

NOTRE DAME DE BETSIAMITS, 28th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you my annual report on Indian affairs in my Superintendency, also the usual tabular statement in connection therewith, for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

The health of the Indians of St. Paul, St. Augustine, Grande Romaine and Natashquan has been good in general; a few children, however, suffered with colds. There was one death, a young man 19 years old, who was killed by a gunshot wound.

The hunt this year for fur-bearing animals was not so good as that of last year, but no one suffered from hunger, as they had beaver, cariboo and white partridges in large quantities, and fish in abundance, obtained from the lakes in the interior.

The price obtained for their furs was not as high as that obtained the year previous; nevertheless, they succeeded in paying their debts, and I have remarked with pleasure that they were better clothed than heretofore. This I attribute to the honest dealings of the Hon. the Hudson Bay Co. with those Indians. The company never gives them any intoxicants, and this principle is strictly adhered to in all the Company's posts within my Superintendency.

I grieve to have to state that these Indians did not behave so well this year, in regard to the use of intoxicants, as heretofore. They act like children, and have no will of their own. They succumb to the temptation placed before them by unprincipled traders, who come from all parts of the country in search of them.

During my stay at Masknaro I caused one of the delinquents of last year to appear before me. He pleaded guilty, and was condemned to pay a fine of \$50.00. This punishment will, I hope, have a good effect, and prevent a repetition of the offence. I took that opportunity to warn the Indians to abandon the use of intoxicants if they did not wish to be deprived not only of the Government grant but also of their liberty, by being sent to prison. I have also advised them strongly to transact business with honest traders only, and to avoid all vendors of spirituous liquors.

The energetic measures adopted by the Government, in compelling the vendors of intoxicants to pay their fines, and in confiscating their boats, have had a good effect with both the Indians and the whites of the north coast of the St. Lawrence. I trust the lessons thus learned will not be forgotten in the future.

The Indians had not commenced fishing for eod when I left, and but few intended to follow that occupation; the rest preferring to return, as soon as they could, to their hunting grounds, in order to avoid, they said, contracting the diseases and sharing in the vices of the whites. I approved of their decision.

Having heard that some traders had sold intoxicants to the Indians at Mecatina and St. Augustine, the former 125 miles and the latter 150 miles from Masknaro, I desired to visit those places, but as I could not obtain sufficient evidence to convict, I did not go, as I was alone and could not act in the triple capacity of plaintiff, constable and magistrate. Had I met with the commander of the Government steamer, "La Canadienne," I would have made the trip, as I could have had from him the required assistance.

Three persons were also accused of having sold spirituous liquors to Indians at Natashquan, and one at Napisipi. They all appeared before me, but could not be convicted for want of evidence.

There are fourteen families dispersed here and there on the coast, within an area of 250 miles. I could not visit them, nor could I ascertain their number. Some reside as far as Blanc Sablon. To give you an idea of the distance travelled by these Indians, I will state that some of them went twice to Esquimaux Bay during the winter. I was informed that they left their boats as security with some traders for advances made to enable them to go hunting during the winter, and that

not having been able to pay the traders in the spring, the latter kept the boats. It was for that reason that they could not come to Masknaro. Had they followed my advice and that of the Rev. Father Arnaud, their missionary, this would not have happened. Unfortunately for them, they preferred to follow the advice of the traders.

I distributed provisions to the aged, the widows and the poor amongst those families to a certain amount, but to do this I was obliged to take a small quantity from each post in my Superintendency. I believe them to be worthy to share in the distribution. Before beginning the distribution they asked me to give them money, so that they might purchase for themselves what they required; but my answer was, that no money would be given them.

#### *Mingan.*

On my arrival at Mingan I found all the Indians of the place collected there. The sanitary condition of the band is good, and it was with pleasure that I learned they had abstained from intoxicants during the whole year. I reprimanded three Indians for breaking seal nets belonging to white people. They said they were under the impression that the nets caused them injury. Later, however, I was informed that the act had been committed through jealousy, which is characteristic of the Indians. They will not, I think, repeat the offence. I stopped with these Indians all the time they were together, so as to deter, by my presence, the traders from selling or giving them intoxicants.

The hunt this year for fur-bearing animals was a greater success than last year. Cariboo and white partridges were plentiful. On their return they paid all the debts they had contracted the previous fall, two only were unable to discharge their liabilities. These Indians were generally better clothed and cleaner than on my former visit, but the widows and orphans are greatly neglected.

The four families who went away last year and remained on the south side of the river, at Gaspé, returned to the north coast. They say hunting is better on the north side of the river, and those who remained had better success than those who went south. I am very glad of this, as it may have the effect of preventing them from roaming about. I have every reason to believe that the conduct of these four families during their absence, was good.

After the distribution to the poor of their share of the grant in provisions, several widows asked me to give them clothes for themselves and children, and indeed there was good reason for such a request, for they had neither food or clothes, and it is seldom that their relatives are in a position to help them. I told them that I had nothing more to give them, and they begged of me to ask you for a larger grant, which I now beg to do on their behalf.

They killed 57 salmon, but their nets are now unserviceable.

Nets do not last long in salt water; the Indians would be very thankful to you for new ones.

They have also asked me to give them peas and potatoes for next spring. I told them that seed peas and potatoes would be of no use to them, the climate being too cold and the land too barren for agriculture. I also observed to them that they had no land prepared, no house, no cellars, no barns and no agricultural implements; that the land itself did not belong to them, it being held under seigniorial tenure. I tried to make them understand that if they planted only potatoes they would have to lose much time in the spring and fall, and their hunting would suffer thereby, and that even if they did succeed in raising a few barrels of half grown potatoes it would not be sufficient for their wants. I could not recommend to the Department such an expenditure as it would be perfectly useless to them.

I met Constable Tremblay at Mingan; he had come there to meet me, in order to assist in the discharge of my duties; I had left Betsiamits before I knew of his appointment. He would have been of great help to me at Masknaro and other places; I did, however, alone, all that could be done there. During his stay at Mingan, Mr. Tremblay closely watched the traders and the Indians, and obtained all the

information he could relative to the liquor traffic. As soon as I found that his services were no longer required at Mingan, I gave him instructions to proceed to Moisie and Sept Isles, where his presence did much good.

#### *Sept Isles.*

The sanitary condition of the Indians of this place has been good during the whole year. They have been well behaved, and have abstained from the use of intoxicants. There was one death, caused by pneumonia. Chief Barthelemi Manaik died at Moisie during the month of June; he took cold, and having had recourse to their old cure, the Matishan (steam bath, taken by means of red hot stones on which water is thrown) and exposed himself to a chill he died three days after. This chief had not set so good an example to his people as did the chief at Betsiamits, for he always gave trouble to the Agent and to Indians who were not related to him or who were not his friends.

The hunt for fur-bearing animals has not been so good this year as it was last year; only a few were able to discharge the debts they had contracted the previous fall; no one, however, suffered from hunger, for plenty of white partridges and some cariboo were killed. I found, when I passed there, a number of destitute Indians. Several widows received assistance during the winter out of the allowance granted to them last fall; aid was also extended to two old people, and to the infirm orphan mentioned in my last report. Whilst there I distributed the provisions which I had in hand. It was too little for so many persons, and for that reason I purchased provisions without telling them, to the amount of \$50 over what I had received. I trust that you will have the goodness to pay this amount to the merchant from whom the supplies were purchased.

Neither cod nor bait are plentiful; nevertheless, those who have taken to fishing live comparatively well. Some catch fish for certain companies located at Moisie, Rivière la Chaloupe and Sheldrake, and they are well repaid. I have strongly advised them to fish for cod while they are on the coast, but, unfortunately, when the desire for their nomadic life takes hold of them, they seem unable to remain: In order to encourage one of those Indians to follow the occupation of fishing, I purchased for him a grapnel, to enable him to anchor his boat on the fishing ground. I hope that you will approve of this little outlay, and pay the account. I was requested by several widows to give them blankets. I told them that they would get some later in the season.

#### *Godbout.*

Only one person was sick during the year, and his was the infirmity of old age.

With the exception of a few idlers, the conduct of the Indians during the year was good. They were not very successful in hunting for fur-bearing animals, but those who hunted seals in the winter succeeded very well. They killed also partridges in abundance and had plenty of food. I am convinced that there would be but little want among these Indians if they were industrious hunters, or would employ themselves steadily in fishing or doing any other kind of work. The same may be said in regard to all the Indians of the north coast.

During the summer several Indians hunted the porpoise, and killed a great number of them.

#### *Escoumains Reserve.*

The Indians of Escoumains are always well behaved. They are very docile and industrious. They do all they can to earn their living, and will work for lumbermen in the woods rather than remain idle.

The women are also very industrious. They assist in tilling the land. They also manufacture different articles, which they sell to young people, and are very good housekeepers.

The harvest of last year, although small, gave them some encouragement, and that of this year promises well, if there is no early frost. I have nothing more to say in reference to these Indians, except that thus far they have given entire satisfaction.

*Betsiamits Reserve.*

On my return from the lower posts, I found all the Indians of this reserve gathered together. They had already received advances from the Hudson's Bay Company, and were ready to return to their hunting grounds.

In general the sanitary condition of these Indians has been good. There were four deaths during the year, caused by pneumonia. Chief John Estlo was among the number.

