

1888

Making 4,095 acres of land planted and ploughed during the past year.

The land was all prepared and planted in proper season, and with an energy that was very commendable. The prompt and energetic manner in which they gather their ripe crops is very gratifying indeed.

They never allow grain to become over ripe unless it is unavoidable, always commencing preparation as soon as the fields begin to turn yellow, asking for machines long before they are needed, and arranging which machines shall cut their grain in due season, which action on their part greatly facilitates the work of preparing the harvesting machines.

Indians are very careful of the machinery put into their hands, especially the reapers and mowers.

Report on Indian Affairs
Twenty six dwelling houses have been built for the Indians the past year, all located on their farms, at a cost of \$7,715.82 - more than that number have been plastered, painted, and otherwise repaired, and 11,100 rods of fence built, all this work done by the Indians themselves. There are about 33 skilled mechanics among the Indians under my charge, and they have earned during the year \$6,033.47 exclusive of outside job not reported.

Except physician and clerk no white persons are employed at any of the Agencies under my care.

A Temperance Society was organized at the Tantee Agency, and composed wholly of Indians. They number 29 members, who each wear a badge of white metal with the word "Temperance" engraved thereon.

I consider the Plandreaux homestead settlement a success, demonstrating that the Indians can go among white settlements and support themselves. Had they an equal chance they would have fully coped with the whites, but they have been a constant prey to the white man. Having fine lands, every device known to sharpers was used to induce them to part with them, mortgaging being most successful, and was legal, as many of their lands were patented before the restrictive law was enacted. White settlers generally help each other, but they are apt to consider the Indian their natural prey.

The Report also gives an account of the destruction of the main building of the Government Industrial School at Tantee. This loss would have been more disastrous to the children than it was, had it not been for the energy and determination of the Agent, who by promptly availing himself of other contiguous buildings and fitting them up hastily, managed to accommodate 69 of the children the balance of

1888

the year. Plans were made at once for new buildings and forwarded to the Department, and the Agent is daily expecting an order for their erection.

The Report of the Treasurer shows accrued interest on the Funds in our care

\$296.47

And Disbursements,

124.90

Leaving a balance of

\$251.57

which the Committee will endeavor to use with judgment.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Committee.

Joseph J. Fanning, Clerk.

Baltimore, Tenth Month, 31, 1888.

25

The Committee to visit Subordinate Meetings and to encourage Friends to greater faithfulness in their religious duties, made the following report, which was read and duly considered, viz:

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting:

Report of Committee to visit Subordinate Meetings
The Committee appointed last year to visit Subordinate Meetings, and encourage Friends to greater faithfulness in their religious duties as way opens, reports:

That but little organized work has been entered upon during the past year. It has not seemed practicable to lay out plans involving much travel, owing to the inability of most of our members to leave their homes or incur the expense incident to visiting our widely separated branches. But if it considered practicable for the Yearly Meeting to re-enter upon the labor contemplated in the minute of our appointment, we see throughout all of our branches, channels for usefulness, and work productive of abundant fruitage. A few of our number however have gone out in labors of love for the truth, to distant members of our Society in the discharge of their duty.

Feeling our inability to meet the want that still exists of more intercourse amongst our members, the Committee have endeavored to stir up more interest in many of our Meetings by encouraging the formation of Friends circles, for the promotion of social and spiritual growth, and a more intelligent understanding of our principles.

The benefit derived from this course of action is attested by an increase of interest in the Society, as manifested in several neighborhoods.

In the desire for a proper discharge of the duty imposed upon us, the isolated members have not been wholly forgotten in their lonely situations, nor the infirm in their afflictions.