

1881 "In closing my report, I can say we have had a satisfactory year's work. The Indians are learning to rely more upon themselves, and are more willing to send their children to school. The number of white employees is being reduced, and the Indians are taking their places."

Levi S. Brown, one of our Committee, visited the Santee Agency in the Fifth Month last, and made a very interesting report of what he saw and learned whilst there. We present some extracts from his report.

Indian Report con. "In riding over their fertile lands, beautifully located, sufficiently rolling for agricultural purposes, here and there dotted over with their humble dwellings on their several allotments, I could not but admire the improvement in the condition of this people, compared with the manner of living twelve years ago, when our late beloved friend, Asa M. Jannet, first took charge of them. Then they lived in tents and miserable huts in villages, depending almost entirely on the Government for subsistence, now each family has its own land and houses.

As we neared the Agency buildings, we found some farms highly cultivated, with very comfortable buildings and surroundings. I visited the smith shop, carpenter shop, butcher shop, brickyard &c, in all of which Indians are employed. Joseph Stilla, the chief blacksmith, is an Indian, and said to be an unusually good mechanic. The same may be said of the carpenter. One of the clerks in the office of the Agent, Albert C. Frazier, an Indian is a ready writer, and a good penman. The mail messenger, who carries the mail daily from Springfield, is an Indian, and is considered very trustworthy. In short, Indians are employed in every department on the Reservation and in my judgment compare favorably with white men, similarly situated.

The Ponca Indians were removed from Dakota to the Indian Territory, but a portion of them were so much dissatisfied with their new home, that they returned to Dakota. There are about 160 of them, and after much delay the Government decided to let them remain where they are. They are located a few miles from the Santee Agency, and have been assigned to Josiah Lightner.

The balance reported in our hands last year was \$ 372.¹², received from the Treasurer of the Yearly meeting

1881 \$ 334.⁶² making \$ 706.⁷², amount expended during the year \$ 351.⁸⁰, leaving a balance of \$ 354.⁹², which, with the \$ 636.²² received from the Sarah Jane fund, has been, as directed by the Yearly Meeting, handed over to the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting, all of which will appear by reference to his report.

Since our last report, we have had to mourn the loss, by death, of our beloved friend and efficient Secretary, B. Rush Roberts. This departure leaves a void which we fear will not be easily filled. Acting in the two-fold capacity of a member of the Board of Indian Commissioners, and as a member and the Secretary of our Committee, possessing the confidence of the Government, and the respect of his associate commissioners, his opportunities for efficiently and economically serving the cause of the Indian, for whom his sympathies were so warmly enlisted, were unequalled.

In view of the foregoing reflections, and of the further fact of the loss by death and affliction of so many others of our devoted and efficient members, we ask that the present Committee be released, and a new one appointed.

Signed, on behalf of the Committee
Cyrus Blackburn. — Clerk

10. The following Friends are appointed with a similar Committee of Womens Branch, to nominate to a future sitting the names of suitable Friends to serve as a Committee on Indian Affairs, viz:

Com. apptd
to
nominate
Com.
to
serve as
Com.
on
Indian
Affairs

Darlington Hoopes,
Cyrus Blackburn,
Thomas H. Canby,
James H. Brown,
Isaac Russell,
Josie Hoge,
William Williams,
Thomas C. Taylor.

Edward P. Thomas,
William M. Way,
Alban Cutler,
Samuel A. Gover,
David W. Branson,
Josie W. Griest,
Henry Addings,
Elias Matthews.

11. To examine and settle the Treasurers Accounts, report the sum necessary to be raised to defray the expenses of the next