There was no want of food among them, either on the reserve or in the woods, for they killed some cariboo and as many white partridges as they required. They also obtained from the lakes all the fish they wanted.

The Indians were more successful this year, in hunting for fur-bearing animals, than during the preceding year, and although they have sold one-third more furs of all kinds this year than heretofore, still they complain that there is no more game in the woods.

The Indians of Betsiamits are all well clothed. The 100 barrels of flour which were given to them in the spring contributed much to their comfort, but unfortunately it was eaten in idleness. As a rule, the more that is given to Indians the more exacting they become. Gratitude is an unknown sentiment with them. They are suspicious and addicted to drinking, idle and full of pride. My opinion is, that giving them assistance is the worst service that can be rendered them. They should be made to work. This opinion refers, of course, only to Indians residing on the north coast of the St. Lawrence.

During the winter several young men worked for lumbering firms in this vicinity, and they intend to do so again next winter. A few families, during this summer, were at work in the saw mills of Sault au Cochon.

Constable Claveau has been very firm and active in the discharge of his duties for the maintenance of order and the removal from the reserve of traders, and especially of vendors of spirituous liquors; but so long as the Indians find means to cross to Rimouski, so long will they indulge in drinking.

I regret to have to state that timber has again been cut on this reserve in trespass; but I hope that the legal proceedings taken against the offenders will put a stop to that evil.

Last fall the potato crop was good, and that of this year promises well, provided the frost does not injure the growing crop.

The gardens are well kept, and if the Indians did not eat a portion of the potatoes sent to them for seed they could plant more than they do.

There was a greater abundance of salmon this year than in former years, and it is to be hoped that the occupation of fishing will become more and more remunerative.

I have made a separate census for each band, thinking that this little work may be of some use to the Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. F. BOUCHER,

*Indian Superintendent.*

## RAMA AGENCY,

UPPERGROVE, 30th September, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit for your information my first annual report and tabular statement showing the affairs of the Indians of my Agency for the year ended 30th of June, 1885. The progress made by the Indians in agriculture is, on the whole, satisfactory, although not so rapid as I could desire. Thirteen acres have been cleared and partly put under crop. The potato crop this season is not so large as was expected, owing to the drought after planting. Peas and oats promise a good yield but the wheat is very poor. The seed supplied by the Department at the expense of the Band was a great help but was not sufficient, and in consequence a large portion of cultivated land lies idle for the want of teams and seed. The Indians are very well satisfied with and fully aware of the efforts made by the Department to better their condition. The majority of the band show a great desire and taste for fruit raising, having this spring purchased fruit trees from Messrs. Ferris & Wilcox to the extent of three hundred and fifty dollars. The new school room and council hall, 24 by 42 feet, and two storeys high, which was built during the last year, is a splendid building, adding much to the appearance of the village. Although no pains have been spared in the construction of this building and in procuring a competent teacher, the attendance has been very small, until very recently, but I hope, by continually advising the parents of the children, to be able to give a better report next year on school matters. I have much pleasure in reporting that this band is progressing in civilization; many of the Indians are members of the Methodist Church and Good Templars Lodge. This lodge, which is under the able management of Gilbert Williams, is doing much for the benefit of the Band, and causing many to abandon their disgraceful habit of drinking. I regret, however, to state that there are a few addicted to strong drink; several of the hotel keepers in the locality have been warned not to sell liquor to the Indians, and this step has had a good effect.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

D. J. MCPHEE,  
*Indian Agent.*

## NORTH-EASTERN SUPERINTENDENCY,

CHATHAM HEAD, N.B., 6th October, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Department, my report and tabular statement for the year ended the 30th of June, 1885.

The tabular statement shows a decrease in the population of seven during the year, according to the census which I have recently taken.

There is not much to report since last year. As regards farming, while it has increased on some reserves, it has gone back on others—particularly those on the southern portions of my Superintendency. This is caused by the Indians being too close to the towns and subject to their evil influences.

As regards statistics, there is but little change. The amounts placed in my hands for relief and seed purposes have been made use of in the best possible way for the comfort and profit of the Indians.

The schools at Eel Ground and Burnt Church have been in progress all the year, and are having good results.

Arrangements have been made to vaccinate the Indians, and at present all those requiring it are being vaccinated to guard against the small-pox coming among them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

CHAS. SARGEANT,  
*Visiting Superintendent.*

SOUTH-WESTERN SUPERINTENDENCY—1ST DIVISION,  
FREDERICTON, 17th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—In compliance with your circular of the 8th April last, I beg to submit, for your information, my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended the 30th of June, 1885.

During the year there have been in this district six births and ten deaths, showing a decrease of four, and leaving a total population of 417.

The statistical information contained in the tabular statement was compiled from a careful enquiry from the different Indian bands under my charge.

The agricultural industry of this district, for some years past, has been confined chiefly to King's Clear and St. Mary's reserves, York County.

The Indians of King's Clear are the most extensive farmers in the district; they occupy and have under cultivation, including hay and pasturage land, about 150 acres. The soil of this reserve is of excellent quality, and although the usual fertilizer necessary to successful farming is withheld yearly from the land in consequence of the Indians' failure to raise cattle, yet it is astonishing, with the small amount of attention the land receives, to see the crops that it produces. The potato crop, which is the most useful to the Indians, as will be seen by the tabular statement, was a fair average, and of excellent quality. The grain crop was also very good and well harvested. The only deficiency was in the hay crop, which, in consequence of the dry season, was fully one-third less than the usual average.

The farming engaged in by the Indians of St. Mary's reserve is the planting of potatoes and garden seeds. The total land farmed by these Indians will not exceed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres, part of which has been given them by their white neighbors, while part is on the reserve. The potatoes were a very good crop and most useful to the Indians.

This year the Indians of Woodstock reserve, Carlton County, have turned their attention to farming. They enclosed eight acres of land, which they have planted with potatoes, beans and buckwheat.

The Indians of St. George, Charlotte County, and the Indians of King's and Queen's County, who showed an honest intention to farm, were also supplied with the necessary seed and assistance in proportion to the land occupied.

The other industries engaged in, and apart from the time occupied at farming, are making tubs, churns, baskets, moccasins, snow shoes, &c. Many of the young men also procure employment on the St. John River and its tributaries at wood boat loading, stream driving, rafting and milling, for which they receive fair prices and wages. These are the principal means whereby they derive their living; as hunting and fishing, are not followed to the same extent as formerly. There are a few of the Indians who hunt, but it is in the interest of sportsmen and others, who employ them at certain wages for the time during which they are engaged.

The schools at St. Mary's and King's Clear are under the supervision of two competent teachers, Miss M. H. Martin and A. L. Morris. Both teachers command the respect of the Indians and children, and although it is difficult for the children to master the English language, yet, under all the circumstances, those who attend school regularly are progressing favorably. While the average attendance is not all

that might be desired, yet it shows the attendance of a majority of the children whose parents reside on the reserves permanently. The falling off at certain times is largely due to the habits of the Indians, who frequently leave the reserve for other camping grounds, and who, in every instance, take their families with them, often remaining absent for months, unmindful of the loss of education.

On assuming my duties as Agent, I discovered that several Indians of St. Mary's reserve were addicted to the excessive use of intoxicants; and while it is difficult for an Agent to deal with the disreputable characters who supply them, on account of the indisposition of the Indians to inform and give evidence, nevertheless I succeeded in convicting two persons before Police Magistrate Marsh of Fredericton, for selling liquor to and treating Indians. The parties convicted, not being able to pay the amounts of fines imposed, were committed to the county gaol. These convictions, for a time, had a salutary effect, and deterred others from violating the law.

In other respects the general behavior of the Indians was very good, as I have not heard of any further violation of the laws during the year.

During the year the localities in and about the reserves have been visited by diphtheria and other diseases, from which fatal results to children have frequently occurred. The Indians were blessed in this respect, as they have had no disease of a contagious nature amongst them. The deaths reported were caused by old age and consumption.

During the year the Right Rev. Dr. Sweeney, of St. John, N.B., in the interest of the Indians and other Roman Catholics of King's Clear, has stationed permanently on King's Clear reserve a resident priest, the Rev. William O'Leary. This appointment has already proved a great benefit to the Indians, as their spiritual and temporal welfare since his arrival has been most carefully looked after.

The remarks in reference to the Rev. William O'Leary are also applicable to the Rev. James C. McDevett, of Fredericton, whose spiritual influence amongst the Indians of St. Mary's often proves very beneficial.

In conclusion, I beg to state that the Indians who reside on their reserves are improving in their habits and mode of life; but it is to be hoped, in their own interest, that in the course of time they will become more dependent on their own resources.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

JAMES FARRELL,  
*Indian Agent.*

SOUTH-WESTERN SUPERINTENDENCY—2ND DIVISION.

PERTH CENTRE, VICTORIA Co., N.B., 29th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for your information, my annual report, together with the tabular statement, which contains statistics for the year ended 30th June, 1885, connected with the Indians within my district.

I have to report that their general health has been good. The number at present on the reserves, including both bands, is two hundred and three, a decrease of sixteen during the year—caused, I think, by removal.

