

DOMINION OF CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE

1896

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OTTAWA

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EXCELLENT MAJESTY

1897

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To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, &c., &c., &c., Governor General of Canada, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :—

The undersigned has the honour to present to Your Excellency the Annual Report of the Department of Indian Affairs for the fiscal year ended 30th June 1896.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

CLIFFORD SIFTON,
Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.

OTTAWA, 31st January, 1897.



THOMAS MOORE, AS HE APPEARED WHEN ADMITTED TO THE
REGINA INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.



THOMAS MOORE, AFTER TUITION AT THE REGINA INDIAN
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

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REPORT
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1896.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
OTTAWA, 2nd December, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the report of the Department of Indian Affairs for the year ended the 30th June, 1896.

It again becomes a pleasing duty to state that, during that period, those friendly relations which have for such a long series of years existed between the Government and its Indian wards remain unbroken.

Repatriation of Indians.—An occurrence which might be regarded as emphasizing this feeling has been the repatriation of some 500 refugee Indians from the state of Montana to their reserves in the North-west Territories. These Indians left this country after the troubles of 1885, in which some, but not all, had been induced to take part. From such reports as could be gathered, they appear to have behaved themselves fairly well while resident in the United States. Still, it was considered by the authorities of that country that such a large number of alien Indians, who had no reservation set apart for them, nor any good means of support, was an undesirable element in sections of the country which were rapidly becoming populated by whites, and consequently a desire was expressed that they should be taken back. To this the Dominion Government readily assented.

Little or no trouble was experienced in connection with their removal, they having been escorted to the international boundary line by United States troops, where they were met by small detachments of the North-west Mounted Police, acting in concert with officials of the Indian Department, and thence taken to the respective reservations to which they had formerly belonged or expressed a desire to be attached. Thus they have been scattered throughout the country and not kept in one body. This course was prompted by various reasons, not the least important being that by this means expense would be materially lessened, in that they would, in the main, be placed under

the guidance of employees already in the service, and would at the same time be likely to be stimulated by association with their brethren who thought proper to remain at home, and who have been striving, with an encouraging degree of success, to reach that point towards which the efforts of the department have essayed to direct them.

It is hoped that under a conciliatory but firm treatment they will endeavour to reach even that standard which their more fortunate brethren have attained.

Prosperity of Indians.—When it is thought advisable to judge of the prosperity of any community many circumstances have to be taken into consideration, but as the Indians—that is, that portion outside the older provinces—are in various stages of development, it becomes a matter of much difficulty to make statements of a comprehensive nature of their condition as a body.

Great difference must naturally exist between their requirements and the various methods of meeting them. Contact with separation from advanced communities must necessarily form an important factor, not only in the requirements of the Indians, but also as to the methods necessary to meet such demands; and it cannot but follow that health and morals are greatly affected by such contact or separation, and it is evident to many that the near proximity to civilization has not, it is to be regretted, in some respects at least, been in the direction of good. Still, it is gratifying for one to be able to assert that, on the whole, the Indians have met with fair prosperity. In connection with this, I would beg to refer you to the reports of all inspectors and agents throughout the Dominion and the tabulated statements which follow, as these afford information in detail.

Distribution of Relief.—The department's policy as to aid in the matter of food, clothing and other supplies has been kept forcibly in view, and as a rule none but the aged, infirm and children have been gratuitous recipients of the department's bounty, the able-bodied being forced to work for what has been given them by the department, and also to seek to meet their wants in other directions.

It was in last year's report shown how, by the enforcement of such policy, individuals were pushed to extra energy in order to contend with the great depression, which affected not only the whites but the markets of the Indians in the sale of produce, and manufactures and labour in various directions. Naturally, this depression was felt more in the older provinces contiguous to the United States, these being, of course, more readily affected by the falling or rising of the commercial barometer of that country. As the depression was only very tardily overcome, and as the market for all produce of the soil was particularly low, it followed as a consequence that the aggregate earnings of the Indians of these older provinces were lower than that of the previous year, although it is a matter for congratulation that in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, where the Indians are under superior guidance, notwithstanding this depressing state of affairs, the increased earnings of the previous year were so much more than sustained as to bring up the Dominion's aggregate to \$1,658,859.

Harvest Returns.—Upon turning to the area under crop, it is found that the quantities show for the past and previous fiscal years 116,109 acres and 120,233 acres, respectively, while, for the whole Dominion, the aggregate number of bushels in cereals harvested exceeds that of the previous year by some 50,000 bushels, notwithstanding the unfortunate decrease of some 40,000 bushels of oats raised in British Columbia.

In roots and vegetables the year's production exceeded that of the preceding one by some 80,000 bushels.

Unfortunately, the increase in quantity of grain raised in the North-west Territories failed to offset the quality, which was greatly affected by unpropitious weather in many localities during the harvesting of the crops. For the best quality of grain low prices prevailed, and for inferior grades a market was hardly obtainable.

The fruitlessness of too much dependence being placed, in the North-west Territories, upon cereals, to meet the Indians' demands, had for some years past been recognized by the department; consequently efforts have been made in the direction of raising only such quantities of cereals as the time necessary for the rapid and proper rearing of stock and the raising of roots and vegetables would permit, the tendency being to enlarge the areas of the latter as much as possible.

Stock-raising. The raising of stock is not surrounded by so many elements of uncertainty as that of cereals, and it is constitutional in the Indian, that is, the Indian of the West, to evince a greater fondness for the rearing and care of stock than the production of grain and roots, owing to the monotony necessary in the case of the latter; and where difficulties arise with the Indian as to the proper caring of stock, this is in a great measure owing to his improvident nature.

The Indian in his natural state would undergo wonderful privations and fatigue in the chase: but when he had returned to discharge the fruits of the hunt at the door of his lodge, he considered his labours as ended and that he had earned a well-deserved rest, while the remainder of the work, however hard, was to be done by his squaw—so he is now unwilling to exert himself for a lengthened period, particularly if the results cannot readily be seen. Without much difficulty an Indian can be induced to cut hay or cut firewood, where he knows they are readily sold for cash; but to get him to make hay for stock in the early stages of rearing small herds, when he is not allowed to sell, becomes a much harder task.

Through a great deal of watching and patience, the loan system, as applied to cattle in the North-west Territories, has been brought to work admirably among the Indians. This system, in a few words, is the lending to the Indians of one or two animals, upon condition that, at the expiration of a certain time, he will return to the department an equal number—these in turn being loaned to others. So successful has this system proved, that many individuals have managed to collect about them herds of sufficient size as permit, without detriment, sales to be made, bringing in ready cash: thus the Indian, who for a long time remained skeptical, has become aware of the value of stock.

Fishing and Hunting.—Fishing and hunting, for those who in the main have to depend upon this mode of existence, have been fairly good. The restrictions placed upon the former have, without doubt, proved beneficial, and must in due course be the means of replenishing many of the inland waters, which were fast becoming depleted. Fur-bearing animals have been found in fair numbers, but the prices obtained for their pelts have been low, thus materially reducing the profits of the hunter.

