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REPORT  
OF THE  
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL  
OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
1879.





**PAPERS ACCOMPANYING THE REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SUPERIN-  
TENDENT-GENERAL OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.**

**REPORTS OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND AGENTS.**

**ONTARIO SUPERINTENDENCIES.**

- |        |                              |   |
|--------|------------------------------|---|
| No. 1. | Grand River Superintendency, | J. T. Gilkison, Visiting Superintendent and Commissioner. |
| 2.     | Western                      | do 1st Division, E. Watson, Indian Superintendent.        |
| 3.     | do                           | do 2nd do Thos. Gordon, Agent.                            |
| 4.     | Central                      | do Wm. Plummer, Visiting Superintendent and Commissioner. |
| 5.     | Northern                     | do 1st Division, J. C. Phipps, Visiting Superintendent.   |
| 6.     | do                           | do 2nd do C. Skene do                                     |
| 7.     | do                           | do 3rd do Wm. Van Abbott, Indian Agent.                   |
| 8.     | do                           | do 4th do Amos Wright, Agent.                             |
| 9.     | Golden Lake                  | do Henry George, Agent.                                   |

**QUEBEC AGENCIES.**

- |         |                                  |  |
|---------|----------------------------------|--|
| No. 10. | Caughnawaga Agency,              | G. E. Cherrier, Agent.                             |
| 11.     | Lake of Two Mountains Agency,    | John McGirr, Agent.                                |
| 12.     | St. Régis Agency,                | John Davidson, Agent.                              |
| 13.     | St. Francis do                   | L. A. DeBlois, do                                  |
| 14.     | Viger do                         | A. LeBel, do No Report.                            |
| 15.     | Lake St. John do                 | L. E. Otis, do                                     |
| 16.     | River Désert do                  | Chas. Logue, do                                    |
| 17.     | North Shore, River St. Lawrence, | F. H. O'Brien, Stipendiary Magistrate, Chicoutimi. |

**NOVA SCOTIA AGENCIES.**

- |         |                 |                               |            |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| No. 18. | District No. 1, | John Harlow, Agent.           | No Report. |
| 19.     | do              | 2, J. E. Beckwith, do         |            |
| 20.     | do              | 3, Rev. Thomas Butler, Agent. |            |
| 21.     | do              | 4, Rev. E. J. McCarthy, do    | No Report. |
| 22.     | do              | 5, Rev. M. O'Connor, do       |            |
| 23.     | do              | 6, Dr. McLean, do             | do         |
| 24.     | do              | 7, A. F. Clarke, do           |            |
| 25.     | do              | 8, Rev. R. McDonald, do       | do         |
| 26.     | do              | 9, Rev. Wm. Chisholm, do      |            |
| 27.     | do              | 10, Rev. J. McDougall, do     |            |
| 28.     | do              | 11, Rev. D. McIsaac, do       |            |
| 29.     | do              | 12, A. F. McGillivray, do     | do         |
| 30.     | do              | 13, Rev. M. McKenzie, do      |            |

**NEW BRUNSWICK SUPERINTENDENCIES.**

- |         |                                |  |
|---------|--------------------------------|--|
| No. 31. | North-Eastern Superintendency, | Chas. Sargeant, Visiting Superintendent. |
| 32.     | South-Western                  | do Wm. Fisher, do                        |
| 33.     | do                             | do Moses Craig, do                       |

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND SUPERINTENDENCY.**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| No. 34. | John O. Arsennault, Visiting Superintendent. |
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**MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY.**

- No. 35. James F. Graham, Acting Superintendent.  
 36. E. McColl, Inspector of Agencies.  
 37. Robert Pither, Agent.  
 38. George McPherson, Agent.  
 39. H. Martineau, do  
 40. D. Young, do  
 41. F. Ogilvie, do  
 42. Geo. Newcomb, do  
 43. L. Herchmer, do  
 44. Angus McKay, do  
 45. R. H. Matthews, do

**NORTH-WEST SUPERINTENDENCY.**

- No. 46. E. Dewdney, Indian Commissioner.  
 47. M. G. Dickieson, Agent, Treaty No. 6.  
 48. Capt. Allan McDonald, Agent, Treaty No. 4.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA SUPERINTENDENCY.**

- No. 49. Victoria Superintendency, I. W. Powell, Indian Superintendent.  
 50. Fraser River do James Lenihan, do  
 51. G. M. Sprout, Indian Reserve Commission, Report of Progress.

**TABULAR STATEMENTS.**

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REPORT  
OF THE  
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL  
OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
INDIAN BRANCH,  
OTTAWA, 31st December, 1879.

To the Right Honorable

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, P.C.K.C.B.,  
Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report on Indian Affairs, embracing, so far as financial and statistical matters are concerned, the fiscal year ended 30th June last, and describing, as regards affairs of more general import, those which transpired during the year ended 31st December last.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that the sanitary condition of the Indians throughout the Dominion has been generally good.

With the exception of one reserve in Ontario, upon which small-pox prevailed for a few months during the past summer, and a few cases of small-pox within the Fraser Superintendency of British Columbia, and measles on the reserve at Betsiamits, in the Province of Quebec, there were no epidemics among the Indians during the year.

An improvement in the moral and intellectual status of the Indians generally is reported by their respective superintendents and agents.

A greater desire for the establishment of schools is evinced by Indian bands, who, a few years ago, could not be induced to even give the matter fair consideration, and a laudable ambition to excel in agricultural pursuits is reported to exist among the majority of the bands in Ontario; and a greater inclination to cultivate the soil and become resident upon farm lands is noticeable in many of the bands in the lower Provinces.

Intemperance is also, I am happy to say, reported to be greatly on the decrease among the Indians generally throughout the Dominion. This is doubtless attributable to a large extent to the severity of the existing law against the sale or gift of intoxicants to Indians; but we may also hope that it is the result of improvement in the moral character of the Indians.

Peace and contentment are reported by the numerous Indian superintendents and agents to prevail among the Indians from one end of the Dominion to the other, and even in the North-West where, as is generally known, much distress has prevailed during the past season and still exists, owing to the disappearance from the Territories of the buffalo, the staple of life of the aborigines of that part of the Dominion, nothing but expressions of loyalty and devotion to the Crown are heard from the Indians; some of whom were reduced to the extremity of eating mice, dogs, and even their buffalo skins, to preserve their lives, and some of whose relatives perished from hunger.