Their progress in agriculture seems to be slow, yet if a comparison be made with their present condition and what it was ten or fifteen years ago, the difference would appear very great. Their crops last year were good, potatoes more than an average. In purchasing seed for them this spring I bought 120 bushels of potatoes and 13 bushels of oats from two of the Indian farmers at Tobique, which goes to show a marked improvement in that direction.

I was much pleased with the manner in which they distributed their interest money which you sent them this spring. After voting \$100 to pay their school teacher the balance due her, and 50 cents apiece to each member of the band, there were nearly \$20 left, which, after a short consultation, they voted to be expended in paying for teams to plough for their widows, aged and poor people, thus showing an interest, care and sympathy for them.

During the summer months the men are constantly employed taking tourists and pleasure-seekers to the head waters and lakes of the Tobique and St. John Rivers, for which they obtain good wages.

The school at Tobique still continues in operation and is doing a good work, although the attendance is not so large as it should be. Education must have a very great effect in their elevation and refinement, and I am confidently looking for a higher standard of morality among the Indians when their children, now being educated, shall have grown up to take the place of their parents.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MOSES CRAIG,

*Indian Agent.*

TADOUSAC, 12th October, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

Ottawa.

SIR,—In obedience to your official communication, dated at Ottawa the 1st instant, I have the honor to forward to your Department my annual report on Indian matters in the district of Saguenay, Que., for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

There are about fifteen families of Montagnais Indians residing permanently at Tadousac, L'Anse St. Jean and Les Escoumains. They manage to live comfortably enough, spearing porpoises and seal-killing during summer and winter, with occasional trapping in the forests bordering on the Saguenay. The Escoumains group being isolated are less exposed to the allurements of intemperance, and devote more time to agricultural pursuits.

When I arrived on the Indian reserve at Betsiamits, towards the latter end of June, I found Constable J. B. Claveau on duty, the superintendent, Mr. L. F. Boucher, being away on his summer trip. I swore him in officially and gave him the necessary instructions for his guidance. A few days previous to my arrival a new chief, one Moise, had been elected, not unanimously, as he was deemed by many rather an unworthy successor to the lamented Jean Baptiste.

Having been informed that a certain spirit of discontent and latent rebellion against all authority was rapidly gaining ground amongst the Indians, I held a public conference with them, and through an interpreter I recalled to their minds how generously they had been dealt with by the Government, and how unfairly they were acting towards the local representatives of your Department at Betsiamits. I further pointed out to them the folly of sending a delegation to Ottawa, with a view of urging previously referred complaints against the superintendent's administration. In a word, I reasoned with them as forcibly as possible, and they dispersed, apparently convinced.

The proceeds of the hunt have been above the average, and as a sign of a better knowledge of their own interests, the Betsiamits trappers have evinced more willingness to pay their accounts, thus establishing a firmer basis of mutual confidence.

I was called upon to settle a dispute between an Indian and a planter, and I employed officer Claveau, who proved most active and efficient.

At Pointe des Monts (nine miles to the eastward of Godbout) a complaint for larceny was lodged by one Charlotte Atchenish against two individuals belonging to Godbout. A warrant was regularly issued against them, but the special constable



failed to accomplish the arrest. The proceedings will be resumed as soon as convenient.

At Seven Islands, which I visited about the 23rd July, I found a considerable gathering of families of Montagnais called together to attend the services of the mission. There I met with the superintendent and Constable A. Tremblay. This officer seemed to me very careful and anxious to follow his instructions.

The trapping during last season had not been very productive, and, as a consequence, there were some cases of destitution. Notwithstanding the presence in the harbor of trading schooners with intoxicating liquors on board, I am happy to say the Indians all through the mission kept aloof from temptation, and were remarkably abstinent. The judgment I had rendered last year against one Hévé Montigny for selling liquor to the Indian Capault was not executed. The amount is secured by a promissory note for \$50 properly endorsed, but it was not advisable to endeavor to collect at the time, as I could not see any prospect of payment.

At Moise I met with few Indians on the reserve, and they seemed to be destitute. I have remarked with pleasure that this year the Indians left for the hunting grounds immediately after the mission instead of loitering on the reserves idly consuming their time and provisions.

At Mingan the Indians had dispersed when I had arrived there, but the same remarks may be applied to them with regard to sobriety, &c.

About the middle of September I went with Commander Wm. Waleham, of the federal steamer "La Canadienne," as far as the Straits of Belle Isle. Mr. Boucher had furnished me with some notes of complaint to proceed against, *inter alia*, one Leandre Michef, trader residing near Mutton Bay, for selling liquor in 1884 to some Indians of St. Augustine. I diligently enquired into the affair, but owing to the absence of the material witnesses I was unable to proceed to judgment. Nevertheless I am satisfied, from the warnings I have publicly given, that no liquor will be sold again to the Indians.

In concluding this report I may say that during the last season, as in previous years, I have exerted my best and most constant efforts to aid in the good work performed by your Department amongst the Indians of the north shore and Labrador coasts.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. H. O'BRIEN,

*Stipendiary Magistrate.*

BEAR RIVER, N.S., 10th September, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor of submitting to you my annual report, with tabular statement, in connection with Indian affairs of this district, No. 1 "B," including the counties of Digby and Yarmouth.

I have little improvement to note as regards the temporal prosperity of this band, as the depression in the various industries in this place also affects the Indian, who has to depend in a great measure for a living on the sale of his wares to the white man.

They have been visited with more sickness than usual the last winter and spring, nearly every family suffered; consumption is the prevalent disease to which they are subject, and which is slowly but surely thinning their numbers.

Eighteen deaths have occurred, many of these being adults, in the prime of life, some heads of families. You can easily imagine the suffering and privation following in the train of so much sickness, especially where there is no provision made in time of health for such an emergency.

The fund granted by the Department for aid to sick and aged Indians, and which I have tried to expend as judiciously as possible, has been an important item in their resources.

There have been eleven births, which gives a decrease of seven, although the tabular statement gives an increase of six in the population over that of last year, caused by some families having moved into this district.

I am pleased to report intemperance on the decrease, in fact there has no case of drunkenness come to my notice for some time.

The annual festival of St. Anne, at which season there has always been more or less drinking with the usual results, passed very quietly, owing, possibly, to precautions taken to prevent the sale of whisky on the reserve. One of the vendors of whiskey to Indians was sent to jail for six months and this has, no doubt, had a deterrent effect.

The school on the reserve is conceded by all to be of the utmost importance to the rising generation, and if the parents would take more interest there would be a more regular attendance, and consequently more progress and improvement on the part of the pupils. I was present at the inspection of the school by L. S. Morse, Esq., who expressed himself well pleased with the progress and deportment of the pupils which speaks well for the teacher, Mr. T. C. Kerr.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

FREEMAN McDORMAND,  
*Indian Agent, District No. 1 "B."*

KENTVILLE, N.S., 1st August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my report, together with tabular statement, respecting the Indians of this agency, for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

There is little change of importance to note in the condition of the Indians except what might be expected from natural causes.

Commercial distress and hard times for the farmers have prevailed here generally for the past year, making Indian wares unsaleable, and forcing them to wander more than usual from place to place, in order to eke out an honest subsistence.

In the spring of 1884, after placing the five families on Government land—10 acres—they left suddenly and went by way of Windsor to Lunenburg where they remained about three months, returning, so poor as to require immediate relief. One of their number, old Mrs. Jee Paul, died on the third day after her return, leaving three helpless grandchildren. There is one thing I have to record in their favor, that all those families just spoken of are sober, temperate, peaceful and well-conducted Indians, and it is a pleasure, so far as the means at my disposal will allow, to assist them.

There are some wild, drinking Indians, with whom I have little intercourse, and there are a number who have left here for good, hoping to secure a better home elsewhere.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. BECKWITH,  
*Indian Agent, District No. 2.*

CALEDONIA, N.S., 22nd September, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I hereby submit my annual report, including tabular statement, of Indians of Queen's and Lunenburg Counties.

As will be seen by the statement, there is a slight increase in number of population over that of last year—two in Queen's and four in Lunenburg, making in all six persons.

The number of children attending the schools is also on the increase. They are sadly in want of a school house at New Germany, where some seventeen children attend in a private room. The heads of families seem to think that they cannot do much themselves towards erecting a school building; they look to your Department for help.

Many of the Indians about Milton have not planted this year, although seed had been supplied to them for that purpose. They consider the hunting season will afford them sufficient cash to lay in a winter's supply.

I must say, however, they are in general progressing in agricultural pursuits.

Very many of them are also improving their houses and surroundings, so that their places present a tidy and comfortable appearance.

Outside of New Germany, farming is not carried on to a great extent in Lunenburg County. Basket making and coopering are the chief employments at Bridgewater and Gold River.

I have filled out the census papers lately sent me, and will this week forward them to your Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS J. BUTLER,

*Indian Agent, Districts Nos. 3 and 4.*

ENFIELD, 20th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following brief report of the Indians of Halifax County under my supervision. The Indians in this district reside at Sheet Harbor, Cow Bay, Dartmouth and Wellington. They number 110 souls. Their principal occupation is farming. They appear to be very industrious and, with very few exceptions are strictly temperate. Although they live on reserves and have good houses, a number of them travel in the summer season, and do not devote as much time to the cultivation of their farms as might be desired. There are no Indian schools in this district, and none attending other schools. On the whole, the condition of the Indians in this agency may be considered favorable, as they are, to my knowledge, a sober, honest and industrious people.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. P. DESMOND,

*Indian Agent, District No. 5.*

No report as yet from Mr. Agent Gass, for County of Hants.

