

1889

Leah L. Hinsey,  
 Mercy M. Howell,  
 E. R. Buffington,  
 Hannah R. Buffington,  
 Edwin H. Reynolds,

Elizabeth B. Passmore,  
 R. Orlando Day,  
 Nancy M. Fisher,  
 Rebecca M. Blackburn,  
 E. Howard Blackburn,

Elisha M. Davis,  
 Alice Lester,  
 Mary Fisher,  
 Louisa A. W. Russell,

Eli M. Lamb was subsequently released from service on said Committee. Released from at his own request.

The sum of two hundred dollars was ordered to be placed at the disposal of the Committee for use during the ensuing year.

32.

The Joint Standing Committee upon the Indian concern, submitted the following report, viz:

To the Yearly Meeting:

The Committee on Indian Affairs has, during the past year, found little opportunity for usefulness in the field of labor assigned to it.

It is known perhaps, to all Friends who take any interest in Indian work and who have followed the course of our Committee for some eight or ten years past, that we have no official connection with the Government in our labors on behalf of the Indians. Nor are we engaged directly in the work of Indian civilization or education at any Agency or with any Tribe. Amongst all the schools, industrial or common, and amongst all the missions that are now in existence at the various Agencies throughout the west, not one is under the care of our Religious Society.

The fact that a member of our Society is in charge of one of the Indian Agencies is our only point of actual contact. This, taken with the circumstance that we are recognized at the Indian Bureau in Washington as trustworthy friends of the Indian and have some influence with Congress in shaping legislation, is all that we can lay claim to as channels of usefulness in this concern.

We continue to have a friendly oversight of the Santee Agency and are in frequent correspondence with Charles Hill, the Agent there, and with John E. Smith, the sub-Agent in care of the Ponca Indians in Lakota. They keep us informed of the condition in those Tribes and we do what we can to aid them. The usual contribution of Christmas presents to the Ponca children was made last winter and was gratefully acknowledged by the Principal of the School and his wife. The little paper for children called "Scattered Seeds" is sent amongst them by

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the Committee more largely than heretofore. During the past year we commenced sending agricultural papers to the Santees, and Poncas for distribution amongst the young men farmers. These papers, the Agent writes, are very useful and well appreciated.

The annual report of Charles Hill, a copy of which we have, shows a gradual improvement in the condition of the Indians, in most respects, at the Santee Agency. We regret to notice however that an increase of drunkenness amongst the men of the Santee Tribe is admitted by the Agent. Out of 38 cases that came before the Indian Police Court for trial, during the past year, 21 of them were on charge of drunkenness. The Agent expresses deep regret at this and says, notwithstanding his watchfulness the Indians will stray off to the towns surrounding the reservation and there obtain liquor.

Report  
of  
Committee  
on  
Indian  
Affairs

The Indians, both at the Santee and Ponca reservations, are farming their lands in a manner that reflects great credit on them and the report of the Agent as to quantity and value of their crops makes an excellent showing.

We continued our efforts last session of Congress, to obtain provision for the appointment of matrons, to teach the women of the Tribes the art of housekeeping, and had good assurance of success, but were defeated at the last moment by the indifference of a member of Congress whose term of service was about to expire.

We expect to renew our efforts during the coming session, and shall not rest until we either accomplish what we want or discover that further labor will be useless. Every friend of the Indian to whom we have explained our object in advocating this measure, has admitted its great importance and encouraged us to persevere in bringing it about. We propose to ask for an appropriation to pay fifteen matrons to be assigned to the different Tribes as they may need them.

Charles Hill in a letter to the Clerk of this Committee thus alludes to this subject:

"The necessity for a matron both at Santee and Ponca becomes more apparent all the time. I hope you will renew your efforts when Congress meets to have an item for pay of matrons included in the appropriation bill."