

University of Oklahoma College of Law

University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

1-12-1874

Letter from Samuel M. Janney, on behalf of Executive Committee of Friends, relating to the Indians

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

H.R. Misc. Doc. No. 66, 43d Cong., 1st Sess. (1874)

This House Miscellaneous Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu.

INDIANS OF THE NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

LETTER

FROM

SAMUEL M. JANNEY,

ON BEHALF OF

Executive Committee of Friends, relating to the Indians.

JANUARY 12, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

LINCOLN, LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA,
Twelfthmonth 23, 1873.

RESPECTED FRIEND: In compliance with thy request, made when a committee of Friends waited upon your Committee on Appropriations for the Indian service, I proceed to give thee a statement of the condition and wants of the Indian tribes of the Northern Superintendency. In order to save myself some writing I shall refer to certain paragraphs in a report herewith inclosed, which I made in the autumn of 1871, to a convention of delegates from six of the Yearly Meetings of Friends. On page 4 of said report thou wilt find a statement of the location of each of the six agencies in the State of Nebraska and an account of the condition of the Santee Sioux Indians. In a letter dated Tenthmonth 9, 1873, addressed to an executive committee on Indian affairs by the present superintendent, Barclay White, he says: the Santees have been quietly giving their attention to industrial pursuits." They are yearly becoming more self-reliant and self-supporting. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has supplied this agency with superior horses and cattle for the improvement of the Indian stock, and has promised to give one pair of working oxen to each head of a family who would properly secure four tons of hay. Accordingly a very large quantity of good hay was cut and stacked. A building has been erected for an industrial school, which is now nearly ready to go into operation, and will require an appropriation of \$6,000 for its support. Since the date of my report the Santee Sioux have received title-papers for their allotments of land. Many more houses have been built, and they are mostly settled on their farms. The tribe consists of 412 males and 505 females; total, 917. About three months ago the small-pox made its appearance among the Santee Sioux Indians. Agent Webster immediately took measures calculated to arrest the progress of the disease. Vaccine matter was procured and the Indians were vaccinated as fast as possible. This precaution

had been taken at all the agencies in the superintendency a few years before and has recently been repeated. At last accounts received from the Santee agency the small-pox had disappeared. There had been 150 cases and 74 deaths. I refer to page 6 of the report for a description of the Winnebago Indians at that time. In Superintendent White's letter to our executive committee, dated Tenthmonth 9, 1873, before alluded to, he writes as follows: "The Winnebago Indians' boarding-school building, for forty pupils of each sex, will probably be finished and ready for organization of the school on the 1st of the Eleventhmonth, (November.) I have intrusted Agent Bradley to estimate for the sum of \$2,500 for its expense during the fourth quarter of this year. This sum will come from the interest on the Winnebago trust funds, saved by dispensing with the beef rations, and if allowed will be continued quarterly. The Winnebagoes have tilled more ground than ever before; have cultivated it skillfully and well, and reaped a bountiful harvest. Some three or four hundred Winnebago men assisted white farmers in gathering the last grain harvest and gave full satisfaction." In the third article of the treaty made with the Winnebagoes March 8, 1865, the United States agreed to break and fence 100 acres of prairie land for each band of the tribe. There are fourteen bands, and it appears by Agent White's report for the year 1872 that only 600 acres had been broken. We therefore ask an additional allowance to the Winnebagoes in the Indian appropriation bill of \$2,400 for breaking 800 acres of land, and \$1,000 for fencing the same, estimated at five miles of fence. The tribe numbers 1,522.

On page 7 of my printed report the condition of the Omaha Indians is described. They then numbered 984, and now number 1,001. Since that date, 1871, their progress in civilization has been retarded by a deficiency in the funds required to build houses on their allotments of land, and to furnish them with implements and live stock. The proposed sale of 50,000 acres of their land, at their request, and authorized by act of Congress for the relief of certain tribes of Indians in the Northern Superintendency, approved June 10, 1872, was a failure. This result has been attributed by Superintendent White to the provisions of the law requiring 10 per cent. in cash of the appraised value to be deposited with each bid, and for the payment in cash of the entire amount of sale on the delivery of the deed. In order to remedy the defects of that law, a bill has been introduced by Senator Buckingham, and referred to the Senate's Committee on Indian Affairs, (S. 154,) to amend the said act. The sixth section of said bill appropriates the following sums, to be expended by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, under the direction of the President of the United States, for the civilization of the Indians, a part of whose lands are to be offered for sale, viz, for the Omahas, \$75,000; for the Pawnees, \$75,000; for the Ottoes and Missourias, \$50,000; to be re-imbursed out of the first proceeds arising from the sale of the lands of said Indians. The sums hereby appropriated to be available on the passage of this act. I consider it very important that whatever sums Congress is willing to appropriate in advance on the sale of the land, should be available early next spring.

The three tribes mentioned are all hunting tribes, and in the Department of the Interior it has been determined that the hunt shall cease after this winter. In order that they may subsist, they must have beef rations, or herds of cattle sufficient to supply them in time to come from the natural increase. The latter of these plans will be by far the cheapest to the Government, and if the cost of the herd is paid for out of the proceeds of land, the Government will save all the cost of beef rations.

