

decrease in seven years of 100, but the average increase every year of births over deaths is upwards of 100, or one per cent. of the whole population, making about 700 during that period, so that the actual decrease of annuitants in that time is about 800, effecting an annual saving to the Department of about \$1,000, as this decrease was principally caused by the cancelling of that number of spurious names from the pay sheets.

The progress in education and the advancement in agriculture may be approximately determined from the statistical information submitted herewith in my tabular statement, showing that twenty-nine schools have been established either by the missions or by the Government within this Superintendency and that 559 children are in attendance; that the Indians comprehended within Treaties one, two, three and five have 1,225 dwelling houses, 475 stables, 1,544 acres under cultivation, 245 ploughs, 251 harrows, two fanning mills, one threshing machine, 5,025 other implements, 200 horses, 1,375 horned cattle, 107 pigs, five sheep, 1,070 bushels of corn, 1,720 of wheat, 750 of oats, 1,080 of barley, 33,706 of potatoes, besides considerable other vegetables, and 3,571 tons of hay, having altogether about double of what they possessed seven years ago.

I am fully satisfied that unless industrial institutions are established where a limited number of Indian children of both sexes can be thoroughly educated, not only theoretically, but also practically in all the various industries of life, no material improvement in the condition of those untutored aborigines can possibly be effected, as properly qualified teachers of Indian schools cannot otherwise be obtained. There are only three systems upon which such institutions can practically be conducted, viz.: First, by having our schools wholly conducted by the Government upon non-sectarian principles; second, by having two schools, a Protestant and a Catholic one, conducted by the Government, and, third, by making arrangements with the different Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and other missions for them to establish denominational industrial institutions upon condition that they would receive a certain amount yearly for each Indian child attending their school: or a much better plan would be to grant a certain amount to them for each pupil advanced to a certain standard of learning, determined upon by an independent board of examiners.

I omitted to mention in its proper place that a number of the bands desire to have their reserves sub-divided into farm lots, so as to prevent any wrangling among them over their holdings. I consider that this should be done in St. Peters at the earliest opportunity, in order that Indians and white settlers may not be encroaching upon the claims of each other.

The business of the Indian office here is transacted now by myself and two clerks, Messrs. Wright and Levêque. The former attends to keeping the books of accounts filing letters received, assisting in answering correspondence, and takes charge of the office in my absence; whereas the latter keeps a register of all letters received, and the action taken thereon, attends to the checking of the school returns, sending the originals to the Department, and filing the duplicates in this office, examines returns of provisions distributed to destitute Indians by the different Agents, copies letters and writes answers to others while both are entrusted with the checking of the pay-sheets and taking impressions in the letter books. The number of official letters written since the first of January in this office were 1583 covering 1965 pages of foolscap, besides 973 pages written by myself in connection with my duties as Inspector of Indian agencies.

I had maps and sketches taken of a number of the reserves, showing the extent of clearing made by the Indians, the comparative size of their gardens, and the location of their houses so that the Department could see at a glance their actual condition, but I have been unable through pressure of other office business to get more than few of them finished yet, which I herewith enclose, and will forward the balance at a later date. I shall feel obliged if the originals, after copies have been taken of them, are kindly returned to me for office references.