The confidence which the Indians have in the paternal care of the Government is undiminished, and the endurance and patience of those of the North-West, under the very trying circumstances in which they were placed during the past season, is deserving of all praise. Indeed, were whitemen to be placed in similar circumstances, it is questionable whether their conduct would have been as commendable.

With the above brief remarks upon the general condition of the Indians throughout the Dominion, I shall now proceed to describe in detail the principal transactions in connection with the administration of Indian Affairs in the several Provinces during the past year.

#### ONTARIO.

The crops in this Province, although they promised well, did not turn out as satisfactorily as was anticipated.

In the northern portions of the Province many of the crops were destroyed by summer frosts, and in other sections they are reported to have been short, consequently some of the Indian bands, especially those in the northern districts, are in somewhat distressed circumstances this winter: the distress being augmented to a great extent by the diminution in the value of furs and the scarcity of game which is attributable to the advance of settlement, and by the fisheries not being so productive as was formerly the case. Nevertheless, a decided though gradual improvement in the general condition of the bands throughout the Province is reported by the various superintendents and agents. The Indians are advancing in their style of farming, building, and stock raising. The Superintendent of the Six Nations Indians reports that the agricultural show of that community was this year superior to the exhibitions of other years, and that at the annual ploughing match the competitors numbered 26, and attracted much attention and numerous spectators, the ploughing being quite superior in style.

An increased interest is apparently taken by the Six Nations in education. The school buildings are better constructed, and more competent teachers are employed.

The officer in charge at Toronto of the Central Superintendency reports that many of the houses on the Indian reserve in the County of Hastings are neat and comfortable, evincing signs of a higher civilization than some of the houses of their white neighbors. On some of the reserves within this Superintendency there are as many as three and four schools in operation on each. And in the Northern Superintendency of the Province new schools were established on the Mississauga Reserve, on Blind River on the north shore of Lake Huron, on the reserves at Harvey Inlet and Shawanaga, in the Parry Sound District.

At the Pic, on Lake Superior, a commodious school house has also been erected by the Indians, and they have applied for a teacher.

On the reserve, in the Township of Tyendinaga, County of Hastings, another school house was built making the fourth on the Reserve.

Near Sault St. Marie, in the District of Algoma, a new industrial institution for Indian girls was brought into operation by the Reverend Mr. Wilson, the well known and successful Principal of the Shingwauk Home, an Industrial Institution for boys at that place; and three boys having acquired the trades respectively of tin-smithing, boot making, and carpentering, left the latter institution and obtained employment at their trades elsewhere, while a fourth boy from the same institution was able to fill the position of school teacher on the Garden River Reserve.

At Wikwemikong, on Manitoulin Island, increased facilities have been afforded to Indians desirous of placing their children at the Industrial Schools there to be educated, through the extension of the buildings during the past year.

The well known and long established Mohawk Institute, near Brantford, has also been greatly improved by a large addition to the main building, and the number of resident pupils now at that Institution is ninety.

On Christian Island, in the Georgian Bay, a good school house has likewise been erected during the year.

The lands in the new townships on Manitoulin Island, as well as those on Cockburn and Barrie Islands, in Lake Huron, the surveys of which were referred to in my Report for the year 1878, were brought into the market during the past year, and many of them have been, and the residue are being, rapidly taken up by settlers.

For the convenience of purchasers of land on Cockburn Island, and in the two most northerly townships on Manitoulin Island, a local agent, Mr. B. W. Ross, was appointed to reside on the former Island.

The pine timber on Cockburn Island was sold during the past year; that on the south-half to Mr. John Alexander Strathy, and that on the north-half to Messrs. John A. H. Campbell and John Lewis.

A survey was made of the residue of the Township of Allan, on Manitoulin Island. This tract was reported at the time the township was surveyed to be unfit for settlement and not worth surveying. This statement, however, seems to have been incorrect; as upon an exploration made by the local agent previous to the survey thereof some fair land was found in the tract.

A townplot was also laid out in survey on the north-east of Cockburn Island, and the same has been named Tolsmaville, after the enterprising pioneer of settlement on that Island, Mr. Tolsma, who conducts a successful fishery at the point where this townplot has been placed.

A grant of \$350 was contributed under authority of an Order in Council, dated the 22nd August, 1879, to supplement a similar grant made by the Ontario Government, towards the construction of a road in the Township of Billings, on Manitoulin Island, extending from "West or Honora Bay" to Mindemoya Lake, and which for the most part traverses an Indian reserve. The length of the road is about seven miles, and it affords an important and direct line of communication through Manitoulin Island, connecting the road running from Little Current, on the north side, with that running from Providence Bay, on the south side of the Island.

The sum of \$500 was also contributed under Order in Council of the 15th of August last, to supplement a similar grant made by the Ontario Government, towards the construction of a road traversing the Township of Thessalon, on the north shore of Lake Huron, with a view to facilitate the sale and settlement of the Indian lands in that township.

The northern road, which is being constructed jointly by this Department and by the Government of Ontario, through the Indian townships on Batchewaning Bay, Lake Superior, was extended this year through the Township of Pennyfather and a short distance into that of Tupper; and when the Goulais River is bridged, which it is proposed to effect next season, it is hoped that the sale and settlement of lands in these townships will rapidly follow.

The sum of \$2,319.72 was paid over by the Ontario Government to this Department, in trust for the Mohawk Indians of the Bay of Quinte, being the proceeds of sales of lands belonging to these Indians which were erroneously deducted from their reserve and sold, partly by the old Provincial and partly by the Ontario Government.

This Department, however, claims more interest on the capital sum received for said lands than was allowed by the Government of Ontario; and the claim in question has been brought under the notice of that Government.

I regret to have to report that small-pox broke out in the month of May last amongst the Moravian Indians of the Thames, in the County of Middlesex: and in spite of the energetic measures adopted at the instance of the Department to stay the progress of the disease, it continued to prevail among those Indians until the month

of August. During its prevalence there were 42 cases and 13 deaths. The deaths being principally of Indians who refused to be vaccinated. A hospital was established upon the reserve, and a doctor was appointed to take care of the same with nurses under him; and the members of the band generally were vaccinated. Every expedient calculated to insure the comfort and recovery of the invalids and to prevent the spread of the disease being resorted to.

With a view to the better administration of Indian Affairs in connection with the Moravian Band just referred to and their Reserve, Mr. John Beattie, of Highgate, who lives quite near the reserve, was appointed agent to that band at a salary of \$200 per annum; that amount being deducted from the salary of Mr. E. Watson, Indian Superintendent at Sarnia, under whose superintendency the Moravian Indians had formerly been included; and Dr. Tye having resigned the position of medical attendant to that band, Dr. R. D. Swisher, of Thamesville, was appointed to the position, at the same salary, viz., \$150 per annum.