Health and Sanitary Regulations.—Upon the whole, the health of the Indians has been good.

Every endeavour has been made to enforce sanitary regulations, and it is thought good results have ensued, as, with the exception of a few cases of diphtheria and typhoid fever, the Indian has had an immunity from such complaints as might spring from unclean surroundings. In a few places measles, whooping-cough and chicken-pox became epidemic, and at one point la grippe was prevalent for a time. The majority of deaths among adults result from scrofula and consumption. Among our western Indians of Manitoba and the Territories and some parts of British Columbia pulmonary attacks are common, the Indian being particularly susceptible to these during that state of transition from the wild state to the more advanced condition of civilization, and to overcome this efforts are put forth to get the Indians to ventilate their houses. It is found that fresh meat and the greater use of roots and vegetables tend greatly to improve the condition of those scrofulously inclined.

Vital Statistics.—The mortality among the young is greater than might be under altered circumstances. It is greatly due to the too early marriages on the part of the girls, who take upon themselves the bearing of children before physical development is completed and at a time of life when they should be under the care of others. Lack of experience also tends to an increased ratio in deaths of the young, such, for instance, as allowing children, after an attack of measles, too much freedom, resulting in cold, this being followed by fatal results. In the North-west the deaths have outnumbered the births, but the death-rate has, if anything, been slightly under that of the year preceding.

Temperance and Morality.—Taking the Dominion throughout, the conduct of the Indians has been all that could be expected, save as regards intemperance, of which there has been a good deal, more particularly in the older provinces and British Columbia.

As to drinking, there is no doubt the Indian is much more sinned against than sinning; and, considering his extreme infirmity when exposed to the temptation of drink, it may be a matter of congratulation that he has not given way to a much greater extent than he really has. Notwithstanding the great difficulty in obtaining proof against those miscreants who still persist in clandestinely supplying the Indian with strong drink, and the sympathy many of the offenders appear to meet with from those who evidently do not realize the dangerous effect of their conduct, the majority of the department's officials have not ceased in their vigilance, which has resulted in the prosecution of many offenders, and has brought about a marked change for the better. This action is also, no doubt, having a strong influence on the Indian in the right direction, reducing other offences which are a natural result of this selling of liquor to Indians; and, had it not been for the most unfortunate taking of lives, hereafter mentioned, the country might have congratulated itself upon the absence of crime of a serious nature, particularly when the number of Indians and the circumstances which surrounded them are considered.

Of the serious crimes, the most unfortunate was the shooting and immediate killing of a non-commissioned officer of the North-west Mounted Police in the Duck Lake Agency, who was attempting to re-arrest an Indian who had been confined for cattle killing, and made good his escape.

Again, in the case of an Indian named Charcoal, of the Blood tribe. This Indian always bore a good character and was a good worker, but owing to an improper inti-

macy, on the part of another Indian of the same band, with his wife, the poor fellow became maddened with jealousy and shot the offender. Like the true savage, once having drawn blood, the desire for more became aroused; and under such circumstances white men, if in the vicinity, become the unfortunate victims. Thus the agent, being the most prominent person, was selected; but happily he was absent from the agency when Charcoal prowled about seeking his life. Failing in this, the Indian attempted that of Farming Instructor McNeill, who lived about twelve miles distant. After waiting for a time, and until the farmer passed between him and a lighted lamp, he fired; but, happily, an intervening object caused the bullet to swerve, and thus only a wound of a light nature was inflicted. The Indian then became desperate, and vowed he would kill any who attempted his arrest. This threat was carried out in the killing of Sergt.-Major Wyld, of the North-west Mounted Police, while endeavouring to take him prisoner.

The shooting of the farmer, who was popular with the Indians and received their sympathy after being wounded, and the killing of the issuer at the Blackfoot Reserve, mentioned in last year's report, show only too clearly how the department's officials resident in the country carry their lives in their hands and what might be the result were selections for these posts to be made promiscuously.

Although these last two instances occurred subsequently to the fiscal year of which this report treats, still their importance demands a reference here.

The following case of manslaughter is interesting, illustrating, as it does, the strange and extremely powerful superstitions which have had to be contended with in the endeavour to elevate the Indian; these superstitious ideas are still found among those inhabiting the more remote parts, notwithstanding the efforts of missionaries and of the department. This account is taken from a Winnipeg daily journal:—

“A most interesting case came before Mr. Justice Rose at the Assizes yesterday, wherein one of the Sabaskong Band of Indians was charged with the murder of his foster father. The band in which the trouble occurred is thoroughly pagan, possessed of a firm belief in the power of the Wendigos, or evil spirits, to appear in the form of a human being to annoy and trouble the tribe. For some time prior to the murder, the Indians on the Sabaskong Reserve were seized with the idea that a Wendigo was exercising an evil influence on their band and damaging their property. They hid away their canoes, but apparently to no purpose. At length they decided to place armed sentries on the watch in order to catch the evil spirit. This watch was sustained continuously for eight days, the prisoner and the murdered man participating in the watch. On the eighth night the prisoner was on guard, when he saw a mysterious figure fitting from one spot to another, with its blanket streaming behind it in a peculiar manner. He at once challenged, but received no reply; he challenged again, and yet again, and still receiving no answer, he fired at what he was firmly convinced was the Wendigo. In the yell which followed, the prisoner recognized the voice of his foster father, who for some reason or another had left his post and was probably hastening back to it. Mr. Justice Rose charged the jury and declared the case to be without parallel in the history of law. Under his advice the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, and the prisoner was sentenced to six months' hard labour pending the result of a reference of the case to the opinion of his brother judges.”

ONTARIO.

As other means of support have disappeared, so have the Indians of this province applied themselves more energetically to farming and other kindred undertakings for a livelihood.

In the vegetable and root crop the returns show an increase for the last fiscal year over the previous one of something like 44,000 bushels, and in cereals an increase of more than 40,000 bushels. It is a subject for remark that the cultivation of corn is greatly on the increase, so that the yield has been nearly 100,000 bushels, or more than twice the quantity raised in the preceding year, the raising apparently being less precarious than that of other cereals.

Loans to Individual Indians from Funds of Bands.—Last year was the first in which the system of loaning the funds of bands to individual Indians was mentioned. This system is one by which individuals of a band may, through the consent of the council of the same, and on the approval of the Superintendent General, obtain loans from the capital at the credit of the band, in the hands of the Government, for the purpose of erecting dwelling-houses, barns or other buildings, or placing the same in proper repair—for improvements to the farm, or for the purpose of purchasing useful stock or farming implements—the loans being repaid by the retention by the department of the annual interest moneys which otherwise would be paid to the borrowers. As a further safeguard for the repayment of the loan, the Indian council takes a lien upon the man's property, which, in the event of default, may be sold to another member of the band; thus is prevented that aimless expenditure, which too often takes place, of small sums received in the shape of interest moneys. The plan, where introduced, in so far as reports have been received, has been found to work well, and the non-dependence upon the regularly paid small annuities has stimulated the Indian to rely much more upon his energies; consequently his condition is improved. In a great measure this goes to prove what has been before contended, that the payment to Indians of annuities has a deteriorating effect, and the sooner it is found possible honourably to discard the system the better will it be for the Indians generally; but, as you have advised me, you are giving this important question further consideration.