Truro, N.S., 6th October, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, with the accompanying tabular statement, my report on Indian affairs in the County of Colchester for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

Owing to a warm, dry summer, we have not had so much sickness in this district as in former years, the absence of pulmonary diseases, both acute and chronic, being quite noticeable.

Truro, being situated in the centre of this Province, and easily reached by railway connections, is a large and migratory Indian ground for the neighboring counties. The most of the cases of illness have, therefore, been brought in by outsiders. Very little drunkenness has been seen since the breaking up of a den, which easily supplied those desirous of getting drunk, and against which, after considerable difficulty in getting proper evidence, I managed to conduct a successful prosecution.

The great difficulty I have to contend with in agricultural matters is the entire absence of Indian reserves or lands in this county; if it were possible to have this changed, I am convinced that great improvement could be effected in the condition of the Indians under my charge.

I have the honor to be,  
Your obedient servant,

D. H. MUIR, M.D.,  
Indian Agent, District No. 6 "B."

PARRSBORO', 1st September, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor, in compliance with instructions, to submit the following report, together with tabulated statement, for the year ended the 30th June last.

The condition of the Indians in this agency is encouraging. They have, to a large extent, abandoned their old nomadic habits and adopted the ways of the white man. The majority of them now take more or less interest in agriculture. Several of the members of the band at Halfway Lake being unable to obtain sufficient land for farming purposes at that place, have, during the past year, made clearings and erected houses on the reserve. A few families from other parts of the county joined them, and they have now quite a thriving little colony. Their crops look well, and they seem quite satisfied with the place. The band at the lake devote themselves almost exclusively to farming and cooperating. With one or two exceptions, the members of this band are sober and industrious. Several of the children attend the district school. There has been comparatively little sickness and no deaths during the year.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

A. T. CLARK, M.D.,  
Indian Agent, District No. 7.

No report as yet from Rev. Roderick MacDonald, Agent for Pictou.

No report from Mr. Chisholm, Agent for Antigonish and Guysboro.

No report as yet from Rev. John McDougall, Agent for the County of Richmond.

RIVER INHABITANTS,  
INVERNESS COUNTY, N. S., 9th September, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit herewith the tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

The figures in the tabular statement are in several instances approximately given, as it is difficult to obtain very reliable information from Indians. This, however, is not owing to their indisposition to impart the information asked, but to their inability and want of judgment.

To the information in the tabular statement and former reports I have but little to add. The Indians of my agency are a law-abiding people, and afford an example it would be well for some of their white civilized neighbors to imitate.

I may further state that in regard to sobriety and morality they show a decided improvement. It would be difficult to find anywhere a people in their circumstances among whom the precepts of religion and nature are more faithfully observed.

I am sorry to say that some of their white neighbors continue to trespass on the reserves, and I find it difficult to put the law in force, on account of the unwillingness of the Indians to complain, fearing to be assaulted by the trespassers for doing so.

The sympathy of some of the white people with their friends, the trespassers, and against the Indians, whose lands they covet, is in part the cause of the difficulty of having the law put in force satisfactorily. In connection with this, I may state that four years ago information was laid against trespassers (Donald McLean and his sons). I issued warrants against the parties; they evaded the warrants by leaving the country at that time, but returned; after much difficulty they were arrested and tried before the stipendiary magistrate of the shire town, and fined, and imprisoned because they would not pay the fine imposed. When the trespassers were in gaol I authorized the Indians, with others, to make the hay on the Indian reserve, which the said trespassers used to cut and take away. On the following summer I was sued for damages by those trespassers in the Supreme Court. The case was put off for two years, till last October term, 1884. On account of the aforesaid sympathy, the jury gave a verdict against me, contrary to the charge of the judge; consequently, an appeal was filed to the Supreme Court of judges in banco at Halifax, before whom the verdict of the jury against me was set aside.

The school on the Whyccocomagh reserve is well conducted by Mr. John McEachern, and the children in attendance are making fair progress.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

D. McISAAC,  
Indian Agent, District No. 11.

No report as yet from Rev. R. Grant, Agent for the County of Victoria.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, N.S., 18th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—Since my last annual report there has been little change of note in the condition of the Indians in the County of Cape Breton. Sickness has been more

prevalent among them the past year than in any preceding year of my agency. Consumption is the most fatal ailment to which they are subject; each succeeding generation seems to be more liable to the disease. Of the six deaths reported in the district during the year, four were from consumption. This degeneracy of the race I attribute to the scarcity of those articles of food which are most congenial to the tastes and constitution of the Indians, such as the deer, and a variety of other game now almost extinct. Again, the increasing scarcity of the material necessary for the prosecution of his favorite industry of coopering, subjects him to unwonted hardships, and, as a consequence, his health becomes seriously impaired, frequently before he attains the age of manhood.

In the matter of farming, the settlement at Eskasoni is progressing as well as could reasonably be expected. Considerable pains are taken to get a fair share of potatoes planted every year. Each family usually plants from ten to twenty-five bushels. The crop this year promises to be an unusually large one. The extra grant provided last spring enabled many to put more seed than usual into the ground, besides otherwise helping them during the planting season.

I have again to complain of the unsatisfactory condition of the Indians who reside in the vicinity of the towns of Sydney and North Sydney. Their close proximity to drinking resorts is always to them a source of danger. The shiftless manner in which they have now become accustomed to eke out a miserable and precarious existence is fast destroying all habits of industry and causing them to become a drag upon the community. I have frequently urged upon them, but without success, the propriety of their taking up a portion of the reserve at Eskasoni, and of learning to cultivate the soil like the rest of the band there. They maintain that there is no more good land unoccupied on the reserve, and they feel reluctant to begin anew and make homesteads in the midst of the forest. In this connection I may add that the best parts of the reserve are already taken up and largely cultivated. With a view to encourage this recalcitrant and nomadic faction of the band to come to the reserve, I suggested to the Department the advisability of buying for them a lot of land adjoining the reserve, containing about two hundred acres, a large section of which is under cultivation, and all of which is now offered for sale at a reasonable price. The Department, however, declined to entertain the proposition. Consequently, I cannot hold out much hope of getting these people back to the reserve to give their attention to the cultivation of the soil.

The school house and the surrounding grounds have been improved, as recommended by the inspector of schools for the district. The great cause of complaint, with regard to the school, is the irregularity of the attendance of the pupils. It is difficult to educate these people up to taking an interest in English schools. Some progress has already been made in this direction, and there is reason to believe that this apathy will, in a little time, disappear, as the beneficial effects of the school upon those in regular attendance are already becoming apparent.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

M. MACKENZIE,  
*Indian Agent, District No. 13.*

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,  
LENNOX ISLAND, 6th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—In compliance with instructions received from your Department, I have the honor to transmit my annual report, together with the tabular statement, for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

I am pleased to be able to begin my report by stating that the Indians residing on the Lennox Island reserve are, with few exceptions, very sober, most of them having, some years ago, signed the temperance pledge.

I am happy to say that the Indians are progressing in agriculture. More land was sown last spring than in previous years. I distributed last spring, to be used as seed, twenty-two bushels of wheat, eighty-six bushels of oats and two hundred and sixty-two bushels of potatoes; but more than this quantity was sown, for several Indians had saved their seeds from last year's crop.

Their crops look remarkably well and promise a good yield. Never was there on Lennox Island a finer crop than there is this year. It can be favorably compared with the crops of their white neighbors on the mainland.

The Indians residing on Lennox Island have this year, for the first time, fenced in, at considerable expense (it is a board fence with juniper posts), the land surrounding the chapel—four acres—and sowed it with oats, expecting to make a profit on the money expended in fencing and in the purchase of the seed required; the profit to be placed in the fund collected for the purpose of building a new chapel, which they propose to build in a few years.

There has been, as will be perceived by the tabular statement, an increase in the population. This increase is due to the fact that four families who had left Prince Edward Island have returned.

I am still teaching on Lennox Island. The children are making fair progress.

I had the pleasure to day of a visit from John Arbuckle, Esq., school inspector. He appeared pleased with the result of the examination.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN O. ARSENAULT,  
*Indian Superintendent.*

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PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE AGENCY—TREATY No. 1,  
MANITOBA, 19th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit, for your information, the following report and tabular statement, showing the state of the Indians under my charge, for the year ended the 30th June, 1885.

I have very great pleasure in informing you that there is a change for the better in all the Indians under my charge. They show a much greater desire to improve their reserves, and are altogether more contented than formerly, with the exception of Yellow Quill's band, who are still opposed to going to the Swan Lake reserve. There was not the least sign of any intoxicants having been used amongst them during the time the payments were being made.

