

not only sufficient to absorb their whole year's crop, but also to demand, in payment for debt, even the amount left over for seed. For this reason traders have been enjoined not to give Indians credit, but to let them pay in cash and products as far as they may go.

These granaries and root houses, which are necessary to make sure that the Indians do not part with their seed to satisfy passing wants, have been completed or are in course of construction for the following agencies: Cheyenne River, Lower Brulé, Crow Creek, Yankton, Fort Berthold, Sisseton, Blackfeet, Crow, Flathead, Shoshone, Yakama, Tulallip, Neah Bay, S'Kokomish, Siletz, Umatilla, Round Valley, Cheyenne and Arapaho, Pawnee, Osage, Sac and Fox, Santee, Omaha, Winnebago, Great Nemaha, and White Earth.

#### INDIAN POLICE.

It is about two years since the general establishment of an Indian police force, which has proved to be exceedingly beneficial to the service. The policemen have shown the utmost fidelity to the government, and, when necessary, have arrested even friends and relatives with absolute impartiality. At the Pine Ridge Agency, on the 8th of September last, a runner was dispatched from the camp of Young-Man-Afraid-of-his-Horses to notify the agent of the escape during the night of eleven Cheyennes, who had taken with them twenty-two head of horses and ponies belonging to the Sioux. Police Captain Sword, with nine of his men, was sent in pursuit, and the next day overtook the Cheyennes—who had twelve hours the start of the police—on Osage Creek west of the Black Hills, about 125 miles distant from the agency. Sword and his party immediately surrounded the fugitives and demanded their surrender. Spotted Wolf, the leader of the runaways, refused, and threw off his blanket, which among Indians signifies a challenge to mortal combat. The police immediately opened fire on the party, killing Spotted Wolf. The remainder then surrendered, and after a two-days march were brought back to the agency. Many other equally noteworthy instances of fidelity have occurred, and as a whole, where agents have entered into the spirit of the system, the results have been of the best possible character.

There is but one drawback, which should be removed by Congress. The pay of policemen which is fixed by law at \$5 per month should be increased to \$15. The men enlisted in the police service are usually heads of families, and \$5 per month is the merest pittance. Indians engaged in other avocations at the various agencies are paid \$15, and teamsters, with their ponies, often earn \$30 per month. Especially at larger agencies, where there is considerable police work to be done, the payment of the police should be increased as above proposed. At present considerable dissatisfaction is felt among the Indians on account of the scanty pay, and agents report great difficulty in keeping a full quota of suitable men. This should not be the case, as our police system

is necessary for the maintenance of order and good government at the several agencies, and is of the highest importance in teaching Indians habits of civilized life and eventual self-government.

#### MARRIAGES.

In my last annual report I recommended the enactment of a law to prevent polygamy, which prevails in almost every Indian tribe, and to provide for legal marriages among Indians. I can do no better than to repeat that recommendation here:

An act of Congress should provide wholesome and proper marriage laws for Indian tribes. The agent should be required to marry all the Indians cohabiting together upon the various reservations, giving them a certificate of such marriage; and after the beginning of the next year no Indian should be permitted to marry more than one wife. White men cohabiting with Indian women should be compelled either to marry them or to quit the reservation.

#### THE PONCAS.

As stated in my last annual report the Poncas were finally settled on both sides of the Salt Fork near its junction with the Arkansas River. The location is healthy and the soil fertile. There is everything in the surroundings of the agency to please the eye, and it is universally regarded as the best location for an Indian agency to be found anywhere in the country.

The Poncas are now doing well. Many houses have already been built, and by the 1st of January next the agent expects to have the whole tribe comfortably supplied with houses. They have been furnished with wagons and harness for freighting and farm purposes, and have hauled their own supplies from Wichita, Kansas. They have been supplied with horses and cattle for stock-raising, and also with agricultural implements sufficient for all the members of their tribe. A steam sawmill and a shingle-machine have been placed at the agency, and have been running continuously since March last. A school-house has been built and a school has been in operation for a considerable portion of the year. In brief, every thing possible has been done to promote their comfort and civilization.

As reported heretofore, these Indians suffered greatly in health by their removal to the Indian Territory, but they have now become acclimated and the health of the tribe has greatly improved.

By the treaty of March 12, 1858 (12 Stat., 997), the Ponca tribe of Indians ceded to the United States all the lands then owned or claimed by them except a tract in what is now the Territory of Dakota, which was reserved in said treaty as their future home. In consideration of such session the United States stipulated, among other things, "To protect the Poncas in the possession of the tract of land reserved for their future homes and their persons and property therein during good behavior on their part." By the treaty of March 10, 1865 (14 Stat.,

675), certain cessions and exchanges were made by which the area of the Ponca reservation was reduced to 96,000 acres, to which diminished reservation the pledge of protection in the former treaty remained fully applicable, and was never forfeited on the part of said Indians.

The following bill was presented by the department to Congress on the 3d of February 1879:

A BILL For the relief of the Ponca tribe of Indians in the Indian Territory.