Settlement of Old Claims.—During the past year several important claims of bands in different parts of the country, and which have been sources of discontent with the Indians for years past, have either been settled or placed in such a position that a settlement is in view.

The Government of the late province of Canada, owing to the discovery of valuable minerals on the north shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, was, through the efforts of the late Hon. Wm. B. Robinson, enabled to enter into treaties (known as the Robinson-Huron treaties) with the bands claiming those sections of the country as their hunting grounds. One thousand two hundred and forty Indians were interested in the Lake Superior section, and one thousand four hundred and twenty-seven in the Lake Huron portion of the country; the agreement being that a fixed sum should at the time be paid, and a certain amount be annually distributed among the Indians; further, that if in the future the territory surrendered should produce, without any loss to the Govern-

ment, such a sum as would enable it to augment the annuity agreed to at the time of the making of the treaty, then the sum should be increased from time to time, provided the amount paid to each individual should not exceed the sum of one pound currency in any one year, or such further sum as Her Majesty might be graciously pleased to order.

Up to the year 1874, notwithstanding the increased values of the lands, nothing in the direction had been paid in the way of an addition to the annuity; but in that year, after correspondence had with the provincial authorities, the Dominion Government brought the payment up to \$4 per caput, but leaving the point as to arrears on account of increase, as well as that of liability, for future consideration.

The two points were placed before the arbitrators appointed for the adjustment of such claims in dispute between the Dominion and the provinces. Save as to a claim for interest, the arbitrators awarded in favour of the Dominion Government and the Indians. A portion of this decision upon points of law was, on the part of the province of Ontario, appealed to the Supreme Court, which court decided in its favour. The matter was then taken before the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council; and, although at the time of writing this report it is learned that a decision has been arrived at, its import is not known with such certainty as would enable it to be stated here.

A claim on behalf of the Mississaguas of Rice, Mud and Scugog Lakes on account of the sale of certain islands by the old province of Canada, and later by the province of Ontario, was also before the arbitrators, who considered that an award should be entered in favour of the Indians to the amount of \$15,000, together with the sum of \$815 on behalf of the Mississaguas of Alnwick on account of Gaskett and Garratt, or Sugar Islands.

For long years past the Mississaguas of the Credit have presented to the department a claim, inclusive of interest, of some \$70,000, for lands which they alleged had been sold for their benefit, but for which they had never received any credit.

Recognizing, as it did, the importance of having such claims settled, once and for all, in a manner that would leave no doubt in the minds of the Indians as to its thorough fairness and impartiality, the department afforded them all assistance within its power and authorized the engagement by them of legal counsel for the proper representation of their views before the board. The arbitrators in this gave judgment adverse to the Indians, and, while it may have been a great disappointment to them, it showed them that no further hopes, in the way of recovering anything on their claim, should be entertained.

Still another claim of many years' standing, which has brought about much correspondence and has been a source of much discontent, has been adjudicated upon, and that is the one of the Chippewas of the Thames.

In the early part of this century these Indians invited the Munsees to come and reside among them, and gave them a certain part of their reserve. Little by little the latter overflowed the boundaries of the part assigned them, which brought about a claim, on the part of the Chippewas, against the Government. As a settlement could not be arrived at, the Indians were allowed to take their case before the Exchequer Court. Not long after this, the Indians stated their desire to meet the views of the department and come to some amicable settlement, the department holding the ground

that, whatever might be the strictly legal aspect of the case, on equitable grounds some compensation should be given the Indians.

The basis of the agreement has been to return to the Chippewas such lands as, in the department's opinion, the Munsees held over and above their actual requirements, and for such as it might be considered should be retained by them the payment of a sum in cash. Parliament at its last session consented to vote the amount of compensation, viz., \$17,640. By this course an act of justice has been rendered the Chippewas, and the country has been freed from elsewhere making provision in lands for the Munsees.

Islands in the Georgian Bay.—Before leaving this province, it might be well to remark that for some time past applications have been received for the purchase of islands in Georgian Bay for pleasure purposes, and, owing to the fact that no plan of these existed in the department, purchasers were compelled to have a survey made, and run the chance of an agreement being made as to the price. To avoid unpleasantness, and in order that the department might have full knowledge of its possessions and the proper value to place thereon, a survey was ordered during the past summer.

The islands under the protection of the department lie between Waubaushene Bay and Moose Deer Point, and number, large and small included, some one thousand five hundred and belong to the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama and Snake Island. They are of no real use to the Indians, save where an occasional one might be used as a fishing station, but must ere long be almost as greatly in demand as the Thousand Islands for summer residences. If this hope be realized in the near future, substantial benefits must be conferred upon those interested.

QUEBEC.

In last year's report it was stated that the Indians of this province, more than any other, depended upon the United States for a market for their manufactures, and upon pleasure parties seeking guides, and so the continued dulness in trade has again affected them; but the raising of nearly fifteen thousand bushels of grain (in the main, corn and buckwheat) over the preceding year, points to the fact that these Indians, in order to meet the exigencies of the situation, must have exerted themselves to a greater extent in farming than at any preceding time. It is to be hoped that this impetus to farming may in the end not only meet the shortages that may otherwise occur, but tend to still greater and continuous interest being taken in this line.

As far back as the year 1878 the department made efforts to obtain reservations of land for the Tête de Boule, Algonquin and Abenakis Indians, the main difficulty having been the inability to satisfy the Indians as to locality; but I am happy now to be able to say that locations have been selected on the St. Maurice River which meet their wishes. Thus has a very long-standing and vexatious matter been settled.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Although I have not had the opportunity of visiting the maritime provinces, reports received from the department's officials indicate that much cannot be expected from the present generation in the cultivation of the soil, as these Indians are inclined to rely almost entirely, apart from fishing and hunting, upon any other work, such as stream-driving, loading lumber, and upon a market for small wares, such as baskets, axe-handles, and other Indian work, to meet their wants.

Still, it is gratifying to find that those of this province have increased the area under cultivation by some three hundred and seventy-four acres, which, considered relatively to the number of Indians, is considerable.

The yield of grain was greater than in the year previous; but the potato crop was lower and in some parts a failure, owing to the drought in some localities and the ravages of the potato bug in others.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

There is nothing of special interest to note of the Indians of this province, who number, by the last census, three hundred and eight souls, being an increase of twenty-one over the previous year. Any changes which may have taken place have been in the right direction, such as an increase of five acres in the area under cultivation, of five hundred and twenty-five bushels of potatoes, and in the individual earnings of \$1,350 over the year previous.

