

1878

"The Teachers of the Schools are true missionaries, devoted to their work, occupying much of their time out of school hours sewing for the children, and they make cleanliness the early lesson of each day. They are universally popular with the parents and Indian children. I regret to announce that they have received notice from the Commissioner that their salaries will be reduced from \$800. to \$500 each after the commencement of the next fiscal year."

"A one and a half story building for an industrial Boarding School has been constructed of stone by contract, for the sum of \$15,457.50, including the expense of building fence, &c. It is located on the site selected by Agent Burgess, and is intended for the accommodation of eighty pupils, their teachers and caretakers. The building is conveniently planned for the purpose intended, and is now ready for the opening of school therein on the 1st of the ninth month."

Report of
Comm. on
Indian
Concern
continued

At the date of Barclay White's report, in the sixth month the agent had forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian affairs an estimate for such articles as were necessary to complete the furnishing of the house, and asked ^{for} permission to contract for them, but we have recently been informed that the supplies have not arrived and the industrial school has not been opened. The two day schools have been resumed under the care of Julia Nichols and Mary Ann Burgess.

We have no report of the crops this fall. The general advancement of the tribe was considered good, and a disposition to work on fencing, breaking prairie, &c. was general among the Indians.

Charles W. Seaving having resigned his position as agent for the Pawnee, he was succeeded by Samuel S. Ely on the 11th of the sixth month last. He was not an applicant for the office but had applied for the Otae Agency, where he had formerly been employed; and the Commissioner of Indian affairs, without consulting our Executive Committee, appointed him as agent for the Pawnee, which he consented to accept, but has incurred the displeasure of the Commissioner and been removed.

In order to give a clear understanding of the disturbing influences that have prevailed at the Pawnee Agency, we must refer to the appointment of Joseph Bertford as clerk, who

1878

without the concurrence of the Agent, was placed and continued in that office by the Commissioner of Indian affairs. He was nominally subordinate to the agent, but really made independent of his control. He has been in correspondence with the Commissioner and with a clerk in his office, as a confidential informer, and we are convinced that his reports, made without the knowledge of the agent were unreliable and mischievous. At our request Barclay White investigated the conduct of Bertford, and was convinced that he was a promoter of discord and ought to be removed.

In consequence of evil reports which we believe were exaggerated or unfounded, the Commissioner of Indian affairs has removed Agent Ely on a charge of insubordination, and has placed the Pawnee Agency in charge of A. C. Williams of the Wichita Agency. We have recently been informed by the Commissioner that Bertford is now absent from the agency on furlough and that he will not return there; but he claims the right to place a confidential clerk at every agency.

Report
of Committee
on Indian
Concern
continued

Believing, as we do, that a system of espionage such as has existed at the Pawnee Agency, is calculated to degrade the Agent and impair his authority, we have appealed to the President of the United States, requesting that the agents nominated by us may have the authority to name their clerks and other employees, subject to the approval of the Indian office, in accordance with our original agreement with President Grant; and we have stated to him that if our request cannot be granted, we are instructed by the friends we represent to withdraw from the care of the Pawnee agency.

Our appeal to the President was adopted at a meeting of our Indian Committee held at Gunpowder in the ninth month, and was presented on the 8th day of this month by B. Rush Roberts, Richard S. Wentley and Cyrus Blackburn. In our appeal we adverted, in the first place to the obstructions that have impeded our labors in the Indian service especially to the rejection ^{by the United States Senate} of persons appointed at our