

## CLEVER SANTEE INDIANS.

For the last two months the newspapers have been full of Indian news and many writers have given their opinions as to the future of the red men. Some even have gone so far as to say that he can never be civilized. To see the fallacy of this opinion let us look for a moment up in the northern part of Knox County. Here live a people of whom little is heard. However, twenty-five years ago they were more prominent in frontier history than their brethren who recently stirred up trouble in Pine Ridge can ever expect to be. Here live the Santee band of Sioux who figured so prominently in the Minnesota massacre. After the trial, execution and imprisonment of the leaders of the outbreak the remainder of the band were moved West and located at Crow Creek, S. D., in the year 1863.

After three years' attempt to raise a crop, and the expenditure of \$100 by the government, they were moved down the Missouri and located on the bottom lands between Niobrara and Bazle, rivers occupying the land where Niobrara now stands. But as this land had been once entered for settlement by whites, who had been driven away by Indians, they were again moved east of the Bazle where they have since remained. The agency is about fifteen miles east of Niobrara, on the Missouri and is located on a "second" bottom or fence about fifty feet above the river. Overlooking the bottom as it does, and being partly surrounded by timber and high bluffs, it is a very pretty place, especially in the summer when all is green and fragrant.

The agent in charge is James E. Helms, who was recently appointed from Pawnee county. The Santees are further advanced than other tribes in Nebraska or Dakota, except perhaps the Flandreau band of Sioux who are in Moody county, South Dakota.

They have their land in severalty, live in comfortable houses and behave as well as a community of the same number of whites would. The Santees exercise the right to vote and hold offices, there being several township officers and one county supervisor who are Indians. In politics three-fourths of them are Republicans and the balance democrats and prohibitionists. There are five churches on the reserve, three Episcopal and two Congregational, all being well attended. The Santees take a live interest in the cause of education from the fact that they can so plainly see the results in their own tribe.

They have school facilities such as few other tribes have, and as a rule make the best of them. There are two large schools here, one mission and the other government. In order that the term "mission" may be rightly understood it may be well to state that the government annually contracts with the different missionary societies for the education of Indian children. The latest available reports show that there are 129 boarding schools and 103 day schools. Of these, fifty-nine boarding and twenty-six day schools are what are termed "mission schools," that is, schools owned and controlled by the missionary associations who are under contract with the government to clothe, feed and care for the Indian children

placed there. The rate per capita per annum ranges from \$105 to \$125, according to location.

Of the mission schools the normal training school located at Santee agency is one of the best equipped in the West. It is controlled by the American Missionary Association and is valued at \$50,000. It is under the management of Rev. A. L. Riggs, who has guided it from its infancy, some twenty years ago. The number of pupils is about 100, who are taken from all parts of the Northwest, many coming from Montana, Wyoming and the extreme north of the Dakotas. The aim of the institution is to train preachers, teachers and interpreters to go among the tribes of the northwest and bring them to a higher state of enlightenment. The plan of conducting the institution is similar to that of other boarding schools.

The larger girls are domiciled at the "Dakota home," while the smaller ones inhabit the "Birds Nest." The young men are at "Perkin's hall" and the boys at "Whitney hall" and the "cottage."

Each home is in charge of a matron who looks after her family and is the mother to all. In addition to study in the school rooms the larger boys are taught shoemaking, blacksmithing and carpentry. There is also a well equipped printing office in connection with the school where a number of boys are being taught that branch. There are published two monthly papers in the Dakota and one in the English language, the work being done largely by Indian boys. There is also a large government school at Santee called the industrial boarding school, which is under the supervision of Mr. Charles F. Pierce, and is considered one of the best in the Indian school service. There are about 140 pupils in attendance, nearly all Santee and Ponca children. The course of study which is prescribed by the commissioner of Indian affairs for all Indian schools is similar to that of the common schools of the State, though the advancement is not so rapid. The boys are taught in the agency shops in iron and wood work, also harness and shoemaking. This training is given them during the winter, for in the summer all are kept busy on the large school farm. All departments are presided over by competent teachers who aim to make the training as thoroughly practical as possible, and indeed it is, for there are boys who can take a shoe from their feet and repair it, or go to the blacksmith shop and make a clevis or sharpen a plow. The girls under their instructors attend to the housework of the school, being taught to wash, iron, cook and make clothing. The larger pupils spend one-half of their time in industrial work and are detailed at the beginning of each month to different departments. Of the girls, one class goes to the laundry, another to the kitchen and another to the sewing room.

The boys are also detailed, some caring for horses, others cows, others hogs and others to the various outside duties of the establishment. A record is kept of these monthly details, so that at the end of the year each parent may know just what work their child has been doing during the term. Every-

thing moves along with the order characteristic of government institutions, although, perhaps, the hours are longer than the average employees enjoy. At half past five the rising bell rings, half past six breakfast is served, at seven the boys are drawn up in companies on the campus, when the weather permits, and answer to roll call and receive orders for the day's work. After this the larger ones go to their work while the smaller ones amuse themselves until 9 o'clock when they go to the class rooms.

In the afternoon all pupils go to their studies and there is also an evening session of an hour and a half for those who do not attend in the forenoon. At 8:30 the retiring bell rings and all retire for rest, only to rise again and continue the same routine until the 30th of June when the school term ends. As a result of the industrial training the Santees have as large a number of mechanics among their number as can be found in the white communities of the same size. At the agency shops we find Indians doing the work of carpenters, blacksmiths, harnessmakers, millers and engineers. In fact, all positions in the mechanical department of the agency are filled by Indians, and the work is being done as well as it could be by whites.

If anyone desires to see the work of these people there are many at the agency who will take pleasure in showing them about, and, after once seeing, they will go away knowing that with patience and proper training the Indian will become as skillful in all mechanical trades as his white brother. C.

SANTEE AGENCY, Neb., Feb. 8.

## THE CHILIAN REVOLUTION.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The *Herald* received yesterday from its correspondent in Santiago, Chili, a bundle of letters containing news of no little interest about the progress of the insurrection in that country, of which but meagre information has been received from day to day by cable, chiefly via Buenos Ayres and Europe. These letters give a vivid picture of the doings of both the insurrectionists and the government troops.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 17.—The insurrection now extends from Coquimbo to Sierra Neta, and in spite of reports of the government to the contrary, some very serious fighting has been done. President Balmaceda surrounds himself with troops and the sentries around the municipal palace have been tripled, many additions having been made to the sentries elsewhere.

News that the city of Coquimbo after a short fight, surrendered to the insurgents had the effect of a

## THUNDERBOLT IN SANTIAGO.

This was not expected and the government fears that other cities will revolt. General Uruf led the revolutionists the cruisers Magallanes and Admiral Cochrane were detailed by the admiral to capture Coquimbo, which they did January 17. They arrived at Coquimbo on the night of the 16th, and early on the 17th, began to bombard the town. The land batteries were abandoned after half an hour's firing and the people, as though by previous agreement, started for the