Those resident upon the reserve cultivate the soil, while others are engaged in the cod fishing and other pursuits. Little fault can be found as to their morality, this being largely due, no doubt, to the fact that a few years ago they were induced to take a pledge of total abstinence, which, through the efforts of good missionaries and the officials of the department, they appear to have faithfully kept.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Indians of this province appear not to have met with much success during the year, due in a great measure to the dulness in lumbering operations, in which they take part, and also to the limited market found for their Indian wares.

As has been noted elsewhere relative to the other provinces, this lack of other resources appears to have had the effect of more attention being given to the soil, as an increase of 26 acres in the area cultivated, of some 1,200 bushels of grain and 1,900 of potatoes, has taken place. Where unable to obtain work in lumbering operations, or distance from the sea preventing fishing, the condition of the Indians of this province is not a desirable one; they appear often to prefer enduring want to exerting themselves.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

All things being considered, it is thought that the Indians of Manitoba and the Territories have fared better than any others in the Dominion. Their health has been exceptionally good, and the increase of births over deaths is very marked. A great number still meet their wants by hunting and fishing; and in this they can lay claim to a fair amount of success; where such has been the case, the policy of the department has not been to place them on reserves and endeavour to make farmers of them, but to await the time when such means of earning a livelihood become so precarious as to compel the Indians to seek aid at the hands of the Government. Until the arrival of such time, little or no reliance can be placed upon them to make any really sustained effort at farming, and they are liable, if the whim seizes them, to leave at the most critical moment and go hunting or fishing, the result being that a success is made of neither, while they become impressed with the idea that such efforts entitle them to continuous aid at the hands of the Government. In some cases reserves are such as to afford little hay for stock, and the lands only sufficiently good to enable roots and vegetables to be grown as a supplement to the fish and game.

With the farming Indians, fairly good crops, plenty of hay, and owing to a cool summer—few flies, which are sometimes such pests to cattle—have brought about such a condition of affairs as may be regarded as favourable.

Irrigation.—Over and above what has already been said in connection with matters relating to the Territories, that most important work of irrigating the land has to be mentioned. Two years have elapsed since the first attempts in this direction were made upon the Blackfoot Reserve. The results of these attempts have certainly justified the department in extending as much as possible this work in the Territories, more particularly in that section known as Treaty 7, which lies under the mountains, in the south-westerly corner of the Territories.

Apart from the benefits to be derived from grain and root-growing, the raising of stock must in a very great measure be dependent upon the success of the irrigation schemes, for, as sometimes occurs, long continued drought kills the pasture land, while, at other times, the fall of snow is such as to prevent cattle obtaining sufficient for their wants; but the land irrigated will enable the raising and cutting of such a quantity of hay annually as will allow of the feeding of cattle when otherwise many of them might starve.

Of interest in this direction must necessarily be the views of one outside the department and unbiassed in his experiences; consequently I take the liberty of presenting an extract from a report on the irrigation work at the Blackfoot Crossing, by the Chief Inspector of Surveys and Irrigation in the Department of the Interior:—

“The works as far as completed consist of a main canal designed to carry about twenty cubic feet of water per second, heading in the Bow River at a point on the north bank of the river about four miles east of the western boundary of the reserve, and extending from thence easterly about four miles, with the necessary embankments or dams for raising the water in portions of old water-course utilized as a portion of the system. In addition to the main canal, some miles of main laterals and a considerable length of drainage ditches have been constructed, and the extension of main canal

located for about a mile to the east and south of the present terminus. * * *
I have very much pleasure in stating that the system as designed, in my opinion, reflects great credit upon Mr. Ponton (the officer in charge of Indian survey work in the North-west Territories) and when it is remembered that all the work upon the construction of main canal and laterals, with the necessary structures, has been performed with Indian labour, I must confess to having been more than surprised at the results accomplished, and do not hesitate to say that the workmanlike manner in which the cuts and fills have been completed would do credit to many of our experienced ditch contractors.

“Near the point of intake, the main ditch is carried through a cut some twelve to fourteen feet in depth for a considerable length, and the amount of material moved by the Indians, with spades only, in originally digging this cut out and in the present work of increasing the slope of the banks and deepening the cut some two feet, has completely dispelled the impression which I have up to this time held, that Indian labour would be of little use in an undertaking of this character.

“The system when completed will provide water for the irrigation of some two thousand acres on that part of the reserve known as ‘Old Sun’ bottom, and, as the soil of the larger part of this area is first-class, the results of the application of water through irrigation are certain to be most satisfactory. In fact, it is reasonably certain that, if the Indians can be induced to undertake the farming of this area in small holdings, and are educated in an intelligent use of the water by careful supervision for a few years, the area in question will produce sufficient to provide for all the needs of this band, even if they do nothing more than raise oats, hay and vegetables, the successful growth of which, under irrigation, in this district, has now been proved beyond argument. * * * I may point out that if the magnificent grazing areas which this reserve possesses could be turned to account for the growing of cattle and sheep, and the irrigation area utilized each year for the growth of a certain fodder crop for these cattle and sheep, the future of the Indians comprising this band would be very bright. On the Blackfoot Reserve it at once suggests itself to the visitor that if the large band of ponies which the Indians have, and which are practically useless, could be exchanged for cattle, the position of the Indians would be greatly improved.”

With reference to what has been pointed out in the report just quoted, in connection with the exchange of ponies for cattle with the Indians of Treaty 7, it might be stated that the department has for the past few years been doing its utmost to bring about the exchange mentioned, and the efforts have been attended by unlooked for success. Situated as these Indians are, in a section of the country which is, more than for anything else, well suited for stock-raising, their dependence must be placed much more than by Indians elsewhere located, upon stock-raising for a livelihood.

At first the Indians would not even accept cattle from the Government as a gift, having been, no doubt, prompted to this by parties inimical to their advancement; but, by dint of perseverance, some few of the Piegiens were induced to take the advice of the officials and accept a limited number. Profits having rapidly accrued to these few, the desire to follow their example became so great that the department could not, with the means at its disposal, meet the demands upon it; and, even had it been possible, it would not have deemed it advisable to do so at such a rapid rate. So great has become the demand that, from a refusal to accept cattle as a gift, Indians are now clamouring for them in exchange for their ponies, and as time goes on the greater becomes the value placed upon the cattle and comparatively less upon the ponies. The herd of ponies, for which really no market can be had, is becoming so great that a problem has arisen as to the best means of getting rid of them.

As farming operations could not, with any degree of success, be carried on with these Indians, the great difficulty to be contended with has been to find them, not only employment, but that of a more or less remunerative nature. Wherever the department has been successful, the Indians have shown themselves capable and persevering in the performance of heavy work, and have earned considerable amounts in the mining of coal, filling contracts for ties and hay and wood from the reserves, in freighting, and in other directions—this with Indians who were the last to enter into a compact with the Government, and at all times regarded as the most warlike, and consequently the most restless under restraint, and disdainful of anything approaching hard work.

