

1877 Wm Burgess having resigned his office as U.S. Agent for that tribe, we nominated as his successor, Charles N. Seaming, who was appointed by the President, and confirmed by the Senate. He entered upon the duties of his office in the 5th month last, and we have reason to believe that he will prove to be a faithful and efficient agent.

Some members of our Executive Committee attended a Convention of Delegates from the seven yearly meetings held in Philadelphia, in the 5th month, when it was concluded to engage the services of Barclay White, late Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Northern Superintendency, to act as Special Agent for the Seven Yearly Meetings; to spend one hundred days in visiting the agencies, and to report to each of the Yearly Meeting Committees.

His report, addressed to DeRush Roberts Secretary of our Committee, dated 21st of 8th month, gives a full and detailed statement of the condition of the Pawnee Indians at the time of his sojourn among them, from the 18th to the 27th of the 7th month last.

It appears, from statistics accompanying his report, that the population of the Pawnee tribe, in the year 1845, was 2,200, in the year 1846 it was 1,667, showing a decrease of 533, and in the present year it is 1,523, showing a further decrease of 144. The very great mortality that has prevailed among the Pawnees, since their removal to the Indian Territory, has resulted from malarial diseases incident to that climate. In this respect their removal from Nebraska, which was done by the Government at their own unanimous request has proved disastrous. It is the general experience of settlers in a prairie country that the breaking of the sod, and the decay of the vegetable matter it contains, produces disease among those who are not acclimated. The sickness at the Pawnee Agency was not confined to the Indians; most of the white people residing there were affected by it, but we have heard of no deaths among them.

During the past summer 655 acres of prairie sod was broken for the four bands of Pawnees, who are being located within a few miles of the agency buildings, the members of each band having contiguous allotments. There had ~~been~~ previously been broken 325 acres, making 980 acres ready for cultivation.

The greater part of this land not being prepared in time for planting this year, the tribe have been largely dependent for

1877 subsistence upon contract supplies.

A Pawnee ration, per week, consists of, for each person, four pounds of beef, three and a half pounds flour, quarter pound coffee and half pound of sugar. The other supplies, consisting of corn meal, soap, salt and hard bread, are issued irregularly as required.

There were in tillage this year, for the agency, seventy five acres corn, thirty acres oats, and five acres potatoes. The Indians have cultivated in fields and squaw patches about two hundred and twenty seven acres corn, and two acres of potatoes.

It is estimated that there are 90,000 acres of land in the reservation suitable for cultivation. The fertility of the soil is inferior to that of their former reservation in Nebraska, but is good land for the Indian Territory, and well adapted to the growth of wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, melons and beans, which are the agricultural crops upon which the Indians generally depend for subsistence.

The reservation is well wooded, and watered, and admirably adapted for grazing. Horses, mules, cattle, sheep and swine, can, with proper care and protection, all be raised with little expense and much profit to the Indians.

The tribe has received permission to anticipate going on a buffalo hunt early in the autumn; it is believed that a hunt will economize supplies, add to their revenue and conduce to their health. The agent has been requested to endeavor to make such an arrangement with the department of the Interior as will keep the ^{school} children at home for the purpose of attending school while their parents are absent on the hunt.

Two day schools have been maintained in one building during the entire school year; their general reputation is of having been well conducted. School No. 1, taught by Julia Nichols, has had an average attendance of 28 boys and 19 girls. School No. 2, taught by Mary Anna Burgess, has had an average attendance of 26 boys and 19 girls; total average in both schools, 92 pupils, of whom it is reported that 34 boys and 17 girls could read and write the English language understandingly.

The Indians are better clothed than they were while living in Nebraska. They have built eight log houses and one frame house this year, and a few of them have selected family farms. Funds have been appropriated by Congress for an Industrial School House, and a