#### QUEBEC.

The improvement in the condition of the Indians of this Province is not so marked as in that of the sister Province of Ontario.

With the exception of two or three bands, all the Indians within the Province of Quebec subsist by hunting and fishing, and not by cultivating the soil. And consequently owing to the reduction in the prices of furs and the prohibition under the fishery regulations against Indians catching fish in their own way, namely, by spearing, much suffering and hardship has been endured by them.

In consequence also of the stringency of the money market, the sale of their articles of manufacture has greatly diminished.

In the reserves, however, on which agriculture is pursued to any great extent, improvement is reported.

I regret to state that several of the agents have failed to furnish reports to the Department respecting the condition of the Indians within their agencies.

An effort is being made to induce the Algonquins and Tetes de Boule Indians on the reserve at the River Desert, in the Township of Maniwaki, to settle down on and cultivate their lands, which are well adapted for farming purposes; and with that object in view, an agent was appointed during the past year, who, in addition to his other duties, is to instruct those Indians in agriculture.

On the Reserve at Lac St. Jean, in the County of Chicoutimi, the agent reports that an improvement is noticeable from year to year in the houses, farming operations, stock raising, and clothing of the Indians.

Schools are established upon each of the reserves in this Province, and returns are regularly received therefrom, but it is regretted that they do not, with one or two exceptions, indicate much progress in the education of the pupils.

Several fires occurred upon the reserve at Caughnawaga, supposed by some to have been the result of incendiarism. A reward of one hundred dollars was offered by the Indian Chiefs for the discovery of the perpetrator or perpetrators of the crime, and a constable was appointed at a salary of \$200 per annum with a view to the better protection of property and maintenance of order on that reserve.

A survey into lots of the land on the reserve at Lac St. Jean is in progress at the present time; and the sum of \$500 was expended on a road through said reserve, Indian labor being employed in the construction thereof. The work done by them has been favorably reported of by their agent.

The report of Mr. O'Brien, Stipendiary Magistrate at Chicoutimi, descriptive of the different bands of Indians on the north shore of the Lower St. Lawrence, is placed herewith, and will be found very interesting and worthy of perusal.

An attempt is being made to protect these poor Indians from further imposition by traders, and from the sale to them of intoxicants.

An agent, Mr. L. F. Boucher, has been appointed to reside at Betsiamits, whose sphere of duty comprises all the Indian bands and settlements on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, east of the County of Chicoutimi.

Already, successful efforts have been made by that officer to prevent the sale of liquor to them; and it is hoped that he will be able by his influence with the Indians to prevail upon them to abandon the precarious mode of supporting themselves by hunting, and to adopt industrial pursuits, such as fishing and the cultivation of the soil for a living. The instructions to Mr. Boucher have been framed with the above objects in view.

An epidemic of measles prevailed at Betsiamits among the Indians, and proved fatal in a great many cases.

A doctor was dispatched to that place who remained with the Indians and attended on the sick.

The resident missionary at Betsiamits reports that the traders have, through the introduction of liquor among the Indians, demoralized them greatly; and it was on strong representations made by the missionary and others cognizant of the facts, that a local agent was appointed to the Indians of the Lower St. Lawrence.

#### NOVA SCOTIA.

The absence of reports from the majority of the Indian agents in this Province is much to be regretted, seven only of the thirteen Agents having favoured the Department with an account of the transactions within their districts during the past year.

The reports received, however, indicate an improvement in the condition of the Indians generally, more especially those from the Island of Cape Breton, where the Indians on several of the reserves appear to be advancing steadily in the arts of civilization. Many of them possessing comfortable houses and commodious barns. Horses and cattle are also owned by them.

In the western counties of the Province the Indians are more nomadic in disposition; but even in these counties they appear to be gradually becoming settled in their habits, and more desirous of acquiring a knowledge of agriculture.

The few schools that have been established in the Island of Cape Breton are reported to be making favorable progress.

It was hoped that land in the County of Halifax for the Indians frequenting Dartmouth and its vicinity would have been purchased this season; and negotiations to that end were and still are on foot. A difficulty as to the title of the party claiming the property which it was proposed to purchase seems to be the obstacle in the way of perfecting the purchase.

The agent for the Counties of Antigonish and Guysboro' reports that the Indians of the former county are more disposed to exchange their wigwams for houses; and that they also pay more attention to cleanliness in their personal habits.

The agent for the County of Inverness reports a pleasing advancement in the social and moral condition of the Indians within his district. Their present state presenting a pleasing contrast to what that gentleman remembers not many years ago the condition of the same Indians to have been.

The agent for the County of Cumberland is also able to state that some of the members of the bands within his agency, who were formerly nomadic in their habits, have finally returned to the reserves with the intention of settling thereon.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK.

The agent for the Counties of Victoria and Madawaska in this Province reports that the Indians on the reserves within his district are, generally speaking, industrious and of a religious tendency; that their progress in agriculture is marked; their houses are kept clean; and that they will compare in the above respects favorably with the white settlers of the neighborhood.

The Department is negotiating for the erection of a school house for the Indians owning the reserve on the Tobique River, in the County of Victoria; there being a sufficient number of children of an age to attend school on that reserve. The Indian children on the reserve at Little Falls, in the County of Madawaska, attend the public school in the vicinity of said reserve.

The superintendent for the Northern and Eastern Counties reports that many Indians died during last winter and spring; those seasons having been specially unhealthy. The superintendent is able, however, to state that the Indians are becoming more addicted to continuous labour on their farms; and that several of the bands are anxious to have schools established among them.

A contract has been made for the erection of a school-house for the Indians living on the "Burnt" Church Reserve, in the County of Northumberland; there being a sufficient number of children of an age to attend school to warrant the establishment of a school on that reserve.

The superintendent for the southern and western counties reports a slight decrease in the Indian population of those counties; although the Indians are less addicted than they formerly were to the use of intoxicants.

The chase is not as much followed, nor is fishing as much looked to by the Indians of this Province for a subsistence, as was formerly the case. Agriculture is prosecuted more vigorously by many of the Indians of the several districts.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

There is nothing remarkable to report respecting the Indians of this Province. The reports received from time to time from the superintendent regarding those living upon the reserve on Lennox Island are satisfactory. They are apparently disposed to improve their condition; and during the past season there has been very little sickness among them.

