

THE SILETZ AGENCY.

Katlaya pen and brush would be adequate in the task of describing the location of the Siletz Agency. The first view from the road down to the valley is captivating. The newly-painted government buildings, standing on a little plateau between the banks of a great formation bend in the river, and back of them, left after hill and ridge after ridge clothed with scately fir, go to make up a picture to defy the skill of a master. Later on, when you have looked the wind-riveted stream, and followed the fence until you have gained the plateau and stand beside the buildings looking back over the valley, the picture is more delightful. As your foot has the view of horseback plain cut up into fields, where cattle wander at will over the stubble of a bonanza harvest. Beyond this the high green fringe of willows marks the western head of the stream, and farther still, rising in a grand amphitheatre of verdure, is the crescent mountain that marks the sky line. A close scrutiny of the landscape added to the scenic effect, as description would not give the stranger a vague idea of the scene. There is a charm in the blending of the lower fields and the green hills and the ethereal line of heaven, that, added to the pastoral sounds, fills the soul and stirs the senses. The scene of the river is almost like "Sleepy Hollow" that no one would linger doubt Big Van Winkle lives.

Here, on the Agency Reserve of unfenced and virgin-forest, Superintendent D. D. McArthur and an efficient corps of helpers are safeguarding the interests of such of the Indians as need assistance and encouraging in edifying their children, since the beginning Mr. McArthur's administration, many improvements have been added to the convenience and better appearance of the buildings and grounds. New floors have been put into almost all the buildings, and soap and water and paint and paper have done wonders in improving the appearance of the walls. The

stairways have the best ways and steps and rugs to give the floors. A large well shed and a porch leading from the dispensary to the dining room have added much to the comfort of the children. The ighly buildings are being renewed and areas roof with ascle and beams are being cleared and put into small lots for the school. The office building which stands at the foot of the plateau and at which distance from the school is to be near the dormitories. Every effort is being made to make the school and its surroundings a model of cleanliness, good order, and good taste. About forty children are sent to the school and when the harvest returns this number will be almost double.

The discipline of the school is good, and to the credit of the children, and from what we see it, it may be said that it is well maintained. Major McArthur thinks that the progress of the pupils will compare favorably with that of white children. They readily learn reading and the same may be said of writing. Literary exercise alternates by half-days with industrial training. Girls, who attend school in the morning, spend the afternoon in practical domestic employment under supervised teachers of cooking, sewing, etc. Here spend half the day under the direction of the industrial teacher. One of the interesting aspects of the present administration is the teaching of the new mill to competent persons. There the hope is provided that all Indians may have been converted into lumbermen by now. This will mean much needed improvements in the way of houses and buildings. There are three stores at Siletz. One, a retail store kept by Geo. Montgomery, and two general mercantile stores owned by Mrs. C. G. Campbell, and McDonald & Hall Bros. The latter merchants have the postoffice. There are besides a bookbinder's shop, a photograph gallery, a hardware shop, and the new mill operated by Hall Bros.

Aside from the Indian there is not a more desirable place to live nor better opportunity for home-building than can be found in the beautiful Siletz valley. — [The Tolls Reporter.]