprehend their political relations and duties to the United States, as contradistinguished from the enemies or allies. They have never recovered from the successful intemperance excited against the American character by renegades of the character of Simon Girty, and others during the wars of 1795 and 1812. I am of opinion that, if closely inquired of, it will be found that these tribes generally acknowledge a duty to Great Britain. Perhaps a general convocation of these tribes, at this season, attended by some of the officers of government, would be expedient. At the same time that our policy and wishes were explained, their action might be presented in a general treaty of amity and faith with the United States. And this would furnish a suitable occasion for delivering, in a body, the Congress presents and for investing the chiefs with appropriate medals and flags. It will be found, on examination, that most of our recent hostilities, are mere land hostilities, & are at fault in this particular. Strenuous efforts have been made for a few years past, to colonize the Ottawas and Chippewas in Upper Canada. If it is wisdom, on the part of the Executive of the Canadian government, to effect this object, would seem to be equally justice, on the part of ours to prevent it. The question has to say, our defects, deeper than the attainable one, of promoting the civilization.

I have the honor to be Sir,

With high respects

Your Obedt. Servant

Henry R. Schoolcraft.

Hon. G. A. Harris
Comm. Ind. Affairs
War Department
Washington.

Sir:

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Office Indian Affairs
Michilimackinac Oct. 24th 1838

Sir: Your appointment as Keeper of the Premises has been confirmed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs by a letter of instructions this day received, your pay to date from the time your services commenced. In the execution of the duties of this appointment, you will be governed by instructions from time to time. The object, as expressed in the 7th article of the treaty is restricted to "Indians visiting the post." In carrying it out, thus far, it has been the design of the Department to concentrate in the building, the usual office for receiving their visits and transacting their business, both during the payment of their annuities and at other seasons, together with rooms for storing and issuing provisions & other articles and apartments for temporary apartments for visitors. It is proper that every facility compatible with this object should be furnished, and the custody of the building and property is committed to you. But while the Department is desirous of thus affording to the Indians the facilities to our intercourse contemplated by the Treaty, it is to be kept in view, that no unauthorized expense shall ever, need to be incurred. Fuel will be provided to warm the apartments which, it is expected, will be used with economy. The expression "Indians visiting the post," is construed to mean Indians visiting the Agency on business. It now remains for the general laws or instructions, apply, at this time. And it is proper for you to discontinue the visits of the idle and intemperate.

A system of order and neatness, in the building and premises are enjoined, which it is left for you to adopt. A report will be made to me annually, on the 30th of September, that the Department may be

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