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who are located in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Montana and Colorado. The Indians have demonstrated that they have considerable mechanical ingenuity.

They were first employed by the railroads through New Mexico and Arizona solely on track work, but in an experimental way a few were employed in the divison shops in minor capacities. They soon developed skill sufficient to justify their being given higher grades of employment, as blacksmith helpers, and finally as blacksmiths, the result being that at the present time there are eighty full-blood Indians employed in the shops of the Santa Fe system in New Mexico and Arizona who receive \$3.90 per day as skilled laborers, and a large number in addition who are employed in the lower grades.

As a result of the gratifying experience with this class of labor, the Santa Fe system is discriminating in favor of the Indians in preference to Mexicans. One Navajo Indian who was employed on an irrigation project for the Indian Office became very skillfull in the work and acted as a foreman with gratifying success. A large number of the Indian boys are each year employed in the sugar-beet fields at Rocky Ford, Colorado. They are taken into the families of the white farmers and treated with the greatest of consideration. Last year boys who were first employed at \$4.00 per month and board and washing, at the end of their contract period were re-employed at from \$12.00 to \$16.00 per month. Here also the white farmers prefer Indian to Mexican labor, and will pay them more money.

A large number of the Indians are being employed on irrigation projects in

Montana and in Utah. One of the interesting developments in connection with Utes who deserted their reservation in Utah and went to South Dakota, where their presence became quite a problem for the government, is that they were finally induced to accept employment on the railroad in the Black Hills, and Mr. Dagenett, who had charge of their employment, reports that they proved to be docile, industrious, and in the highest degree satisfactory laborers.

He is an enthusiast on the subject of his particular line, and believes that with persistence a large percentage of the Indians who now live from week to week in dependence on rations, may be induced to take up their either agricultural or some other line of occupation which will make them independent and self-supporting.

A large saw and planing mill that has been built on the Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin is almost entirely operated with Indian labor, even the assistant engineer in charge of the power plant being an Indian. The Menominees are displaying high qualities as machanics and compare very favorable with white labor of the same class.

Mr. Dagenett feels that his line of work is not surpassed in importance by any of the other activities of the Indian Office, and in view of the results that have been accomplished, is undoubtedly correct in that opinion.

During the Month of September the American force took a vacation in order that the apprentices might all go hop picking. So our readers did not receive their Weekly Chemawa letter during the month. We know our readers while their like to get their Chemawa letter will not be made the type this vacation.