The resident superintendent is stated to be a practical farmer; and if he acts in accordance with the instructions sent him when he was appointed, he gives instructions to the Indians in agriculture.

The mackerel fishery near this Island is a valuable one, and the Indians derive a good portion of their subsistence therefrom. There are also productive oyster beds opposite the Island, and the Indians take quantities of these bivalves.

#### MANITOBA.

It is gratifying to learn from the reports and correspondence of the Acting Indian Superintendent, the Inspector of Indian Agencies, and the various Indian Agents in this Province, Keewatin and that portion of the North-West Territories comprised within Treaty No. 2, the Indians of which are under the Manitoba Superintendency, that a general feeling of satisfaction prevails among the various Indian bands with the manner in which the Treaty stipulations have been and are being fulfilled by the Government with them.

Mr. Inspector McColl states that the promptness with which the Government have granted the requests of the Indians for changes in the position of reserves unfit for cultivation for more desirable locations, and the judicious manner in which other difficulties have been adjusted in the Manitoba Superintendency, give much satisfaction to the Indians.

The only complaints made are in respect to trespasses committed by white people upon their reserves.

The progress of the Indians of some of the bands in agriculture is encouraging; and good use is stated to be made of the seed grain, potatoes and garden seeds, distributed among the various bands each spring.

The policy of appointing local agents in the vicinity of the reserves has a beneficial effect in many ways, and notably in preventing the Indians from visiting the City of Winnipeg, where they are liable to become demoralized through obtaining

intoxicating liquors; their agents being able to give them any advice that they may require in regard to local matters or difficulties, and in the event of their not being competent to give them the desired advice in matters of special difficulty they can communicate with the head office and obtain the requisite instructions for their guidance.

Most of the cattle agreed to be given the Indians under Treaty stipulations have been distributed among them. A few bands of Treaty No. 3, which embraces the region comprised within the Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake and Lac des Mille Lac Districts, have yet to be supplied with their cattle.

The benefit derived by the Indian bands among whom schools have been established is very marked according to the Inspector's report.

Twenty-four schools are in operation within this superintendency; and the Inspector states that the intelligence disseminated by them marks a gratifying distinction between the Indian who is the recipient of their civilizing influences and his wild untutored brother whose mind is still enveloped in ignorance and superstition.

With regard to the resources for sustaining life possessed by Indians within the Manitoba Superintendency, the Inspector reports that with the assistance of fish available on the rivers and lakes in proximity to their respective reserves, the different kinds of game obtainable, and the quantities of potatoes, maize, barley, wheat and other cereals grown by them, they are able, with the additional assistance given by the Government, to support themselves and their families; although they might be far more comfortable were they to cultivate the soil more extensively, abandon their wretched *wigwams*, and build permanent dwellings.

It is to be regretted that at some of the centres of civilization in this Province and in the District of Keewatin the liquor traffic is conducted for their own selfish ends by traders with the Indians, and complaint is made that the local authorities do not exert that influence which they might to put an end to the evil.

As an indication of the existence of aspirations on the part of some of the Indians within this superintendency to higher civilization may be noted the fact that many of them have made enquiries with a view to being released, under the provisions of the Indian Acts of 1876 and 1879, from their status as Indians.

Although the advancement of the Indians is on the whole satisfactory, nevertheless, I regret to have to state with respect to two or three of the agencies, that the energy which might be expected is not displayed by the officers entrusted with the local management of Indian affairs, and consequently the progress of the bands within those agencies forms an unpleasant contrast to that of Indians who are more favorably circumstanced as regards those who have the supervision of them.

Returns have been regularly received from schools on the various reserves which receive subsidy from Indian funds; and the Department has furnished the requisite books and other school apparatus for properly conducting the schools to such of them as have applied for the same.

By Order in Council of the 12th February, 1879, Mr. G. Newcombe, who was provisionally appointed by Order in Council of 11th May, 1877 Indian Agent for the Rosseau River Band, was confirmed in that position at a salary of \$200 per annum; and Mr. Angus McKay, who was provisionally appointed Agent for Treaty No. 5, by Order in Council of 7th October, 1878, was also confirmed in his position.

Mr. L. W. Herchmer, the agent and farming instructor to the Sioux Indians, whose reserves are on the Assiniboine River, reports that those Indians are eager to farm; that a large quantity of land, considering the means they have for breaking up the same, was prepared for seed last year; and that the ploughing was uncommonly good; that besides the cattle given them by the Government, the Indians have, with their own means, purchased some animals. The wet weather last spring and sickness among the most of their children prevented the Sioux Indians from putting in a large crop of grain.

The band at Bird Tail Creek have a native Presbyterian Missionary among them, and some of them are reported to be very devoted, having family prayers, grace

before meals, &c. Many of them can read and write in their own language, and some of them also in English.

A mission church and house have been built on another of the Sioux reserves, that at Oak River, by the Church of England Missionary Society; but no missionary has yet taken up his residence there.

#### NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

The scarcity of buffalo in the Territories reduced the Indians to very great straits, and a number of deaths from actual starvation ensued.

The Indian Commissioner for the North-West Territories reports that at the Blackfeet Crossing, when he visited that point in July last, he found, in a camp of 150 lodges of Blackfeet Indians, young men who a few months before had been stout and hearty, reduced to perfect skeletons.

The suffering was principally confined to the Indians of the south-western portion of the Territories; although, even as far east as Qu'Appelle, much suffering was endured. The Indians were reduced to such extremities that they eat mice, their dogs and some of them even their buffalo skins, and they greedily devoured meat raw when given to them. Men, women and children are reported to have died at the Blackfoot Crossing from absolute want of food.

Reports of starvation were received from Qu'Appelle, Forts Walsh, Macleod, Battleford, Carlton, Fort Pitt, Fort Saskatchewan, Edmonton, Touchwood Hills, Fort Ellice, Moose Mountain, Fort Calgary and elsewhere; said reports coming from different sources.

In view of the facts reported to the Department, an Order in Council was passed authorizing a conference to be held at Battleford, consisting of His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, Colonel Richardson, Stipendiary Magistrate, Colonel McLeod, Commissioner of the North-West Mounted Police, Mr. Dewdney, Indian Commissioner, for the North-West Territories, Mr. M. G. Dickieson, Indian Agent, and Mr. Breland, of the North-West Council, for the purpose of advising the Government what relief should be given and steps taken to prevent starvation among the Indians during the winter.