The Rosseau River bands put down this year the following quantities of seed on the reserve: sixteen bushels of wheat, six bushels of barley, seventy-five bushels potatoes, five pounds of turnip seed, two pounds carrot seed and three pounds of onion seed, also one bushel of beans, and at the time I was making the payments the crops looked remarkably well. Under the instructions of the Department I had a wire fence put up around the nine acres which were broken on this reserve last year, the Indians themselves taking out the posts and stringing the wire; they did the work very well. This year they have broken twenty acres more, which will come in for next year. The portion of these bands residing at the rapids on the Rosseau River, a distance of some ten miles from the reserve and where they have some fine gardens, put

down seventy bushels potatoes, fourteen bushels wheat, five bushels barley and the same quantity of garden seeds as the others. I cannot say how these crops look, as I had not time to go and see them when I was making the payments. I purchased a yoke of oxen for those Indians who are living at the rapids, in the spring, in lieu of a bull and one cow still due to them under treaty stipulations. There is considerable dissatisfaction existing amongst the settlers about the Rapids on account of the Indians remaining there, as they have no reserve and are trespassing on private property. If those Indians could be all induced to remain on the reserve it would be much better, and no difficulties would be likely to arise between them and the settlers. They have a large reserve, with a reasonable amount of land fit for agricultural purposes, as well as a very large area of the very best grazing and meadow lands, which would enable them to raise any amount of stock.

The Long Plain band sowed this year fifty-two bushels of wheat, ninety bushels of potatoes, one bushel of beans, five pounds turnip seed, three pounds carrot seed and three pounds onion seed. The wheat and potatoes are looking well and promise a large yield; garden seeds not very good. The Indians of this band took out during the winter 3,200 rails and 1,400 pickets and they fenced in the sixteen acres of new land broken last year, as well as about ten acres more, doing all the work themselves. They have broken this year of new land about twenty acres. This band, at the rate they are going on, will soon become self-supporting. The only drawback to farming on this reserve is the want of open prairie land, as there is only a very small area to be had, the reserve being nearly all covered with timber. I purchased an ox for this band last fall with the money I received for the blind one I sold some time ago. I placed the ox in charge of one of the Indians, by the name of Kitchipeness, who had one of his own. He has taken good care of them, but I find that he is unwilling to let any of the rest use them, and under these circumstances we will require another ox, as the work on the reserve will be too much for one yoke to do. There will be about fifty acres to put in crop next season. With the permission of the Department I purchased for this reserve, a short time ago, a second hand self-rake reaping machine. It was worked only one season. I bought it for the sum of \$45, and the man from whom I purchased it delivered it on the reserve where it has worked very well. After the man drove once round the field with his horses I got the Indians to hitch on the oxen, and they drove them round the field several times in my presence, doing very good work. We commenced cutting yesterday, the 18th of August. The wheat was in good order for cutting, and although not a very heavy crop of straw, the heads were all well filled, and, with the exception of one field, were the ripest I have seen this season. The Indians were delighted when their own oxen driven by themselves, were hitched to the machine and started; some of them whom I never before saw attempt to work commenced binding and picking up any scattered heads which lay on the ground. Short Bear, the chief, seemed the most delighted of any of them. They seemed to rival each other to see who would do the most binding and stooking. The sample of wheat is all that could be wished for. Their potatoes are also of a very fine quality; I saw some of them cooked while I was there. They took very good care of them this year. I got them to plant eighteen bushels for seed another year, and from present appearances, if we can get them saved through the winter, we will have enough for seed without buying.

The Swan Lake band are nearly all living at the Gardens, near Hamilton's Crossing, on the Assiniboine River. I gave them fourteen bushels of seed wheat in the spring, five pounds of turnip seed, three pounds of carrot seed, three pounds of onion seed and one bushel of beans. The crops had a very fine appearance at the time I was making the payments. This band was supplied with two yoke of oxen this spring and two sets of harness complete. I got the thirty acres which were to have been fenced last year on the Swan Lake reserve fenced this year with good oak posts, placed one rod apart, and four strands of heavy galvanized steel-barbed wire. The remainder of the five acres, which were to have been broken last year, two completed. I got the fifteen acres that were broken and back-set last season sown



with wheat. Of the other ten acres, eight were sown with barley and two were planted with potatoes. I did not see the crops lately, as I did not go out to the reserve to pay this year, but am informed that they have a very fine appearance. This band are as determined as ever to have their whole reserve at the Gardens. It would be a great relief to me were this matter settled once for all, as it comes up every time I meet with them. They say they will never go to Swan Lake, and will not allow any of their band to go there. The whole blame rests on the chief speaker of the band and a few others, as many of them would go and remain on the reserve, but are afraid, on account of threats made against them by those other parties.

The Sandy Bay reserve has been transferred from my agency to that of Mr. Agent Martineau, and the Rolling River and Riding Mountain bands have been re-transferred to Mr. Agent Herchmer.

There has been considerable sickness amongst the bands in my agency this year. There were forty-one deaths against twenty-four births. I might mention, that when making payments to the Rosseau River bands, formerly, I was unable to obtain the services of a properly qualified interpreter. This year I procured the services of the Rev. H. Cochrane, of St. Peter's, who, through his untiring exertions, was successful in finding out a number in these bands who had been for years fraudulently drawing annuity for larger families than they really had, and hereafter I will be able to detect any such who may make an attempt to defraud the Government. I also discovered three or four families in Yellow Quill's band who were doing the same thing. It is the most difficult thing, in dealing with the Indians, to get them to reduce their families when any of them happen to die; they always claim that they are entitled to one year's annuity after the death of a person takes place. It seems that they were paid in that way for the first few years after the first treaty with them was made in 1871.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

FRANCIS OGLETREE,

*Indian Agent.*

ST. PETER'S, BROKEN HEAD AND FORT ALEXANDER AGENCY,

CLANDEBOYE—TREATY No. 1, 17th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report, together with tabular statement, showing the state of the Indians under my charge for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

*St. Peter's.*

I am sorry to have to report that the crops suffered last fall to a much greater extent on this reserve than was anticipated, the people had to contend with an unprecedentedly wet fall, so that it was with the utmost labor they harvested their crops.

With all the disappointment of a comparatively poor harvest, the people passed a prosperous winter. Those who put up hay for sale got a good price for it (from three to six dollars a ton), and as the making of hay in this part of the country costs something under a dollar a ton, they were well paid for their work, and I hope it will encourage them to put up more this summer.

Then, the angling for jack-fish, up to to the middle of February, was very good, fully thirty thousand being sold by the Indians. The fish would average at least three pounds each, and they received one and a-half cents per pound.

Only some two thousand five hundred whitefish were caught last fall by members of this band; but some families wintered out at Dog Head and Bull's Head, on Lake Winnipeg, where they fished all winter with success, and found a ready sale for any surplus they had, at good prices.

The catch of sturgeon, in the spring, was greater than ever before since I have been in the country, over sixteen years. Other fishing, fair.

In fact, the people of this band who have settled down will compare favorably with most of the old settlements along the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in their agricultural pursuits, in their houses, in their clothing, in the number of their cattle and agricultural implements, and are more prosperous and make more money in a year than thousands of people in the older Provinces. Yet they do not progress as they should; one reason being that they take too many holidays. Time is of no value in their eyes. A great many of them would like to have council meetings two or three times a week. They think nothing of coming to my place and talking for half a day or more, in the middle of haying or harvest, about the most trifling affairs, but as there is no such word as time in the Indian language, it is hard to teach them that time is money, and I have been unable to find an interpreter who could do so. Then, in the fall of the year, instead of fall ploughing, they go duck shooting, and nothing can stop them until hard frost comes and the ducks leave.

Again, their wandering habits have disappointed me often. A man will break land, own a pair of oxen, a cow or two, build a house and stable, and work hard all summer and half the winter; perhaps before spring he has sold his improvements for a mere nothing to some other Indian, or left them, and is off to Lake Winnipeg, Rat Portage or some other place, not to turn up again until the annual payments.

Of course, I do not mean that this is the characteristic of all the people; there are exceptions, and I hope that in the course of a few years this state of things will change, for that there is a marked improvement in this respect during the last ten years is very apparent. Then there is their great enemy intoxicating liquor; they seem to have no difficulty in buying it all over the Province, and I have noticed in almost every police court report names of Indians being fined small sums or so many days in gaol, and nothing done to punish those who sold the liquor.

There are five schools on this reserve, three Protestant and two Catholic; two of these are supported entirely by the Government and the other three are assisted up to three hundred dollars per annum.

#### *St. Peter's, South (Government).*

On my last examination of this school, presided over by Mr. Henry Cochrane, I found the children were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, dictation and letter writing. This is the most advanced school in the agency. Nine of the children are reading in the fifth book, twelve in the fourth, eighteen in the third, seven in the second, and five in the first; nineteen are learning geography, twenty-eight children could write a very fair letter entirely of their own composition on their slates—some of these letters were beautifully written. One boy was working at vulgar fractions and twenty-seven knew their multiplication tables. The average attendance since Mr. Cochrane took the school, for nine months ending 30th June, is over thirty, with fifty-five on the roll.

Mr. Cochrane deserves great praise for the way in which he conducts this school and the way in which he makes the children take an interest in their work.

#### *St. Peter's, North (Government).*

This is a good school. Mr. Wm. H. Prince gives great satisfaction; he is most energetic in making the parents send their children. He teaches reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, dictation, drawing of maps on the blackboard, singing and letter writing; four children were in the fourth book, eight in the third,

nine in the second, five in the first and four at A, B, C. The average attendance for the last nine months was over thirty-three, with fifty names on the roll; this is most satisfactory, considering the roving disposition of so many of the parents.