Again reverting to that most important subject of irrigation, I would say that the department has had Mr. Ponton, one of its surveyors, who has given the subject much intelligent study, working both on the Blackfoot and Blood Reserves, and he has been, in a great measure, successful, in an experiment on the latter, in raising water by buckets attached to a wheel worked automatically by the current of the river. Although the experiment has not been on a large scale, it is felt that the idea can be materially extended to advantage. It might be said that this plan was tried in advance of the greater one of drawing the water upon the reserve through an extended ditch, requiring much time and labour for construction, which, it is to be hoped, can be attempted next season.

The Agent and Indians of the Piegan Agency deserve credit for their efforts at irrigation, which, although on a small scale and hardly successful, will, with skilled assistance, which will be granted later on, be extended, and eventually prove a success.

The Calgary Irrigation Company has constructed a ditch of some twenty miles in length through the Sarcee Reserve. Through this it is thought that some 10,000 acres of reserve lands can readily be irrigated; thus provided, frost does not prove disastrous, crops can be ensured, and all the hay necessary to meet the Indians' wants and to place upon the market can, under all conditions in the future, be had.

Emancipation from Superstitions.—The year just passed has shown the department that the sun dance has become an Indian ceremony almost, if not quite, of the past. For a long time the department's policy has been in the direction of suppressing it by moral suasion, and, step by step, it has been robbed of its most revolting ceremonies, so that in the end it has afforded little attraction to a great proportion of the Indian population. So long as it remained a prominent performance, so long did it keep burning those superstitions which it was sought to eradicate. The abandoning of this dance evidences in no small degree the civilizing influences brought upon the Indian, and the great change in his feelings and modes of thought. The success attending these efforts cannot be fully appreciated save by those acquainted with the Indian character. The "medicine men," the guiders of thought and action and the inspirers of fear in all but the very boldest, had to be fought. To win Indians from such a thralldom, and to get them to disregard the influences of generations, required no small amount of courage and skill in management. But two attempts this year have been made to hold sun dances, and these, robbed of the old-time attractions, proved unsuccessful and were not completed.

Proof of Progress.—Although, as before mentioned, the reports of the department have left a good deal to be wished for, still they show an advance of a most encouraging nature, whereby hopes may continue to be entertained that the efforts of reclaiming the savage, through the expenditure of money, energy and patience, may, at no distant day, show that he may be ranked as a useful member of the community.

As an indication of this advancement, I quote from a report, recently made by one of the department's inspectors, on the Stony Agency at Morley :—

“ It is some years since I had the opportunity of making a house-to-house visit in this agency, and I was greatly pleased with the very evident advance they have made towards living, not only in a civilized manner, but, most of them, in great comfort ; a number of their present dwellings have been built within the last year or so, taking the place of their original huts ; most of these new houses are well constructed, well cornered (for they are all built of spruce timber) and have shingle roofs, floored upstairs as well as downstairs, lined with matched lumber, and divided into apartments ; chairs and tables are quite common ; raised beds and bedsteads are the rule, and almost every house contains a cooking-stove. Many have neat fences of peeled poles and gates surrounding their houses.

“ Most of them have stables, corrals and sheds, but as their cattle run on the ranges, there is little necessity for them, but even where they keep a pony or two, it all goes to make up an attractive home.”

Extract from a report of Mr. Agent Nash :—

“ It is quite noticeable that the Indian women are, from year to year, advancing in cleanliness, their houses now presenting a far more comfortable appearance than in former years. Nearly all houses consist of two rooms, bed-room and kitchen, and are furnished with stoves, bedsteads, tables, chairs and cupboards. Nearly all can make yeast bread, and some make very good butter. A number of Indians have begun to take an interest in poultry-raising.

“ The dead are, as a rule, properly buried, instead of being placed on rocks or trees.

“ A great improvement in dress is to be noticed, in the men especially, nearly all the younger ones now wearing decent clothes. All appear anxious to possess good machinery, &c., which they are careful to store away after use, and good strong wagons and harness.

“ Cattle-raising is undoubtedly the chief industry to be depended upon in this part of the country. In my opinion the Indians will make successful cattle-owners ; they like the work of looking after stock better than any other employment. These Indians now own 900 head of stock, distributed amongst 80 individuals. They realize the necessity of taking good care of their cattle in the winter, and especially in providing a good amount of food for them, and this year they put up a large quantity of good hay under most unfavourable circumstances, being greatly hindered all the haying season by rain, snowstorms and high winds.”

Extract from Mr. Agent Williams' report :—

“ In reply to your circular, No. 1711, *re* special progress report, I beg to state that marked progress is plainly seen on each reserve. As was reported previously, each Indian has his own separate farm of from two to ten acres, well fenced ; each has his own house and stable. All old houses have been pulled down and rebuilt with steep thatched roofs, and whitewashed inside and out, and now present a pleasing appearance. The attention of both farmers and Indians has been in the direction of raising an abundant crop of roots, and they have on hand at the present time a large quantity of potatoes and turnips.

“ Milk is to be seen in many houses, and it is no uncommon sight to see a dinner table spread with plenty of vegetables and bacon and eggs.

"The cattle, which previously we had the greatest trouble to get the Indians to take in charge, are now earnestly sought after, and on reserves where cattle are not driven off to winter quarters, are stabled and looked after by the individual owners; and although we have lost this year by prairie fires in the vicinity of twenty-five hundred loads, yet the Indians set to work to replace it; and I am pretty sure that we will be able to winter all our Indian cattle on the reserves.

"A marked improvement in the mode of housekeeping by the women is noticeable—raised beds, chairs and tables, dishes and cooking utensils properly put away, instead of, as before, strewn about the house, and I think it is apparent to any unbiassed mind that great advancement is being made in the ways of civilized life."

The agent at Touchwood Hills states:—

"They have all improved morally. I have not heard the slightest rumour of any drunkenness or unseemly conduct during the past season, for which this band was noted in the past."

In evidence of individual progress under the department's policy, the following may be quoted from a recent report by Mr. Chief Inspector Wadsworth on his inspection of the Edmonton Agency:—

"Beaver Foot is a full-blooded Indian, and is the most advanced farmer on the reserve (of Alexander's Band). He is a young man, has a family of: himself, wife, one son and one daughter; his farm is a regularly improved homestead, after the fashion of a well-to-do, industrious white farmer; his buildings are all constructed of well-made square timber, and are as follows: dwelling-house, milk-house, pig-house, shed for implements, three stables, two cattle-sheds; three well-fenced corrals; calf, sheep and pig pastures; 1,000 acres fenced as a cattle and horse pasture; his hay meadows are also fenced to prevent cattle from grazing on them; his live-stock are: two oxen, three cows, five steers, twelve large, good work horses; his implements are: mower and rake, farm wagon, breaking-plough, cross-plough, iron harrows, whip-saw, grindstone, land roller, ox yoke, ox harness, two sets horse team harness, two bob-sleighs, crosscut saw, logging-chain, augers, axes, hay-forks, saws, hammers, spade, scoop and other shovels, hoes; his house is comfortably furnished with cooking-stove, tables, chairs, bedsteads, churn, milk-pans, &c. Beaver Foot came to settle down on the reserve in 1889, owning then only a team of ponies. The agent lent him a yoke of oxen and a cow, but no implements, so that his present possessions are the result of economies and careful industry. His fences are strong and straight, of tamarack stakes and spruce rails. When I was at his place he was engaged in hauling rails with one of his large horse teams and strewing them along where he intended to build this new fence. His character is that he is reliable—'his word is his bond'; would that there were more like him. I had almost forgotten to mention his crops. They consist of ten acres of wheat, ten acres of oats, ten acres of barley, one acre of potatoes and one acre of garden—total, thirty-two acres."