The conference met and reported, recommending that supplies be sent to several principal points, and the same were purchased and forwarded as recommended by the conference.

Strict instructions have been given to the agents to require labor from able-bodied Indians for any supplies given them. This principle was laid down for the sake of the moral effect that it would have upon the Indians in shewing them that they must give something in return for what they receive, and also for the purpose of preventing them from hereafter expecting gratuitous assistance from the Government.

The agents have been instructed to forward, at the end of each month, a return shewing the supplies distributed and the work done in return for the same, also stating in the case of the sick, aged and those unable to work, the circumstances under which the supplies were given.

The relief previously furnished by the Government to the Indians of the south-western portion of the Territories in the early part of the season was most opportune.

There is little doubt that had supplies not been sent many more of these poor creatures would have perished, or they would have been driven by desperation to help themselves at the expense of the white settlers of the country. The only wonder is that they did not do so before the relief reached them.

"Crowfoot," the head Chief of the Blackfeet Indians, whose camp was at the Blackfoot Crossing, on being asked why he did not send for relief to Fort Macleod, stated that he was afraid to allow his young men to go there for fear they would kill the white men's cattle.

The satisfaction with which the intelligence was received by the Indians that the Government had sent them relief and had appointed persons to instruct them in farming and herding cattle was great; and the willingness which the Indians expres-

sed to receive instructions in farming and to devote their energies thereto is encouraging; and it was with surprise that these favorable indications on their part were noted; as many of the oldest white people in the country had declared that the Plain Indians could never be induced to settle down and till the soil.

"Crowfoot," the head Chief before referred to, of the Blackfeet Indians, however declared that both he and his young men would take to farming; and other chiefs expressed a desire to settle down at once upon their reserves and commence farming operations.

The Indian Commissioner of the North-West Territories reports that the policy of the Government in attempting to make the Indians of the North-West self-supporting by instructing them in cultivating the soil, herding cattle, etc., will, in his opinion, prove a success; and that there can be little doubt if the buffalo continue to be scarce that unless the Indians become self-supporting they must be fed at the expense of the country; and even should the attempt to make them such prove a failure, the establishment of Government farms throughout the Territories, with plenty of land thereon to raise grain and root crops, will contribute largely towards diminishing the expense of feeding the Indians, should it turn out that such a course is inevitable.

Several of the bands in the south-western portion of the Territories who had delayed selecting locations for their reserves chose the same during the past season, and six farming instructors have been located in different sections of that region.

On the Saskatchewan the suffering among the Indians was not so severe, inasmuch as the facilities for affording them relief were greater, and many of them were not so wholly dependent upon the chase for their subsistence as their brethren of the south-west. Nevertheless, there was much suffering among those Indians likewise; and more was expected to ensue during the present winter.

With a view to avert this calamity, as before stated, supplies were sent in to the Territories in the autumn, and stored at different points.

It is probable that towards spring all the supplies that have been sent, if not more, will be required.

As remarked in the opening part of this Report, the patience and endurance displayed by the Indians of the North-West Territories, under the trying circumstances in which they were placed, are beyond all praise, and their refraining from helping themselves at the expense of the white inhabitants of the country, even when pressed with hunger, and pained by the sight of some of their friends dying around them, and others greatly reduced in strength, entitles them to every consideration at the hands of the public.

The Commissioner reports that the Indians generally throughout the North-West expressed gratitude to the Government for what has been and is being done for them.

It is to be regretted that no provision has been made for clothing for these Indians, whereof many of them are very deficient; and as the Commissioner justly remarks, they cannot be expected to work unless they are properly clad.

A plan might be adopted to meet this want by providing clothing to be supplied to the Indians for work done by them. And as labor will of course be required on the Farming Instructors locations, there is no reason why Indians should not be employed. Indeed, the preference should always be given to them.

The payments to the Indians passed off satisfactorily. Some embarrassment was, however, occasioned through delay in the transportation of the money to Battleford. This was caused through failure on the part of the Hudson Bay Company to furnish transport at as early a date as was expected for the Farming Instructors, their supplies, and the officer in charge of the party, who had also under his care the money for making the payments among the Indians of the Saskatchewan. The difficulty was, however, to some extent got over by cheques being issued by the Indian Commissioner for the North-West Territories and the Indian Agent at Battleford, which were accepted at par by the Indians and by the traders.

It is to be hoped that next season the payments will be made for the most part upon the various reserves in the Territories, and thus avoid the congregating of large numbers of Indians at one point, which is always attended with expense and embar-

rasment to the Department, and loss of time and interruption of work to the Indians, who have to leave their farms or gardens, and go, some of them long distances, to the places of payment for their money.

The following are the locations at which the various instructors in farming have been stationed: Qu'Appelle, Touchwood Hills, Fort Pelly, Prince Albert, Duck Lake near Carlton, Battleford, Fort Pitt, Saddle Lake near Victoria, Edmonton, Blackfoot Crossing, Fort Calgarry, Fort Macleod and Fort Walsh.

The report placed herewith of Mr. Dickieson, then Acting Indian Superintendent at Battleford gives a narrative of the transactions in the North-West Superintendency for the half year ended 30th June last; and the report of the Indian Commissioner for the North-West Territories, Mr. Dewdney, describes the events that have transpired since that date.

It is gratifying to learn from Mr. Dewdney's report that the farming instructors sent to the Territories all appear anxious to assist the Government and to do their utmost to carry out their instructions; also, that the horses sent from Ontario have turned out well, and the supplies for the instructors were received in good condition.

The Indians are at the present date for the most part still following the buffalo, and it is a subject for thankfulness that such is the case; as the Commissioner reports that were it found necessary to feed three-fourths of the Indians in the North-West, the supplies of provisions sent to the Territories would not last more than one month.

During the past season Edgar Dewdney, Esq., was appointed Indian Commissioner for the North-West Territories as successor to His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Laird, who resigned the position of Indian Superintendent early in the spring; and the following agents were appointed on the Saskatchewan: Mr. W. Palmer Clarke, at Duck Lake, near Carlton, and Mr. J. G. Stewart, at Edmonton. The agent at Battleford, Mr. M. G. Dickieson, having effected an exchange with Mr. W. L. Orde, of the Finance Department, the latter was appointed Indian Agent at Battleford in Mr. Dickieson's stead.

