

1st. The service could be more effectually managed with regard to offences and crimes, were the laws fully adequate to meet all the occasions where the administration of justice and the punishment of offenders are required for the maintenance of order and the common good. I beg leave to ask your attention to the views contained in the annual report of this office of last year upon this subject, and express the hope that Congress will so revise and amend the laws pertaining to Indian matters as to make them effectual to the accomplishment of the desired end in these respects.

2d. It is recommended that so much of the law of 50th June, 1854, regulating trade and intercourse with Indian tribes, as relates to the matter of depredations by Indians, be revised and altered so as to clearly express the intention of the law with respect to the satisfaction and payment of claims preferred therefor. This being done, the department would be relieved from embarrassment in adjudicating claims in cases where the offenders belong to tribes not in amity, strictly speaking, with the United States, and yet who may not be regarded in a state of hostility unless their treaties are declared abrogated by proper authority. And it is desirable, further, that the law define more particularly in what sense it is to be understood that losses by depredations are to be indemnified out of the annuities of the Indians - whether those distributed in cash only are applicable, or whether those for specific objects may also be held liable.

3d. I renew the recommendation of last year that the system of trade and licenses, as now carried on, be revised, and that Congress be impressed with the necessity of making more stringent enactments for the protection of the Indians against the unscrupulous and overreaching men who may be licensed to trade with them. If it be practicable to devise and put in operation a system which, sustained by authority of law, will more effectually, with less of the difficulties and evils of that at present in use, meet the wants of the Indians, and save them from unfair dealings of unconscionable traders, sound policy and a just regard for the interests of the Indians require that it should be done. From observation I am satisfied that the law of 26th