The stage of development evidenced in the case just quoted is, of course, exceptional, but nevertheless shows what the policy of the department may effect when earnestly adopted by any of its wards.

The following case, taken from a report made by Mr. Inspector McGibbon of a recent inspection of the Cumberland Band at Fort à la Corne, is an example of a condition of affairs which is by no means singular in the North-west Territories:—

"George Sanderson, No. 97, has a nice, thrifty-looking place, good stables, has 39 head of cattle; 13 calves were in one corral; cattle in good shape—best of feed and water; makes butter; has a new house, with a good cellar, whitewashed inside; three acres wheat, good crop; good garden, usual variety (of roots and vegetables). Purchased doors, windows and lumber for ceiling of his new house from cattle money. A

very nice dairy has been put up this year, made of rails, sod, thatch and mud; the place was cool and sweet, perfectly clean. I counted thirteen pans and one pail of milk on the shelves.

"Two stables with stanchions—one stable as a shed; corral for calves. This is another good worker and enterprising."

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Indians of British Columbia place but little dependence upon agriculture; still, some are displaying a most commendable spirit in endeavouring greatly to increase the areas under cultivation. In this the department is seconding their efforts as much as within its power lies. The main dependence is upon fish; but fur, the lumbering industry, and the canneries in certain localities, afford a means of earning a livelihood.

Owing to the drought, the crops on Vancouver Island suffered greatly, and in some localities on the mainland several losses occurred through floods; so that the department will, in all probability, be forced to come to the aid of the losers during the coming winter.

It is found that, owing to Chinese labour, many channels, heretofore open to the Indian, are now closed. This must necessarily drive him to rely more and more upon the cultivation of the soil; but a great difficulty is met, on many of the reserves, in obtaining sufficient arable land, and in some places the tilled lands are so situated as to render them liable to be flooded during the stages of high water. This flooding in some cases not only entails the loss of the crops, but also a great deal of labour in restoring the lands to such a state that they may again be worked.

Irrigation.—A small sum having been provided by Parliament, irrigation works have been undertaken in the Kootenay district and in the reclamation of the soil at the Salmon River Reserve. If that degree of success which is confidently looked for meets these undertakings, it is hoped that such works may be continued at other points where Indians evince a desire to cultivate the land.

Social Conditions.—Improvement in social condition is reported by officials, and it is found that the status of women is being, in a measure, better recognized; once that is done, advancement in other directions necessarily follows.

Intemperance continues to be too prevalent, notwithstanding the efforts put forward by the department's officials to prevent it. During the canning season, when Indians are collected from far and wide and are earning ready cash, liquor is readily obtained, the consequence being that carousals are not infrequent, so that in many instances those who have done well return to their homes without anything for their families' keep. Particularly along the north-west coast do unscrupulous traders supply the Indian with liquor, and the department's efforts so far have proved unavailing in preventing it. This department has been in correspondence with that of the Customs with a view to considering whether a patrol steamer could not be jointly maintained in the interest of both.

The powers conferred by Parliament for the suppression of the "potlatch" festival and the "tamanawas" dance have been used with judgment, and, it is thought, with good effect. The objectionable features of the potlatch were, that ambitious Indians, in order that they might either maintain or bring about their own importance, would not only spend all they possessed, but obtain from others all that was possible; and thus,

to an almost incredible extent, did they obtain blankets and other goods so that they might make distributions of a lavish nature among the members of their tribe.

Apart from the above, such concourses of Indians, without any object other than that of feasting and pleasure, bring in their train much that is evil, and tend to lower the Indians. Some of the features of the tamanawas were, if all reports are to be credited, most degrading and disgusting; thus it is fortunate that such a performance is being stamped out.

Without bringing the law into force in more than a trifling degree, the festival and dance are approaching their end, as is the sun dance, with its attendant torture, in the North-west Territories.

EDUCATION.

Returns and reports are regularly received, and these show a fairly large increase in attendance of pupils at schools over the previous year. The total number enrolled in the Dominion for 1895 was 9,696, and for the year 1896 it was 9,714, and the average attendance was 4,973 and 5,376 respectively.

The following is a tabulated statement of the number of schools, enrolment and attendance:—

PROVINCE.	No. of Schools.	ENROLMENT.			Average Attendance.
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
<i>Industrial.</i>					
British Columbia	6	162	110	272	232
Manitoba	4	196	144	340	297
North-west Territories	5	382	286	668	586
Totals	15	740	540	1,280	1,115
<i>Boarding.</i>					
Ontario	6	246	171	417	362
British Columbia	5	86	151	237	203
Manitoba	3	18	35	53	46
North-west Territories	19	337	256	593	503
Outside treaty	1	12	10	22	16
Totals	34	699	623	1,322	1,130
<i>Day.</i>					
Ontario	77	1,326	1,111	2,437	1,148
Quebec	20	388	389	777	361
Nova Scotia	8	83	64	147	57
New Brunswick	5	65	52	117	61
Prince Edward Island	1	22	11	33	13
British Columbia	23	428	400	828	293
Manitoba	48	757	708	1,465	561
North-west Territories	47	498	454	952	415
Outside treaty	10	155	201	356	222
Totals	239	3,722	3,390	7,112	3,131

SUMMARY.

Kind of School.	No. of Schools.	Total Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
Boarding.....	34	1,322	1,130
Day	239	7,112	3,131
Training or Industrial.....	15	1,280	1,115
Totals	288	9,714	5,376

The officials appear to have worked most earnestly for the attainment of this result, as the regulations, under sec. 11, chap. 32, 57-58 Vic., empowering the department to enforce attendance, have not as yet, save in a few instances of truancy from industrial institutions, been put into force.

In some localities persuasive powers have failed to obtain such an attendance as the number of children would warrant, so it may yet become incumbent upon the department to adopt more stringent measures to secure increased attendance.

Many bands in the older provinces advance their poverty, and consequent inability to clothe their children properly, as an excuse for the non-attendance of their children. Although the excuse may in some cases be a valid one, it cannot be considered so in all. Frequently it is found that Indians desire their children to absent themselves with a view to the closing of the school, so that the moneys which are paid for teaching purposes may otherwise be paid out periodically to the members of the band.

