

1882 that they may be prepared to offer sympathy and assistance to the agent as promptly as circumstances may require.

Levi K. Brown, a member of our Committee kindly consented to visit the Agency during the past summer, from whom we have received the following interesting report, which we consider very encouraging viz:

To the Executive Committee on Indian Affairs,
of Baltimore Yearly Meeting,

Dear Friends:— In accordance with your request, and the desire of the Agent, Isaiah Lightner I visited the Santee Agency, in Nebraska, last month, my friend and neighbor, S. Fennell Ambler accompanying me.

We arrived at the reservation on the morning of the 8th of Eighth month, and were cordially received by the Agent and his interesting family. We spent the day in looking around the Agency buildings, and the improvements being made; several new buildings, viz: two brick dwelling houses (that will accommodate four families) a neat frame dwelling for the resident physician, warehouse, carpenter shop, and butcher shop, having been erected during the past year.

The next day we accompanied the Agent on a visit to the Ponca reservation, in Dakota, eighteen miles distant, where he went to issue to that sadly wronged tribe several yoke of oxen, ten head of cows, and several barrels of mess pork, which he had purchased by direction of the Interior Department, for their use. It was truly an interesting occasion, over one hundred of the chief men, women and children were present, notably among them, "Standing Bear", "Bird Head", "Smoke master", and "Buffalo Chip". These were formerly chiefs of the tribe, and yet control their people in a measure. The Poncas have made considerable progress in agriculture, though not so far advanced as the Santes. Many of them have log houses, gardens, some corn, oats and spring wheat, all of which looked well. They have also put up many stacks of hay for their cattle the coming winter. The agent informed them he wanted two hundred tons of hay cut and put up for the government cattle the approaching winter for which he would pay \$1.50 per ton.

1882 cash. This offer was promptly accepted by the Indians, who engaged to go at the work the following week. One of the tribe informed us he had over eight hundred heads of cabbage, besides other vegetables in his "patch".

Before leaving, I felt it right to express to these people the pleasure it afforded us to visit and converse with them, to see the progress they were making in agriculture, and assured them of the good will the Society of Friends (of which the agent was a representative) had ever entertained toward the Indians.

That we sympathized deeply with them in the trials and sufferings they had recently been subjected to, and rejoiced to see them back again on their old reservation, engaged in the laudable occupation of farming, which would make them comfortable and happy. This was evidently received by them with satisfaction, a number expressing their appreciation in their own manner. "Hump's

Indian
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continued.

"Standing Bear", deeply affected, (doubtless at the allusion to their old homes,) replied, in substance: "I am glad to see you, to take you by the hand and hear your good will. I am glad to get back to my old home:— that is all I asked for our people when I was in your country, when in Washington and Boston".

On our return we accompanied "Standing Bear" to his residence, a beautiful home on "Running Water", where he had about fourteen acres under cultivation in corn, wheat, oats and potatoes.

The following day, the agent was engaged opening bids for contracts that had been advertised for lumber, hardware and material sufficient to build and paint fifty frame dwelling houses for the Santee Indians, also for one hundred head of cows &c, which the Government was furnishing them from funds due the Indians on the sale of their lands in Minnesota.

There were twelve bidders, several of whom were present and manifested considerable interest in the matter as the bids were opened by the agent, and promptly recorded by Henry Jones, Indian clerk.

On sixth day, the 11th of the month, Charles Still, the obliging superintendent, favored us with a ride over the reservation. It was truly gratifying to see the progress these people have made during the past four years. When first they were induced to leave their village huts, they were disposed to settle on the river bottom, about three miles wide,