Captain A. McDonald, who was provisionally appointed by Order in Council of the 11th May, 1877, Indian Agent to the bands within the easterly portion of the Territory covered by Treaty No. 4, was confirmed in that position by Order in Council of the 12th February, 1879; and Mr. Thos. Page Wadsworth was appointed Inspector of the farming instructors' locations as well as supervisor of the distribution of food supplies, cattle, farming implements, etc., etc., among the Indians in the Territories.

There now remain but two other Indian Agencies in the Territories which it would appear desirable to create, viz: At Fort Walsh for that part of the territory covered by Treaty No. 4, lying west of the 105th degree of longitude, and at Fort Macleod for the Indians of Treaty No 7.

Adhesions to Treaty No. 6 were taken from two Cree Chiefs at Fort Walsh, known respectively as Little Pine and Lucky Man.

Owing to the large quantity of provisions stored at Qu'Appelle it was considered prudent to instruct Capt. McDonald, Indian Agent for Treaty No. 4, to remove from Swan River and take up his residence at that place for the winter, in case a distribution of supplies among the Indians should be necessary.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The interesting report of Dr. Powell, Visiting Indian Superintendent of the Province, which is placed herewith, will be found worthy of perusal. It describes a visit made by that officer during the past season to the various Coast Tribes of the Province, and to the Indians of Queen Charlotte Islands.

Dr. Powell was accompanied in his tour by the Fisheries' Inspector for the Province of British Columbia, Mr. J. Anderson: and many difficulties in regard to the fishing rights of the Coast Indians were adjusted; and others not capable of adjustment on the spot are, it is hoped, in a fair way of being adjusted. All the nationalities and nearly all the Tribes on the coast were officially visited by Dr. Powell, and he

reports that peace and contentment prevail generally among them; the scarcity of complaint being the best assurance of that state of things that one could furnish to the Government. The Superintendent reports that the liquor traffic has greatly decreased and the use by the Indians on the Coast of intoxicants is consequently very much lessened; indeed, with the exception of bands in close proximity to white settlements it may be said to have ceased.

Mr. James Lenihan, the officer in charge of Indian Affairs at New Westminster reports that peace, good order and comparative prosperity prevail amongst the great majority of the Indians of the mainland; and that there is a manifest improvement in their health and general condition. Any crimes committed are caused through the excessive use of intoxicating liquors.

The Indians of the Lower Fraser raised grain and other crops with success.

The Indian Reserve Commission, under Mr. G. M. Sproat, continued its operations during the past season. The first work being at Mataspina Strait, on the west coast, among the Sliammon Indians, who were most urgent that their land matters should be adjusted owing to a sale of land by the Local Government in close proximity to their principal village.

The Commissioner afterwards returned to the Fraser River, and worked among the Lower Fraser Indians, they having been passed over by him for two years.

In April, he proceeded to adjust Indian land questions between Yale and the mouth of the Fraser, connecting the work above Yale with the lowest village of the Neklakapamuk Indians at Spuzzum; the last named Indians having been dealt with the previous year.

A movement was inaugurated among the same Indians to amalgamate the different bands composing the Neklakapamuk Tribe under one Head Chief and a Council. It was not, however, considered politic to recognise the proposed confederation, and the Indian Superintendents and Indian Reserve Commissioner were instructed to the above effect, and requested to discourage the movement.

The Commissioner reports that owing to the settlement of white people on most of the valuable lands in the District of New Westminster, it was most difficult to adjust matters in that section of country for the Lower Fraser Indians.

Mr. Sproat states that, with a few unimportant exceptions, the whole Indian reserve question in the New Westminster District has been examined and the work of assigning reserves has been connected with what had been completed during the previous year. The Indian land question has thus been adjusted, so far as may be, along the whole of the proposed railway line from the Pacific Ocean, for 50 miles up the North Thompson River. During the summer the Commissioner resumed work in the Mataspina Strait, on the coast, working among the Sliammon, Klahoose and Homalaka Tribes: and at last accounts he was among the Kwah-Kewlth people; whose country extends from below Cape Mudge and Smith's Sound on the Mainland, and includes Quatsino Sound, on the north-west coast of Vancouver Island; where Mr. Sproat states the presence of the Commissioner is much needed.

The two surveyors employed to run the boundary lines of the reserves allotted by the Commissioner last year, worked during the past season in the Nicola Valley. Mr. Jemmett also surveyed the reserve for the Nicomen Indians on the Thompson River.

The Commissioner's reports of progress, and his report of this year's work will be found herewith.

It having been reported to this office by Superintendent Lenihan, at New Westminster, that much distress was said to exist among the Indians at Williams Lake, that officer was immediately authorized to afford relief to those Indians to an extent not to exceed \$500; he was, however, at the same time informed that for any help given to able bodied Indians, he was to require work from them.

With a view to the more efficient management of Indian affairs in British Columbia, His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to direct that the two Indian Superintendencies heretofore existing in the Province should be abolished, and that there should be one visiting superintendent for the whole Province with

sub-agents to be appointed at such points as to the Government may seem best in the interest of the Indians and service. His Excellency was further pleased to appoint Lieut.-Col. J. W. Powell, M.D., the former Indian Superintendent at Victoria of the coast tribes, to the position of Visiting Indian Superintendent for the Province of British Columbia, with headquarters for the present at Victoria.

His Excellency was also pleased to direct that the work of the Indian Reserve Commissioner of this Province should be placed under the supervision and direction of the Visiting Indian Superintendent, and that the Reserve Commissioner should be required to report from time to time through that officer, and whenever required by him, the progress made in the allotment of Indian Reserves.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS.

The following statement will give an idea of the amount of work done at this office during the past year. It must be remembered, however, that there is a large quantity of work done of which no regular record has been kept in the Department, and which will therefore not appear in the summary now submitted.

Letters received, docketed and registered, 6,970; memoranda containing instructions for letters to be drafted, 4,480; letters drafted, transcribed, entered, docketed and registered, covering 6,610 folios, 4,480; (not including work done by means of centograph and electric pen, estimated at about 300 pages); memoranda, letters and confidential reports, &c., covering 791 folios, 364; accounts kept and balanced daily, 180; pay cheques issued, 2,600; certificates for credits, 84; statements with vouchers and accounts forwarded to the Auditor-General monthly, about 156; memoranda on matters of accounts, about 1,094; new land sales entered, 975; payments on leases checked and entered, 340; payments on account of land sales checked and entered, 1,047; agents' returns examined and docketed, 150; assignments of land examined and registered under 39 Vic., cap 18, sec. 32, certified and entered in sales books, 196; descriptions for patent prepared in duplicate, examined, entered and issued, 193; patents examined, entered and mailed, 193; cancellations of land sales prepared and entered, 31; certificates for heir and devisee commission, 3.