*St. Peter's, East (Catholic Mission).*

Presided over by Miss Trauffenback, who is a good teacher, and who cannot be too highly commended for her perseverance in teaching and the way in which she has advanced such of her pupils as have attended at all regularly. Only one pupil attended every day last quarter, and others, only three, five, nine, thirteen days, and so on. There are twenty children on the roll and an average attendance of a little over eight for the year.

The children are taught reading, grammar, spelling and recitations, geography, history in French and English, and singing. Six pupils were reading and spelling in the second French and in the third English readers, two were in the second book and four in the first. In grammar this school is in advance of any school in the agency; in rudimentary history and in general geography equal to any; in arithmetic, not so far advanced; in recitations and singing it is only equalled by the Fort Alexander Catholic school. In fact, no school in my agency has progressed so satisfactorily during the last year as this, and I am pleased to be able to say so, as in my last annual report I had to give quite a different account.

*St. Peter's, East (Protestant).*

Nominally under the Episcopal mission, but really a Government school, as Mr. James Settee, jun., receives no assistance from the society whatsoever.

The average attendance is a little over twenty-three for the last nine months. The pupils are taught reading, spelling, geography, arithmetic and exercises on the blackboard. Two children were in the fourth book, four in the third, three in the second and three in the first.

Mr. Settee has given fair satisfaction as a teacher; his pupils are taught spelling, reading and writing well, but are deficient in the other subjects.

*Muckle's Creek School (Catholic).*

This school has been closed since the ice broke up in the spring.

One hundred and eighty five bushels of wheat, fifty bushels of oats, fifty-two of barley, and nine hundred and forty bushels of potatoes, besides a quantity of Indian corn and garden seeds, have been planted by the members of this band.

The crops, with the exception of a few potatoes, which were drowned by the heavy rains in the spring, are the best I have seen for years; hay is looking magnificent, and altogether there is a good prospect of a most bountiful harvest.

Statute labor was performed by this band, and school houses and bridges were repaired. The people also did over a mile of ditching; part of this was done as statute labor and part as voluntary work.

*Broken Head.*

Crops here last fall, with the exception of potatoes, turned out poorly, but to make up for this the fishing was above the average; fully twenty thousand jack-fish were caught and sold to traders by this band.

Some of them also had hay for sale in the spring, for which they got a good price.

This band have done well with the Government cattle, which were given to them, they received four cows, seven oxen and two bulls from the Department; they now have forty-seven head, besides eleven head of private property. They planted last spring twenty-five bushels of wheat, ten bushels of barley and one hundred and twenty-five bushels of potatoes, besides Indian corn and garden seeds; everything looks fair except garden stuffs, for with the exception of three or four men, they do not seem to take any interest in gardens, and it is hardly worth while giving them seed.

The heathen part of this band are as far from settling on the reserve as ever, only eight families making it their home; several of the others will stay for a time, and then leave and go to their homes at or near Rosseau, Point du Chêne and other parts of the Province.

Those who remain on the reserve are well off. They can now find a ready market at their doors for their fish, hay, berries, canoes and whatever they have to sell. Last fall one trader bought twelve hundred partridges and several hundred rabbits from them.

Mr. Black, who is in charge of the Government school here, is a most painstaking teacher, and the progress of the children is a credit to him. Mr. Black finds it very hard to get the children to attend, as the parents move about so much. He teaches reading, spelling, grammar, arithmetic, geography from the map of the world, and writing. One pupil is in the fourth book, nine in the second primer, three in the first primer and four at A, B, C's; ten are learning geography.

The Indians have built the walls of a new school house, but so far no one has offered to take the contract to finish it, as they say it would take at least one hundred and fifty dollars to do so. At present, school is held in the Episcopal chapel, and a very poor place it is, being dilapidated and not in a central position.

*Fort Alexander.*

The crops on this reserve were good last fall. Potatoes were splendid, and it was a good thing for the people that it was so, as the fall fishing for whitefish, on which they depend so much, was almost a failure—not from the fish being any scarcer than usual, but from the stormy weather which swept away many a net, and prevented the fishermen from attending and setting those they had left in a proper manner. Only eighteen thousand were caught.

During the winter fishing was fair, and the Indians killed a large number of elk, moose, partridges and rabbits. Mr. McKenzie, the Hudson Bay Company officer in charge, reported to me that the catch of fur was double what it had been for years. They planted this spring ten bushels of wheat, fifteen bushels of corn, seven bushels of oats, five bushels peas and six hundred and thirty-five bushels of potatoes. Their cattle were wintered well; all those having Government cattle had plenty of hay.

*Fort Alexander (Catholic).*

Father Madore has been in charge of this school for over a year, and a more energetic and hard working person could hardly be found; he has one of the best regulated schools in the agency. On my last visit I found the pupils were reading and spelling in French and English, arithmetic, geography, recitations and singing. Two children were in the fourth book, seven in the third, thirteen in the second, four in the first, and four in the first primer, seven at A, B, C's.

The children have advanced favorably in every branch, with the exception of spelling, in which they were rather backward. In singing, they quite surprised me, taking their different parts in glees and choruses in French and English, in a way I have never heard equalled at any school.

The Protestant Government school at the English mission, I am sorry to say, is the poorest in my agency; the parents are great wanderers, and cannot be made to send their children; the attendance is smaller than it was years ago, and the children are no further advanced.

Miss H. McKenzie, who has been teaching for the last quarter, only having an average attendance of four, with sixteen names on the roll, feels almost discouraged.

The Protestant Indians have built the walls of a new school house near the mouth of the Winnipeg River, and one of the councillors, John Henderson, has taken the contract to finish it. This, I believe, is a better site for a school, as I think there would be a better attendance.

The troubles in the west were a source of a good deal of excitement amongst my Indians, but I do not think that there was the least idea of any of them going on the

war path; they talked a good deal and were inclined to make demands on the Department, thinking it a good opportunity.

The Stone Fort Treaty is a great subject of debate amongst them, which they talk about on every possible occasion, and what is called the outside promises, which they all hold to and which they all say they never gave up.

In this agency another cause of trouble is the different races of which the bands are composed.

At St. Peter's the Saulteaux and Swampies are jealous of one another; the Saulteaux's think because they allowed the Swampies, who were originally from York Factory, to take the treaty with them, that they have no right to have a voice in affairs of the band, and as the Swampies are settlers, and increasing in numbers every year, they do not by any means intend to allow this.

At Fort Alexander it is something the same, as the French half-breeds are not satisfied to be ruled by the Indians, who are in the majority at present.

The half-breeds of this band (Fort Alexander) if they could retain their river lots, which they claim by the Manitoba Act, and also get their scrip, would, I believe go out of the treaty.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. M. MUCKLE,  
*Indian Agent.*

See further on in Part I of this Report for the first part of Agent Muckle's report.

MANITO-WAH-PAH AGENCY—TREATY No. 2,  
THE NARROWS OF LAKE MANITOBA, 30th JUNE, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—In compliance with instructions contained in the circular letter dated Ottawa, 8th April, 1885, I have the honor to transmit my report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June last, on the Indians of Treaty No. 2, and parts of Treaties Nos. 1 and 4.

TREATY No. 1.

*Sandy Bay Band on Lake Manitoba.*

This band was formerly under the supervision of Mr. Agent Ogletree, but has been transferred to my agency. I am happy to be able to state that the Indians of this reserve are giving up their nomadic habits.

Most of them come from the Prairie tribes, and, as a consequence, were always absent from the reserve visiting their relatives and friends, or hunting, only returning about the months of June or July of each year, when they came to receive their annuity money, and then they went away again for another year; so in reality the band only numbered some five or six families who remained to improve the reserve.

This spring they returned earlier than usual, took up land on the reserve, hauled logs to build their houses, broke up new land and planted potatoes in it, fenced it with good new rails, and some of them sowed wheat, barley, peas, corn, beans, pumpkins, onions, carrots and turnips.

The more industrious ones are building new houses, having at last decided to make homes for themselves on the reserve, more especially that their children may benefit by attending the school.

They have completed the new school house, which is furnished with the required floors, door, windows, desks, seats and blackboard. There is also a good large box stove and pipes there. They have cut and hauled the logs necessary to build a house for the teacher, which is to be placed near the school house, and then they will fence in both houses in the one enclosure. They expect to be able to finish this by treaty

time. The children are sent to school regularly, and although it was only opened in January last, on my last inspection I found that quite a number of the pupils could read and write, the first class being in the second part of the First Book. The pupils in this class could also do a little arithmetic.

At first some of the members of the band were very backward in sending their children to school, but now they seem very well pleased with both school and teacher, and are all willing to send them there.

Judging from the results of their farming and the benefits they seem to understand that their children will derive from the school, I am confident that the members of this band will stay on the reserve and make homes for themselves there.

They now understand the earnest wish of the Government for their welfare, and acknowledge with thanks the help the Department has given them again this spring, by sending them different kinds of seeds, a good yoke of oxen and harness.

The fur is decreasing in quantity so fast that they begin to see for themselves that they must rely on the cultivation of their land for their future support.

They are more fortunate in the fishery, as in the winter time they get a ready sale at good prices for all the whitefish and pike that they take.

#### *Lake Manitoba Band.*

I find this band still divided into two separate parties, one residing at Dog Creek, there being three councillors and the majority of the band there, having good houses and gardens, the other, being the minority, headed by the chief and one councillor, stretched out from the chief's place to Elm Point, a distance of about four miles and a-half.

