

1876.

Baltimore 10th Month, 31st 1876.
To Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

The Standing Committee on the Indian Congress report: That since our last report that portion of the Pawnee Tribe remaining in Nebraska has been removed to the Indian Territory, to the home that had been selected for them in the forks of the Arkansas and Cimarron rivers.

Their reservation in Nebraska, was left in charge of Jacob Shottwell, to be cultivated for the benefit of the Indians.

From reports received we are informed that they are farming a large area of land, which would probably have been much increased if the loss of their ponies, and sickness had not interfered with their operations.

In the Convention held in Philadelphia in the Fifth Month last information was received that the acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by authority of the Secretary of the Interior had transferred the Pawnee Agency to the Central Superintendency, and that Agent Burgess was instructed to report to Superintendent Nicholson. It was therefore unitedly agreed in the Convention of Delegates, "that our responsibility with reference to this tribe of Indians shall now cease, and the Indian Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, who have had the Pawnees in charge, were requested to so advise Agent Burgess and report to a future meeting of Delegates." We have received information that the correspondence required with Dr. Nicholson and Mr. Burgess, was promptly attended to and copies of the minutes relating to the subject sent to both of them on the 12th of the Fifth Month 1876.

In a conference held the 27th inst, by two members of our Committee with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, he stated that the transfer of the Pawnee Agency to the Central Superintendency, was not intended by the Department to withdraw the Pawnees from the care of our Indian Committee, but inasmuch as the Northern Superintendency was about to be discontinued, it was deemed expedient

1876 That Agent Burgess should report to the Department through Superintendent Nicholson in relation to the business affairs of the Agency. It is the desire of the Commissioner that our Committee should continue its care of these Indians. And in case any appointments of Agents or Employees should be required, he will expect the nominations to be made by us.

To report recently made by Superintendent Nicholson to the Indian Department, makes the following statement with regard to the present condition of the Pawnee Indians: "The Pawnees have at last been gathered together upon their new homes, west of the Arkansas river, and those who are familiar with the immediate results of removing Indians, will not expect many evidences of progress, beyond the satisfaction which they exhibit with their location, and the resolution with which they have undertaken with small means to establish themselves in it. No provision whatever having been made by Congress for their removal, everything had to be done under great disadvantages. The recent act providing for the sale of their lands in Nebraska, and advancing funds for their settlement, will be of great service in laying a foundation upon which it is hoped their future prosperity will be secured.

It will be observed that in the improvements already made upon this reservation Indian labor has been employed to a considerable extent, and has proved very serviceable. This Agency was transferred to the Central Superintendency from the Northern, in May last.

It is very creditable to the managers of the school, and to the disposition of the Indians that so large a day school, has been maintained.

It is very seldom that a daily attendance of 100 children is secured, unless there are arrangements for boarding them."