#### MONEYS.

The balance at the credit of "The Indian Fund," which consists of all the Trust moneys held by this branch, was on the 30th June, 1878, \$2,999,306.77. The revenue credited to that fund to the 30th June, 1879, \$259,151.78, total amount credited to 30th June, 1879, \$3,258,458.55; from which deducting the expenditure to the 30th June, 1879, \$281,627.38, and the balance at the credit of the fund on the 30th June last was \$2,976,831.17.

There was an increase of expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1879 of \$37,347.18 over the expenditure for the corresponding period in 1878. This increase was occasioned by the payment of the sum of \$58,061.64 (additional to what had been paid the previous year towards the same object) from the Six Nation Indian funds to liquidate debts incurred by those Indians. Had it not been for this heavy payment the expenditure during the year 1879 would have been less than that for 1878 by \$20,694.46.

From the Parliamentary appropriations from the Consolidated Revenue, the following has been expended during the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1879:—

New Brunswick.....	\$4,267 96
Nova Scotia.....	4,502 68
British Columbia.....	48,531 56
Prince Edward Island .....	2,006 88
Manitoba.....	103,185 82
North-West Territories.....	300,032 39
Total.....	\$462,527 29

Statement B, and its subsidiary statements placed herewith contain full particulars as to the Revenue and Expenditure in connection with each of the Trust Fund Accounts, as do also statements C. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, in relation to the expenditure of the several Parliamentary appropriations for Indian purposes.

LAND SALES AND LEASES.

The quantity of land sold in Ontario for the benefit of the Indians during the year ended 30th June, 1879, was 61,996 $\frac{51}{100}$  acres, and the amount for which the lands were sold was \$45,114.55.

The amount collected on account of old and new sales and leases was \$57,036.26.

The area of surrendered and surveyed land in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec still unsold is 418,176 $\frac{43}{100}$  acres.

Return "D," prepared by the clerk in charge of land sales, which accompanies this Report, contains full particulars in respect to lands sold, as well as the quantities still disposable in each township.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Statements showing the population of the various Indian communities, the condition of the schools established on the different reserves, and the agricultural and industrial resources of the Indians of the different Provinces, will also be found herewith.

All reports received from Indian superintendents and agents, descriptive of the year's transactions in Indian matters within their respective districts, are likewise appended.

The increasing requirements of this Branch of the Service must necessarily entail a corresponding increase in the number of employés.

Already at headquarters the work is beyond the ability of the present staff, however capable those composing it may be, and I willingly and with pleasure testify to the general zeal and efficiency of the officers with whom it is my pleasure to co-operate under your instructions in the discharge of the onerous duties connected with the management of the Indian Affairs of the Dominion.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. VANKOUGHNET,

*Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.*

No. 1.

ONTARIO,  
GRAND RIVER SUPERINTENDENCY,  
29th September, 1879.

The Honorable  
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward tabular statement for the past year, to 30th June last.

I have not employed parties to collect statistics, but prefer making my own estimate of the progress made, and of the yield in crops, etc., from personal observation and from information.

The harvest did not realize the expectations of a promising appearance; still, the crop was fair.

In the Six Nation Reserve, more land from "commons" has been brought into cultivation during the year, and in most respects improvements are perceptible.

Not so much so among the Mississagua Band, who are, with few exceptions, unprogressive, and anxious to have whites working their farms. The health of the people, in general, has been good, though ague fevers continue and will do so, until the stagnant pools and creeks are removed by drainage.

Temperance is on the increase, but I regret in having to refer to the misconduct of some of the young men and women in selling and receiving liquor on the reserve.

A good many prosecutions have followed, upon informations by the Interpreter, Chief G. H. M. Johnson (who is ever vigilant in the discharge of any duty required of him), with consequent punishment.

The Council of Chiefs readily aid in promoting the cause of temperance.

Indians have no difficulty in obtaining liquor in the neighbouring towns and villages, but they cannot be induced to make complaint or give evidence, and it appears impossible to prevent the evil.

The census shows an unusually small natural increase for the past year.

The Six Nations number 3,164. Births, 118; deaths, 116; increase, 2.

The Mississaguas number 219. Births, 7; deaths, 2; increase, 5. Indian population of reserve, 3,383.

Eighty-five licenses have been granted, to Indians only, for the removal and sale of 877 cords of all kinds of wood, and for 397 logs, in exchange for lumber.

Notwithstanding the law, the watchfulness of bailiffs, and the urgency for preserving the woods, much is taken away at a risk and during the night, by the numerous outlets with many facilities and combinations for doing so.

The Agricultural Society somewhat declined, but it has recovered its former vigor, and the approaching show promises to excel all previous efforts.

The new annual ploughing matches which took place last autumn, being favoured with fine weather, attracted much attention, no less than twenty-six competitors contending for the various prizes; the Governor-General's plough and other implements proving an incentive to the youth and much interest being manifested by numerous spectators.

Roads in the reserve continue to receive attention, the main highways being in excellent order and side roads improving.

A freshet, last September, caused much injury to bridges and culverts, but they have been repaired or restored.

In regard to education, it is very pleasing to report increased interest on the part of the Council of the Six Nations, which had previously been quite indifferent.

They have renewed their vote of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for the year, which may now be regarded as an annual grant, and have re-elected their three representatives to the Board of Education.

The Board is gradually making changes, improvements and repairs, alike calculated to promote efficiency, comfort of teachers and pupils, and their eight schools more attractive.

New buildings and additions are required for all of the schools, but the limited means at the disposal of the Board will delay their erection over a series of years.

The Wesleyan Conference have two schools, under charge of its missionary.

The Mississaguas have one school in a flourishing condition, under the care of their three trustees.

The Mohawk Institute continues its excellent course, with a full attendance of 90 boys and girls, under the superintendency of Mr. Ashton, the representative of the New England Company.

The grounds have been much improved, with a large addition to the main building, rendering it a model establishment.

The total number of pupils attending all the schools, including the Institute, are returned at 570.

A former suggestion, to provide for Indian orphan children, has been under consideration of the Company, with the probability of its being carried into effect; if so, the utmost benefit will be conferred on the fatherless and upon the Indian race.

With an experience of 17 years, I have the pleasure to report a decided, though gradual, improvement among the Indians of this superintendency.