The chief, with a few members of his section of the band, built the new school house about the centre of the reserve, the Dog Creek party declining to give any help, on the ground that it would be an impossibility for them to send their children to school there on account of the distance, it being about five miles; and so the members of the band, generally, state that it has been built to no purpose, being such a long distance away.

The teacher kept the school open during part of the December quarter at Dog Creek, and then removed the school to the chief's place, a distance of about six miles, and continued it there until the Christmas holidays, when he went home to Fairford. Whilst there he was taken ill and was unable to return and resume his duties before April. The chief asks for another teacher, stating that he was sick and not strong enough to go on teaching, and to be fair to him and the children a change is necessary, for the school shows little or no progress.

The biscuits sent for distribution to the pupils in the school were delivered to the chief instead of to the teacher, who was then keeping school at Dog Creek, and through some misunderstanding the chief, councillors and members of the band there present decided to divide them among themselves, which they accordingly did, not knowing for what purpose they were sent there.

When the teacher received my instructions he found they were already eaten.

On enquiring about this matter I found the statement correct, and both chief and councillors expressed their regret that it had happened.

I find the members of this band quiet and trying to improve their gardens and make themselves comfortable homes.

Potatoes and seeds were given to them this spring, and they have planted them.

Gradually a few members who were outside of the reserve are coming in and settling down permanently there.

Fishing was not good last fall, owing to the winter setting in very early, causing great hardships for a few weeks and the loss of a few nets.

As the fur-bearing animals decrease in numbers, so do the Indians turn their attention more and more to their gardens on this reserve.

#### *Ebb and Flow Lake Reserve.*

I visited this reserve and found the Government cattle and implements being well looked after, and that they had plenty of hay for their own stock.

The school is kept regularly, and no complaints were made about the teacher. The pupils are advancing, and show a good deal of spirit in their classes, reading and spelling being well rendered, explanations good, and, in fact, they have advanced considerably since last summer.

The biscuits are distributed according to instructions, and are well kept and stored in the school house. The biscuits are in good condition so far, and the balance on hand is correct. They have a large blackboard in the school house here.

Field and garden seeds have been delivered to them already. Owing to the severe frost last winter they lost nearly all their seed potatoes, and some more will have to be given to them.

They do not wish to exchange any of the bacon given to them for ammunition and twine.

I visited Crane River reserve on my way up the lake and inspected the stables, which were in a filthy condition, with large quantities of manure just at the doors. I ordered them to be cleaned at once.

The stables are well built, and they have enough hay to last them over till the grass comes.

I inspected the school. The pupils are doing well, considering the number of days the school has been kept open this quarter, the teacher having been absent most of the time through sickness, and in consequence loud complaints were brought against him, and a request was made for another to take his place. He himself asked to leave the school, as he could not attend to it properly, but he agreed to wait and teach until I could find another to take his place, which I did, in the person of William Anderson, jun., of Fairford band, who is now teaching.

The biscuits are kept in the school house.

They do not wish to exchange the bacon given for more twine, but ask that the present of powder and shot be replaced by twine.

The band wants to know when the Government is going to have their reserve re-surveyed.

After I had explained the game laws and the notice relating to fires, they complained bitterly about not being allowed to kill moose, ducks and geese, the latter of which they claim are only passing birds, and said they could not understand it.

Field and garden seeds have been delivered to them.

#### *Water Hen River Reserve.*

I inspected the school, which is kept regularly, and where both English and French are taught, and I noticed great progress had been made since my last visit.

The roll was called by the teacher and every name was answered to; each class was called up separately. I noticed advancement in every one of them. In French I examined them on the "Devoir du Chretien," syllabaire and spelling. In English, in reading, 1st part, first book; 2nd part, first book; second reader, spelling and arithmetic, as far as multiplication; also, in dictation of English and French, which showed very well; writing both on slates and in copy books very good; as also was their singing.

I noticed great discipline and order throughout the school, and in fact I must say that I consider Mr. Tabouret the best teacher in my district.

The number of pounds of biscuits delivered by the Hudson Bay Company was 2,050, or four lbs. over the amount stipulated. The balance on hand is correct, according to statement, and is kept with proper care in the school house.

The new addition to the school house is completed, owing to the energy of the teacher, and he is now living in it. There were no complaints made against him at all; on the contrary, the whole band seemed highly pleased with him.

The Indians keep him liberally supplied with firewood.

On Sunday, school is kept twice during the day.

I held a meeting with the band, at which I was informed that the Chief Kahtakahwaynaas was dead and the band had selected No. 19, Okitchekeshowenia, who was second councillor, to fill his place.

I explained the game laws to them and also the law about starting bush fires. The majority of this band is willing to exchange twine in lieu of bacon, but still there are quite a number of them against the change.

They say that at times they will be obliged to break the game laws, through sheer want of food, but that they will try their best to stop any unnecessary destruction.

Owing to the severe cold last winter, the ground cracked and the frost got into their cellars, freezing part of their potatoes; consequently, about 15 bushels of seed potatoes will have to be supplied to them, which can be obtained from Crane River reserve.

The field and garden seeds were delivered to the band.

Their cattle have been well wintered and are in good condition, with the exception of one old ox, which they ask may be replaced by two young animals.

There was a considerable amount of sickness among the Indians of this band this winter.

While at this reserve a liquor case was brought up. I held an investigation into the matter and found that the liquor had been given in a case of sickness by Mr. Alexander Munroe, the Hudson Bay Company's postmaster for the Water Hen River, and not, as it was suspected, in contravention of the Indian Act. In consequence, I dismissed the case. I may further state that it arose from the jealousy existing between the accused and another trader, and was simply brought up for the sake of annoyance.

#### *Duck Bay.*

I inspected the school, which is taught in both English and French, and found a marked progress in each class, especially in arithmetic, the children knowing addition, subtraction and multiplication thoroughly.

The band is very well pleased with the teacher, and had no complaints to make against him.

The chimney and mudding of the school house will have to be repaired this spring, and the Indians have promised to complete it immediately. The teacher is himself in charge of the work.

I found the names of the children correctly entered on the register. At the meeting I held with the band I explained the game laws, and also the notice regarding bush fires, to them. They say they do not see how they are going to get leather for moccasins if they do not kill moose when they get the chance.

They lost a part of their potatoes through the frost, the first time that such a thing has happened to them for many years, and so a few bushels for seed will have to be supplied to them this spring.

The band complains greatly about the members who are settled on the Pine River trying to induce some of the other Indians to leave the reserve and go to settle along with them. The leader of this movement is Kwiwisensis. This man requires checking, and that at once, and decisively, as he will be doing a great deal of harm to our school on the reserve.

The cattle look to be in good condition. They asked about the yoke of oxen, and trust that the Government will supply them soon, as they want them very badly.

On my way back I met Mr. Shannon, who was taking out the seeds for this reserve.

Whilst there I received a letter from the Swan Lake Indians, requesting me to go there to see them regarding the question of the reserve they applied for there. I referred them to Mr. Commissioner Dewdney, and their agent and chief, explaining to them that they were not in my district, and that, consequently, I could not do anything further than report that they request that some Government official may be sent to have a meeting with them on the subject, as they state that they have houses, stables, cattle and gardens of their own, and also that if they are listened to they could prove the truth of their statements; and, moreover, that they are loyal to the Government and Queen, and trust they will get a hearing this time, as it is impossible for them to go to Felly for their annuities, as it costs them too much to get there.



They would also like to hear the Queen's representative at least once a year, as they think they would profit greatly by it.

My experience of these Indians is that they are a steady, peaceful, respectful and thriving people.

*Lake St. Martin Reserve.*

I inspected the school and found very little progress had been made, owing greatly to the fact that there is no house fit to keep school in and no tables for the children to write on. Their reading and spelling were passable; arithmetic and writing, good.

The biscuits are kept at Fairford, and the distribution is made according to instructions, as I found out on questioning the children.

No complaints were made against the teacher, and the Indians seemed well pleased with her.

The names are correctly entered on the register.

I held a meeting with the band and explained the game laws to them, and also the law regarding the setting out of bush fires. They said they thought that if the game laws were enforced they would starve, and have no shoes for their children to go to school in.

Referring to the school house, they said that they were going to erect the walls this spring on a ridge in the reserve, and when they have done that they want the Government to finish it for them.

The small seeds were delivered to them, and the chief begged for about ten bushels of potatoes, as he had lost his through frost.

The cattle were all in good order.

The school was closed a great deal last winter, on account of the amount of sickness prevailing amongst the children.

*Little Saskatchewan Band—(Sandy Bay).*

I visited the school and found the pupils advancing very slowly, divided as follows, viz. :—

1st class, 1 boy and 2 girls present, First Book, same place as last summer, page 12—spelling good; 2nd class, 1 girl present, 1st part First Book, page 12—slow progress; 3rd class, 2 boys and 1 girl, Second Reader—reading and spelling passable; 4th class, 3 girls, Third Book, Canadian Reader, page 40—reading and spelling good; 5th class, 1 girl, Fourth Reader, page 16—reading and spelling passable.

They cannot explain what they read.

Grammar, 1st class, 2 girls, page 2—passable; arithmetic, 2 boys and 4 girls, simple addition—passable; writing on slates, dictation—passable; writing in copy books, good.