The practice of Buffalo hunting retards the civilization of the Indians and encourages nomadic habits, as the hunters take with them their women and children. The schools are depleted or broken up for the time, and the labors of husbandry suspended. In treaties made with some of the tribes, the privilege of hunting on the unoccupied lands is conceded, and if the privilege is taken from them by the Government, justice requires that other subsistence be furnished. We have asked for the Omahas an addition of \$800 to the appropriation bill, to pay the salary of a matron to instruct the Indian women in domestic duties, such as making bread, cutting out garments, nursing the sick, &c. We have such a matron employed at the Pawnee villages with excellent effect, and we believe the same care should be extended to the other tribes. I refer to pages 8 and 12 of my printed report, for condition of the Pawnee tribe in the autumn of 1871. The depredations of the Sioux mentioned in that report have continued to be detrimental to the Pawnees, producing an unwillingness to leave their mud villages and open farms on the prairies. During their summer hunt this year they were surprised and attacked by the Sioux in much superior numbers, and sixty-nine of them massacred, consisting of men, women, and children. Some of the Pawnees were captured, and their buffalo meat, robes, and horses were taken. Superintendent White, writes, under date Tenth-month 9th, eleven of the captives have been recovered, and it was believed two more were in the hands of the Brule Sioux. The damages, separate from the loss of life, were estimated at \$9,000, and during eighteen months previous to the massacre the Ogallallah and Brule Sioux had stolen from the Pawnees two hundred horses, valued at \$8,000. These depredations have been reported to the Indian Bureau by Superintendent White, and we earnestly desire that compensation may be made to the Pawnees by Congress. In a treaty made with the Pawnees the 9th of October, 1833, article 2, it is stipulated: "The land ceded and relinquished hereby, so far as the same is not and shall not be assigned to any tribe or tribes, shall remain a common hunting ground during the pleasure of the President for the Pawnees, and other friendly Indians, who shall be permitted by the President to hunt on the same." As the Pawnees have been forbidden to hunt beyond their reservation, it is imperatively necessary that beef rations be supplied, or a sufficient herd of cattle, to supply them with meat. Some of the appropriations made for the benefit of the Pawnees, not being used in time, were covered into the Treasury, and we desire that they may be re-appropriated, to be expended, under direction of the Secretary of the Interior, for the benefit of the tribe, the sum of \$8,530.

In making a survey of the Pawnee reservation in order to lay off 50,000 acres to be sold for their benefit under the act of Congress, before-mentioned, it was found that there had been a mistake in the original survey of a strip of land fifteen miles long and a half a mile wide, say 4,800 acres, which has been disposed of to settlers by Government. The Indians have a just claim on Government for the value of this land; and the Secretary of the Interior will, I presume, ask of Congress the passage of an act to indemnify them. The Pawnees number 1,022 males, and 1,344 females, total 2,376. The Otoe and Missouri tribe consists of 318 males, 226 females, total 447. They have a very valuable reservation of 160,000 acres, and their annuity being small they concluded to sell 80,000 acres; the proceeds to be applied to the improvement of the remainder and to educational purposes. The act of Congress approved June 10, 1872, authorized the proposed sale, but the Indians changed their minds and refused to accept the privilege.

Superintendent White, in his letter dated Tenthmonth 9, 1873, writes

as follows: "This tribe has reconsidered its former action, and now accepts the provision of the act of Congress providing for the sale of one-half of its reservation. Since that date the chiefs with their agent have visited Washington and given their assent to the proposed sale. This is one of the three hunting tribes, and the buffalo hunt being henceforth prohibited to them, they will need for subsistence beef-rations or a herd of cattle. The appropriation provided for in section 6 of Senate bill 154 of this session, will be necessary for their subsistence and their progress in civilization. We also ask for them an appropriation of \$5,000 for building a house for an industrial school and \$3,000 for support of said school, these sums to be re-imbursed from the sale of land authorized by law. The Sacs and Foxes of Missouri number 95, being an increase of 7 since last year. Their reservation, 16,000 acres, lies near the Missouri River, part in Nebraska and part in Kansas. They have no school, but have a just claim on the Government, under the treaty dated March 6, 1861, promulgated March 26, 1863, for \$1,000 to erect a school-house and dwelling-house for a teacher, and \$200 per annum for school purposes. We ask that these sums may be added to the Indian appropriation bill. The Iowas have a reservation adjoining that of the Sacs and Foxes; they number 221, and, according to the report of Superintendent White, they are extending their agriculture and progressing in the arts of civilized life." Superintendent B. White sums up the requisite steps for Indian civilization as follows, to wit:

1. By all possible means to elevate the women of the tribes.
2. To place all Indian children in schools.
3. To give the Indian equal protection of life and property with the white man by United States and State laws.
4. To stop all hunts outside the reservations.
5. To place Indian families upon allotments of land in severalty.
6. To elect chiefs and policemen by the votes of the members of the tribes and pay their salaries for services performed.
7. To expend the annuities in payment for labor on allotments or in shops.
8. To expend portions of the invested trust-funds of the tribes in building houses on allotted land. By these means, with patience and perseverance on the part of the agents, the Indian can be civilized, live well and comfortably on his reservation, and ultimately become a useful citizen.

Very respectfully, thy friend,

SAMUEL M. JANNEY,

On behalf of Executive Committee of Friends.

Hon. WM. LOUGHRIDGE,

House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Recapitulation of appropriations asked :

1. For Santee Sioux, to support industrial school, \$6,000.
2. For Winnebagoes, to break and fence 800 acres of land, \$3,400.
3. For Omahas, to pay salary to matron, \$800.
4. For Pawnees, to restore former appropriations covered into the Treasury \$8,530.
5. For Otoes and Missourias, to build and support an industrial school, to be re-imbursed from land-sales, \$8,000.
6. For Sacs and Foxes, to build school-house and teacher's house, \$1,000, and \$200 for other school purposes.