Whereas, by the treaty of March 12, 1853, the Ponca Indians ceded to the United States all the land then owned or claimed by them, except a tract in the Territory of Dakota, bounded as follows, viz: "Beginning at a point on the Niobrara River and running due north so as to intersect the Ponca River 25 miles from its mouth; thence, from said point of intersection up and along the Ponca River twenty—miles; thence due south to the Niobrara River, and thence down and along said river to the place of beginning": and in possession of which the United States agreed to protect said tribe; and,

Whereas, by the treaty of March 10, 1865, certain changes were made in the boundaries of the Ponca Reservation, as defined in the treaty of March 12, 1853, whereby their reservation was reduced to 96,000 acres of land; and,

Whereas, by the second article of the treaty of April 29, 1868, with the Sioux nation of Indians, the lands owned and then occupied by the said Poncas, under the provisions hereinbefore set forth, and on which they had valuable improvements in houses and cultivated lands, were without their consent ceded and conveyed by the United States to said nation of Indians; and,

Whereas provision was made in the act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, for the removal of the Ponca Indians to the Indian Territory, which said removal has since been effected; and

Whereas said Ponca Indians at the time of their removal were obliged to leave all of their improvements and other valuable property, consisting of agricultural implements, etc., on their said reservation in Dakota, and for which they have received no compensation; and,

Whereas said Ponca Indians are now located temporarily on certain lands, which they desire to retain, within the territory west of the 96° ceded by the Cherokee Nation to the United States by the treaty of July 19, 1866, for the purpose of settling other Indians thereon, but which lands they have no money to purchase as provided in said treaty: Therefore,

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to permanently locate the said Ponca Indians on the tract of land now occupied by them, embracing in the aggregate 101,894 acres, and to purchase the same for their use from the Cherokee Nation; said purchase to be made in accordance with the provisions of the Cherokee treaty of July 19, 1876.

SEC. 2. That the sum of \$140,000 be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any moneys now in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, to be disposed of for the benefit of said Ponca Indians as follows, viz, \$82,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, shall be expended by the Secretary of the Interior in payment for the lands authorized herein to be purchased for the use of the Ponca tribe of Indians, and the balance of said \$140,000 remaining after the purchase of said lands shall be invested in the four per cent. bonds of the United States and held as a permanent investment for said tribe, the interest thereon to be expended annually for their benefit in such manner as the Secretary of the Interior may direct.

SEC. 3. That the amount appropriated herein shall be in full of all claims by said Ponca tribe of Indians against the United States for the lands and property heretofore owned by them in Dakota Territory.

By the provisions of the above bill it will be seen that everything has been done for the Poncas, so far as this department can act. Their lands were ceded to the Sioux by act of Congress, and proper reparation can only be made by the same authority.

CHIEF MOSES AND HIS PEOPLE.

During the summer of 1878 the settlers in Washington Territory were painfully excited by the restless condition of the Indians in their midst, owing to the outbreak of the Snakes and Bannacks in the adjoining Territory of Idaho, and organized measures for self-protection against roving bands were considered necessary. Chief Moses and his band, who at that time were not on any reservation, were suspected by the settlers of being in sympathy with the hostile Indians, and also of having been accomplices in the murder of a man and his wife, named Perkins, who had been killed by a roving band of Columbia River Indians, under the influence of the notorious "dreamer" Smohalle. In the fall of 1878, Agent Wilbur was directed to use his best endeavors to induce Moses and his band to go upon the Yakama Reservation. He accordingly sent for Moses, who, on the plea that a separate reservation was to be assigned him, declined to go to Yakama until the decision of the government in the matter could be had. He denied all personal knowledge of the Perkins murder, and offered to furnish guides to assist in the arrest of the guilty parties, who were then located about 40 miles distant from his camp.

A party of fifteen agency Indians and thirty white volunteers from Yakama City was formed, and it was arranged that Moses and his men should have one day's start of the party in order to make arrangements for crossing the Columbia River. On arriving with his men at the appointed place he found that the volunteers had proceeded to a point twelve miles below. This fact, coupled with reports which had reached him in the mean time that the whites had planned to waylay and kill him on the way home, and that the police and volunteers intended to arrest him and confine him in jail at Yakama, aroused his suspicions, and he failed to furnish the guides as agreed, and confronted the volunteer party in an apparently hostile attitude with about sixty armed men. After a parley, which resulted in both sides withdrawing without collision, Moses returned to his camp, but three days later started with nine of his men (as he states) to join the party in the capture of the murderers. Before reaching them he encamped for the night, and the volunteers who were in that vicinity, mistaking their camp fires for those of the murderers, surrounded the camp and took Moses and his nine men prisoners. All were disarmed; five went after the murderers and arrested one, the other having killed himself to avoid arrest, and Moses and the remaining four men were taken to Yakama City and confined in jail without any formal examination. A week later Agent Wilbur persuaded the citizens to allow him to take them in charge, and, under