Another teacher had to be appointed here, on account of the late teacher's incompetency.

I appointed Colin Sanderson, of Fairford band, provisionally, pending the approval of the proper authorities.

This school has been kept up in a very careless manner, without order, and, as a consequence, very slow progress has been made. The time was kept more or less correctly, viz., five hours per day, and the pupils' names are correctly set down on the registers, and in accordance with the daily attendance.

The biscuits are stored at Fairford, at Mr. Bruce's storehouse, the teacher having no place to keep them in at Sandy Bay.

The band does not wish to exchange the bacon given for more twine.

After I had explained the game laws and the notice relating to fires, they complained bitterly about not being allowed to kill moose, ducks and geese.

The field and garden seeds were delivered to them.

They have also received a chest of tools to enable them to build their school house, of which they have finished the walls and thatching. They have also taken out logs for the purpose of making boards, and have engaged a carpenter to finish

the work for them on the following terms: The Indians furnish the boards and promise to pay him \$50 by treaty time, and on his part he contracts to make the following articles, viz., flooring, fix the windows in, 1 heavy door, 3 desks, 12 feet long; 6 seats, 12 feet long, 1 desk and 1 seat for teacher, 1 blackboard, 7 feet by 4 feet, he furnishing the necessary nails.

At the request of the chief, I made out an agreement between them and Kemper Garrioch, the carpenter, to the above effect, and they are now at work.

Their cattle are looking well.

They asked for about ten bushels of seed potatoes, as they had lost the greater part of theirs through the severe cold winter.

#### *Fairford Reserve.*

I visited the Fairford lower reserve school, kept by Mr. William Anderson, sen., and noticed that good progress had been made.

1st Class. 4 boys and 1 girl, page 24, Fourth Reader—Reading very good; spelling good. Geography, page 37—Showing places on the map, very good. Grammar, pages 14 and 15—Nouns, explanations and examples, very good; arithmetic, page 58, good.

2nd Class. 3 boy and 3 girls, Second Reader, page 6—Reading and spelling, good.

3rd Class. 1 boy and 2 girls, 1st part, First Book, page 11—Good. And 1 boy by himself, 2nd part, First Book, page 7—Reading passable and spelling good.

Writing on slates and in copy books, very good; dictation, good; singing, good.

I next visited the Fairford upper reserve school, under the direction of the Rev. Geo. Bruce.

1st Class. The Third Canadian Reader, page 75; reading, explanation and spelling, good. Fourth Reader, page 30; reading, explanation and spelling, very good. Geography, pages 17 and 25; explanation and marking on the maps, good. Grammar, page 30, with examples, very good. Spelling Book, pages 104, 126 and 192, very good. Dictation, very good. Arithmetic, page 125, good. Writing on slates and in copy books, very good.

2nd Class. Third Reader, page 82; reading explanation and spelling, good. Spelling book, pages 54 and 72, good. Writing on slates and in copy books, good.

3rd Class. Second Reader, page 50; reading and spelling, very good. Spelling Book, pages 22 and 42, good.

4th Class. Second Reader, page 19; reading and spelling, very good.

5th Class. Second Book, page 18; reading and spelling, very good.

6th Class. First part, First Book, page 10; reading and spelling, good. A, B, C class, good.

Dictation was very good on slates. In all there were present 46 children. The singing was also very good.

These two schools are regularly conducted and kept open the requisite number of hours. The numbers and names of the pupils on the registers are correctly set down in accordance with the daily attendance. The progress made by the different classes is very marked, and both schools show a marked advancement this year.

There was no complaint made against either of the teachers, and the chief and councillors are proud of their schools, and so they may be, as they are kept up to the standard; and although a great epidemic prevailed among the children last winter, the progress is still very good. This is owing to the energy, discipline and good order of the teachers.

At the mass meeting I held with the band I explained the game laws and the law about fires; and the Indians ask that they might be allowed to kill a moose now and again, as they want the leather for moccasins. They also want to kill the buck during hay time, as he is fat then. They only complained as far as regards killing the moose.

They ask that twenty bushels seed potatoes be given them, as their crops last year suffered from frost during the latter part of the summer, while yet in the ground, and again this last winter in their cellars.

They do not wish for any change to be made in the bacon given to them, as they say it is of great benefit to them during hay time.

They are going to erect the walls of a new school house at the lower reserve, and when they have got them up they expect the Government to finish the building for them.

I also inspected the Manitoba village school on March the 6th, and noticed that good progress had been made.

1st Class. Fourth Book, page 20, 2 girls. Writing on slates and copy books, good. Arithmetic to fractions, dictation and spelling, good.

2nd Class. Third Reader, page 12, 1 boy, 1 girl. Writing on slate and paper, arithmetic to division, reading and spelling, passable.

3rd Class. Two boys and 3 girls, Second Reader, page 10. Writing on slate, good; writing on paper, good. Arithmetic, addition and multiplication, passable. Reading and spelling, good.

4th Class. Three girls, First Book, 2nd part, page 5. Reading and spelling, passable. Writing on slate, good; writing on paper by one of the girls, only fair. Arithmetic, addition, by one girl, passable.

A, B, C class. Three boys and 2 girls. Letters and spelling, good.

#### *General Remarks.*

In conclusion, I beg to state further that on the recommendation of Rev. Geo. Bruce two other teachers were appointed provisionally, one to the Little Saskatchewan school, the other to the Crane River school, pending your approval—this is the understanding between them and myself. I may also state that the teacher of Lake Manitoba school will have to be replaced by another, as, in my opinion, his constitution is too weak and he is sick the greater part of his time, although he tries hard to do his duty and carry out his instructions faithfully.

With the above exception, all the other schools have been conducted according to instructions, with very good results, and I must say that it is almost entirely due to the daily rations of biscuits given the pupils, as also to the energy shown by the teachers in going round and looking up the absentees, and thus showing to their parents the interest taken in their welfare.

Referring to the violation of the Indian Act by persons supplying liquor to Indians, I was fortunate enough to capture one person, who was committed to gaol for a term of three months, in default of paying a fine of \$150 and costs, but in the other cases I sent a warrant to apprehend the parties, but they had made their escape; but in case of return, they will be immediately arrested and tried.

With reference to the game laws, the Indians request permission to kill ducks and geese until the 25th of May, at least, instead of 1st May, as until that date, 25th May, they cannot fish, owing to the ice which is yet on the lake, and they have nothing else to rely on for food.

Owing to the severe cold experienced this last winter, the Indians of my agency have lost nearly all their potatoes which they were keeping for seed. On making enquiries I find their statements correct, and not occasioned by any neglect of their own. The Indians show more signs of activity as regards farming this year, by hauling fence rails and enlarging their gardens, and I noticed on several of the reserves outsiders coming in to settle down permanently.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. MARTINEAU,

*Indian Agent.*

See further on in Part I of this Report for the first part of Agent Martineau's report.

COUTCHECHING AGENCY,  
RAINY LAKE, 1st August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following as my annual report for the year ended 30th June last, on the Indians of that part of Treaty No. 3, under my charge; also tabular statement to accompany.

The Indians of the several reserves are, I am glad to state, in a fairly prosperous condition, having secured their crops in good season, and by fishing and hunting they have been enabled to support themselves without assistance, with the exception of a few aged and infirm Indians, who have been slightly assisted with provisions during the past winter.

It gives me much pleasure to state that during the late rebellion in the North-West the Indians of this agency remained quiet and peaceable, displaying a loyal spirit and frequently expressing their disapproval of the action of the Indians who joined in the disturbances. An article which appeared in the *Rat Portage* newspaper some time ago, in reference to the Chief Manitobinense and the river Indians, charging them with disloyalty and sympathy with the rebellious Indians in the North-West, was entirely false, and no doubt instigated by interested parties, with mercenary considerations, probably that troops might be stationed in the district.

In justice to the Indians of treaty No. 3 I make this remark.

In October last, acting under instructions from Mr. Inspector McColl, I contracted for the ploughing and fencing of twelve acres on the Little Forks reservation of Rainy River, and in May following eight acres were sown with wheat, oats and barley, and the remainder planted with corn and potatoes, the whole of which, from present appearances, bid fair to yield good crops.

The increase of acreage improvements for the present year is shown in tabular statement. The schools at Little Forks and Long Sault reserves are also shown as in operation, but it is necessary to explain that they have only been opened as Government schools since the 30th June last, having previously been conducted as mission schools.

Owing to the high stage of water last autumn most of the hay was lost, and in consequence the cattle suffered considerably from want. The crop of the present year will be a plentiful one, if no loss is sustained from the same cause.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

R. J. N. PITHER,  
*Indian Agent.*

ASSABASKASHING AGENCY.  
LAKE OF THE WOODS—TREATY No. 3, 11th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit the following report and tabular statement in connection with the Indians of this agency, for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

The Indians within my district have enjoyed pretty good health since the date of my last report, no sickness of a serious nature having appeared among them.

The fisheries of last autumn were in general a failure, but game, on which the Indians generally depend for their winter subsistence, was more plentiful last season than in the winter of 1883-84; with the crops of potatoes and wild rice, the Indians passed a pretty good winter. A good number of them were employed by lumbering firms, and, by the wages earned, added to the comfort of their families.