Queen's Birthday was, as usual, duly celebrated by the Six Nations, by Royal salute, speeches, cheering, and an issue of bread, cheese and biscuit.

The Council of Chiefs adopted a loyal address of congratulation to the Marquis of Lorne, Governor-General, including Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, upon their arrival in this Dominion, to which His Excellency gave a gracious reply, gratifying the Indians.

The Six Nations look forward with lively feelings of pride to an expected visit at their Council House by His Excellency and Her Royal Highness, when an Indian reception will be given similar to that accorded the Earl and Countess of Dufferin in 1874.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. GILKISON,

*Visiting Superintendent and Commissioner*

No. 2.

ONTARIO,  
WESTERN SUPERINTENDENCY.

INDIAN OFFICE,

SARNIA, 17th September, 1879.

The Honorable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith tabular statement showing census, progress in agriculture, &c., of the several Indian bands within this superintendency. It is as nearly correct as I could get it, or in ordinary cases is practicable in such statements.

In regard to the Indians under this superintendency, I may remark in general, that, though in some cases there is even a deterioration in their condition as compared with their state a few years ago, in the great majority of cases there is a decided improvement.

They are gradually, though very slowly, becoming acquainted with the usages of civilized life, and seeking to improve their condition by adopting many of the plans and practices of their white neighbors.

Unhappily, however, while learning some of the good practiced by the whites, they also get familiar with a great deal of evil. Drunkenness is an evil to which, as a class, they are especially prone, and notwithstanding the severity of the law against furnishing liquor to Indians, there are a number of wretched white men who, in some way, still contrive to get it for them.

The Indians of these reserves are well supplied with religious instruction, and many of them have largely profited thereby. For the most part, the missionaries among them have, with much labor and self-denial, sought the good of the Indian, and doubtless the results in the future will be still more apparent than at present.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

EBENEZER WATSON,

*Indian Superintendent.*

No. 3.

ONTARIO,  
WESTERN SUPERINTENDENCY, 2ND DIVISION.  
INDIAN AGENCY,

STRATHROY, 28th August, 1879.

The Honorable  
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—In compliance with the request of the Indian Department, instructing me to transmit a report for the year ending 30th June, 1879, on Indian matters within my agency, I have now the honor to comply therewith.

## ONEIDAS OF THE THAMES.

This band numbers 635, showing an increase of 45 since last census. They live in the Township of Delaware, County of Middlesex, are a very industrious and intelligent band of Indians, and have two schools on their reserve—one taught by a native teacher, and supported by the Church of England, the other taught by a white female teacher, and supported by the Canada Methodist Missionary Society. They also have a large flourishing temperance society.

## CHIPPEWAS AND MUNSEES OF THE THAMES.

These bands live on the Caradoc Munsee Reserve, have two efficient temperance organizations, and four common schools, taught by native teachers. Three of the schools are supported and maintained by the funds of the Chippewas of the Thames, and are under the supervision of trustees elected by the band. One of the schools is supported by the Church of England Missionary Society. There is also on the reserve the Mount Elgin Industrial Institute and boarding school, where the boys are taught, besides the ordinary branches of education, farming, shoemaking and joinerwork, and the girls learn sewing, tailoring, knitting and general housework. The common schools are not attended as well as we would desire. A certain number of parents are very remiss in sending their children to school. The Chippewas number 469, an increase of 14 since last census. The Munsees number 129, the same as last census.

## MORAVIANS OF THE THAMES.

That contagious and loathsome disease, the small-pox, broke out among them in the early part of last spring, and proved fatal in thirteen cases. Acting upon instructions from the Department, I had vaccination promptly attended to, which had the desired effect of checking the disease, which has now nearly disappeared from the reserve. The cases which proved fatal were generally among some Indians who refused to be vaccinated, not believing the disease to be small-pox. From the above cause, and from the shortness of time I had the honor of being their agent, I am not able to furnish as full a statement of the band as I would desire. This band number 269. The four bands under my agency generally speak very good English. Their moral character as a body is very good. Some of them are very good farmers, and cultivate the soil in a husbandlike manner. Indeed, they compare favorably with their white neighbors in many respects. They generally seem happy and contented. Their moral condition is improving under the influence of the missionaries, and the temperance societies appear to have some good effect.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS GORDON,  
*Indian Agent.*

## No. 4.

ONTARIO.  
 CENTRAL SUPERINTENDENCY,  
 INDIAN OFFICE,  
 TORONTO, 21st November, 1879.

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

SIR,—Referring to your circular of th 23rd July last, asking for a report upon Indian matters within my superintendency for the year ending 30th June last, I have the honor to state, that as far as the farming and other industrial pursuits are concerned there has been little change since my report of last year. I am, however, able to say, that any slight changes that may have taken place are evidences of a steady, though slow, improvement.

## THE MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE.

This Band now numbers 882, being an increase for the year of 16, by births.

There are three schools on the reserve in active operation, one of which has been rebuilt during the year. There is also a fourth school house in course of erection, which will supply a want long felt in a section of the reserve too remote from the previously existing schools.

I have much pleasure in reporting that this band is steadily progressing in intelligence and civilization. The Indians are all members of the Church of England, and large numbers of them are most regular in attending its services. I regret, however, to have to say that too many of them are still addicted to strong drink; and the tavern keepers of the neighbouring villages seem to sell whisky to them without any let or hinderance, and are doing their best to demoralize them. But I am glad to say that a large number are strictly temperate men, and can resist the temptations thrown in their way by unscrupulous dealers.

I have lately had better opportunities of becoming more intimately acquainted with the home life of this people, and can say that many of their houses are neat and comfortable, and show evidences of a higher civilization than numbers of their white neighbours.

## MISSISSAGUAS OF ALNWICK.

This band now numbers 210, having lost two by emigration to Mud Lake. The school seems to be doing pretty well, with a fair average attendance.

The farming operations have not increased, but they manage to grow enough, supplemented by other pursuits, to support themselves, and I heard no complaining amongst them.

I am glad to say that there is a very efficient Justice of the Peace near the Indian village, who takes great pains to protect them from the use of whiskey, by severely punishing any one who supplies them with it.

## MISSISSAGUAS OF RICE LAKE.

This band now numbers 111, being a decrease of five by deaths. There has been an unusual amount of mortality among these Indians during the past year, from fever and consumption.

The school has been fairly attended and favorable progress made.

Some of these Indians farm very successfully, but the majority have for a long time been in the habit of leasing their shares of land to white men, in small patches of two or three acres, the result being, that the land has been badly worked and has