

KAMLOOP'S AGENCY,
BRITISH COLUMBIA,
ASHCROFT, 7th August, 1882.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my Annual Report for the year ended June 30th, 1882, together with a tabular statement showing the census, industries, and the general condition of the Indians of the Kamloops Agency under my supervision.

I am happy to be able to make, on the whole, a favorable report of the progress, prosperity, contentment and good behavior of these Indians.

With but very few exceptions, as shown by the tabular statement, each band of Indians in the Agency has broken up fresh land for cultivation, and the prospects for the coming harvest being good, I believe that they will be encouraged to persevere in their industry.

The already large number of stock (principally composed of horses) in their possession, is also increasing in number and value, and I am glad to say that the quality of the young animals, through more judicious breeding, shows a marked improvement.

A good harvest, an ample supply of salmon and berries (which form an important article of food), and a moderately mild winter, all tended to make the past year one of sufficiency and comfort to the Indians. The fact that during the year not one application for relief in the matter of food or clothing was made to me, is a plain proof not only that there was no suffering for want of the necessaries of life, but also that the Indians are independent and by no means beggars.

The large number of small reservations, more especially in the southern part of this Agency, and these being for the most part situated on the principal high road of the Province, brings the Indians largely into contact with the white population; which fact has its evil consequences counterbalanced more or less by the constant chance of employment which it offers to the natives.

The supply of intoxicants to them by unprincipled white men, Chinamen, and half-breeds is a serious matter, and more especially in the vicinity of the railway works now in progress. It is a difficult matter to bring the miscreants to justice, owing to the unwillingness of the Indians to lay information and the small number of constables in the district; though I am glad to state that (thanks to the activity of the few existing officers of the law), several offenders have been imprisoned or fined, which may have a salutary effect in checking the evil.

The health of the Indians has, on the whole, been good, there having been no epidemic disease rife among them, although (as shown on the census) the number of deaths during the year exceeds that of the births by three. Pulmonary diseases are the most fatal, and (strange to relate) the Indians attribute this trouble to the fact of living in houses during the winter months instead of the old-fashioned underground burrows of former days, now but seldom used. A closer acquaintance with in-door life will doubtless teach them better how to regulate the ventilation and heating of their houses.

Nearly five hundred Indians, principally women and children, have been vaccinated in my Agency, and in nearly every case successfully, the vaccine matter having proved good. The condition of the Indians generally throughout the Agency is decidedly improving. The economy of their households and a better habit of cleanliness are plainly pointing to a more civilized state of affairs.

With but few exceptions, the chiefs of the bands are good, and are ambitious for the welfare of their people, whilst the young men are generally hard-working and anxious to improve their condition and that of their families.

The Kamloops, North Thompson, South Thompson, Adam's Lake, Little Lake, Dead Man's Creek, Buonaparte, and Clinton Indians are Roman Catholics by religion.