Save in some parts of the older provinces much lasting good cannot be expected from day-schools, owing to the fact that home influences so readily counteract any good which may be attained through them, and I am pleased to be able to state that the public and separate-school inspectors, who inspect the Indian schools in these provinces semi-annually, have in many instances reported that the work done and results obtained at these schools equal those of the common-schools of the rural districts. However gratifying this may be, there is not a little to be desired before the department can congratulate itself upon their thorough success.

Regularity in attendance at day-schools cannot, of course, be expected where the Indians are nomadic and depend in the main upon hunting and fishing for a living, nor can complete success be looked for at these outlying schools, owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining good teachers to exile themselves from more civilized parts for the salaries the department has been in the habit of paying.

In the North-west Territories, where accommodation can be had in boarding-schools, day-schools are being closed, and it is expected that by the expiration of the present fiscal year the number of schools thus closed will have been materially increased.

The schools, in the main, are denominational, and, in the case of industrial and boarding-schools, entirely so; and the denominations interested in the last-named, owing to the smallness of the annual per capita grant, are forced to meet any shortage of the Government grant by contributions from outside sources.

The industrial-schools are paid for at various rates and according to the locality in which each is situated, as is shown by the return herewith.

The department has fully recognized its inability to conduct such institutions as economically as can be done by denominations, and consequently it has endeavoured to have their management placed in the hands of the respective churches interested in them. That dreadful disease, scrofula, so prevalent in the Indian, makes him greatly predisposed to pulmonary attacks, and finally carries him to an early grave. Upon this account the department has found that it must be guarded in its selection of children for the schools, and is enforcing a rule requiring new pupils to pass an examination as to health before enrolment.

Reports received show that the general health of the children has been good, and the department, recognizing its importance, has endeavoured to secure proper ventilation in the various buildings; this was sadly deficient in those first occupied, some having originally been used for other than school purposes.

As the future of the Indian youth must necessarily, in the main, be dependent on farming and stock-raising, the attention of the schools is now being more particularly turned in that direction: all boys must do a certain amount of this work, whether they are learning trades or not. Every precaution is taken to guard against fire, by providing buildings with fire-buckets, babcocks, grenades, &c. All new buildings are provided with large fire-tanks, placed in the upper part of them, with pipes running throughout, to which hose can be attached.

At Qu'Appelle, where the largest of the Indian institutions is in operation, besides the above, a hand-engine has been furnished.

But, despite these measures, the department regrets to be compelled to report the loss during the year, at Elkhorn, of the main or centre building, and the girls' building, along with much property. This serious loss has consequently entailed greatly increased expenditure at a time when it had been confidently expected that the institution would have been conducted at a minimum of cost.

The policy of the department, as to the retention of pupils, has been that boys should remain at the industrial-schools until they attain an age at which, in addition to their having obtained a rudimentary education and some trade or calling, or at least some knowledge of carpentry, their characters shall have been sufficiently formed as to ensure as much as possible against their returning to the uncivilized mode of life. In the event of a boy returning to his reserve—and for the majority, for the present at least, there appears to be no alternative—leave of absence is granted; a suitable location of land is selected, if proper provision is not otherwise made, a house is built by the boy himself, and some simple furniture, made while he is still a member of the institution, is given him. In addition to this, if these are not had through the parents, cattle and implements are provided to enable the young fellow to continue in the course followed at the institution from which he comes. It is considered advisable, where pupils are advanced in years and considered capable of providing for themselves, to bring about a matrimonial alliance, either at the time of being discharged from the school or as soon after as possible; this course commends itself for various reasons.

Officials are constantly directed to have especial watchfulness over such discharged pupils, and to encourage them in every way possible, and to exert all their influence to counteract any tendency to revert to the old mode of living. In this way they have met with varying success.

The outing system is one of the marked features of industrial institutions. This is, in a few words, the hiring out of the children, both male and female (and while they are still retained upon the rolls) in any direction in which employment can be found. During the harvesting season, the demand for boys cannot nearly be met, and at all times many more girls could be placed as servants if the numbers and work at the institutions permitted. Owing to the sparsity of population in the North-west, the time for being able to procure work for the boys is limited, being confined, in the main, to that of harvesting.

On the whole, most gratifying reports are received from employers as to the conduct, honesty and good work of the pupils.

Various wages are received; much of these has to be paid to parents—otherwise they would not consent to their children going out to work in this manner. Boys have received from \$6 to \$20 per month, and girls from \$5 to \$10.

In conclusion I may say that, as the details of the duties performed by the various branches of the department given in last year's report seemed to show the amount and character of the work done by each, it does not appear that any good end would be served by repeating such details here: and it may suffice to remark that the work has continued to increase in volume and to be faithfully and efficiently performed. It may not, however, be amiss to mention that, after having made collections during the year amounting to \$156,880.36, the capital of the Indian Trust Fund on the 30th June last stood at \$3,650,529.38, and the disbursements during the year aggregated \$263,086.50. The expenditure from the consolidated fund amounted to \$881,272.55.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

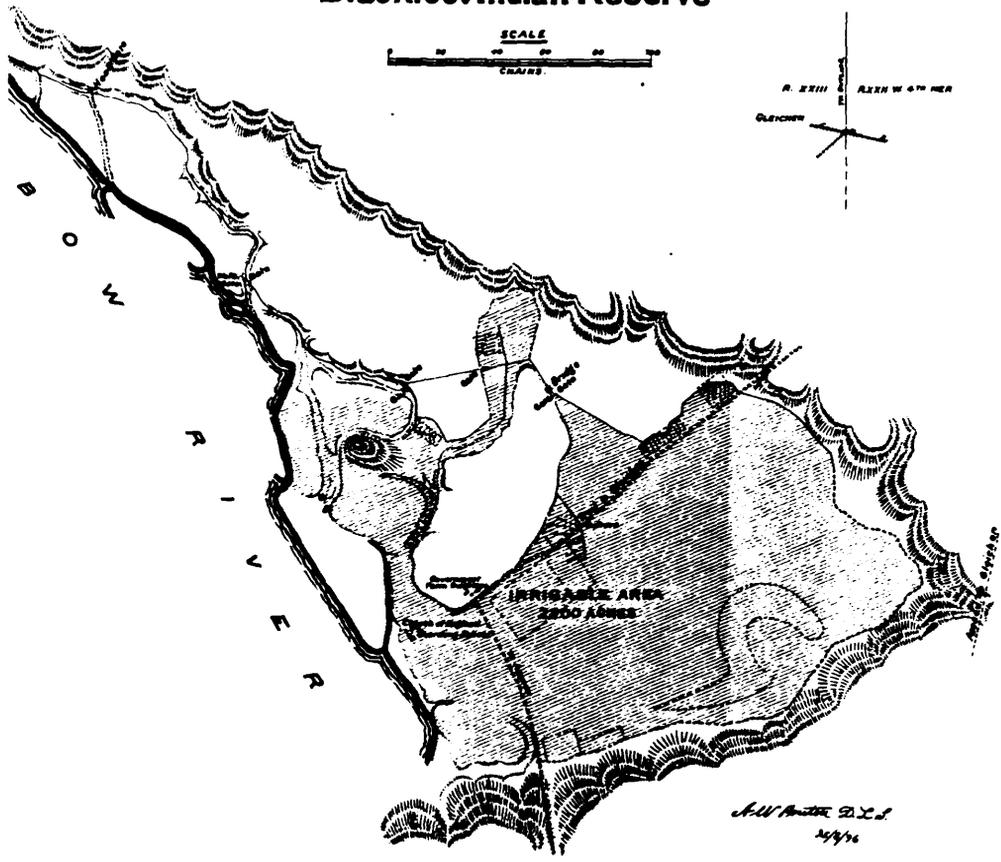
HAYTER REED,

Deputy Supt. General of Indian Affairs.

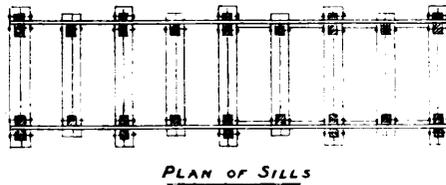
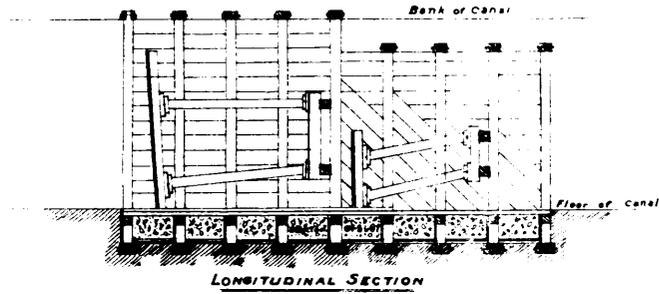
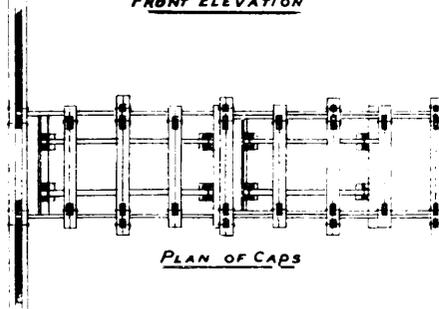
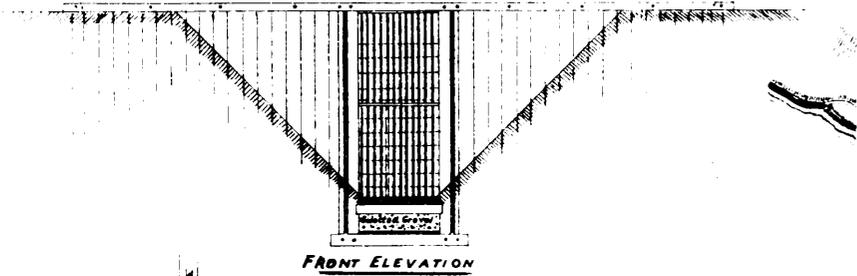




General Plan
showing
IRRIGATION CANAL
constructed on the
Blackfoot Indian Reserve



DETAILS OF HEAD-GATE



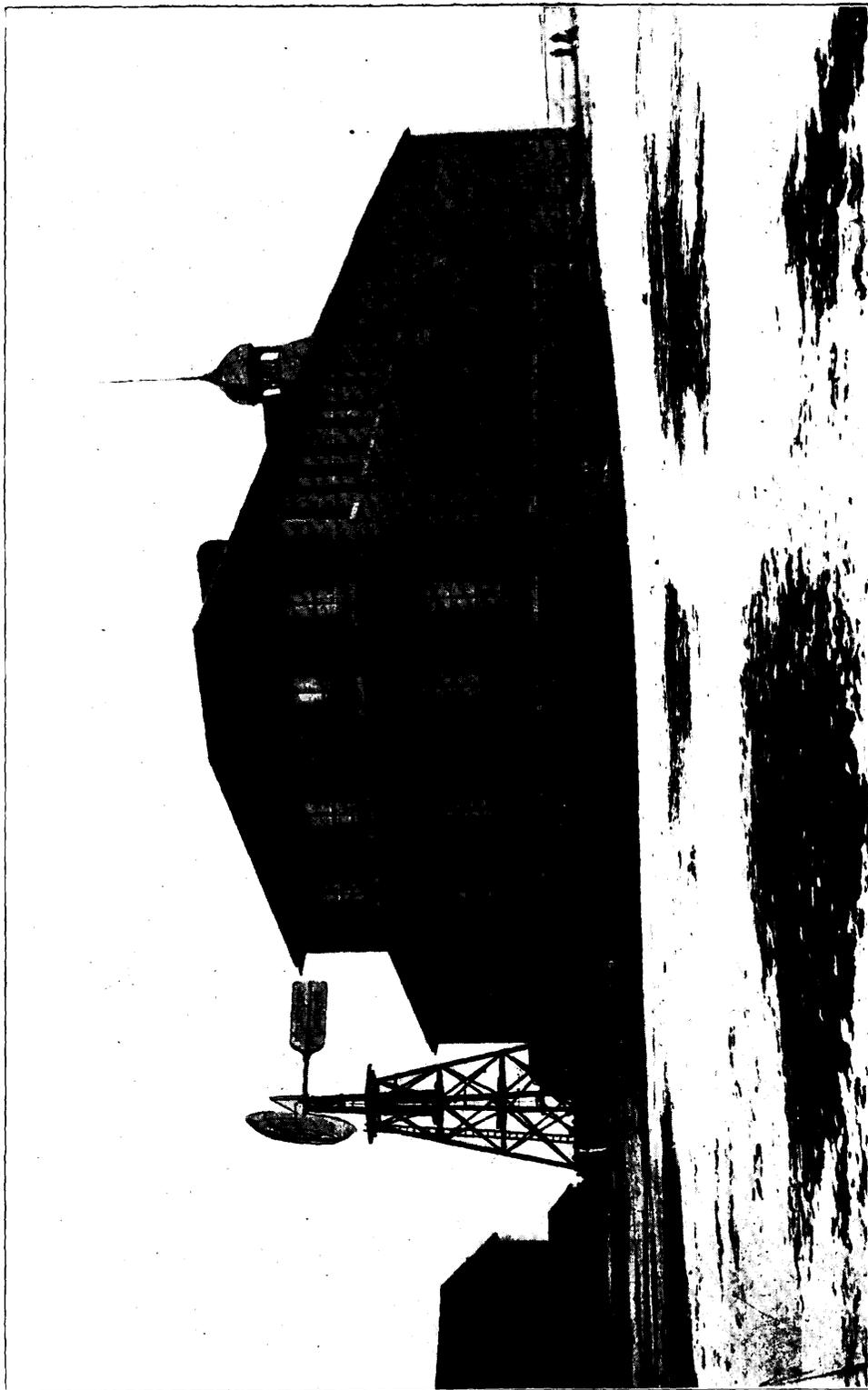
REPORTS OF PRINCIPALS

OF

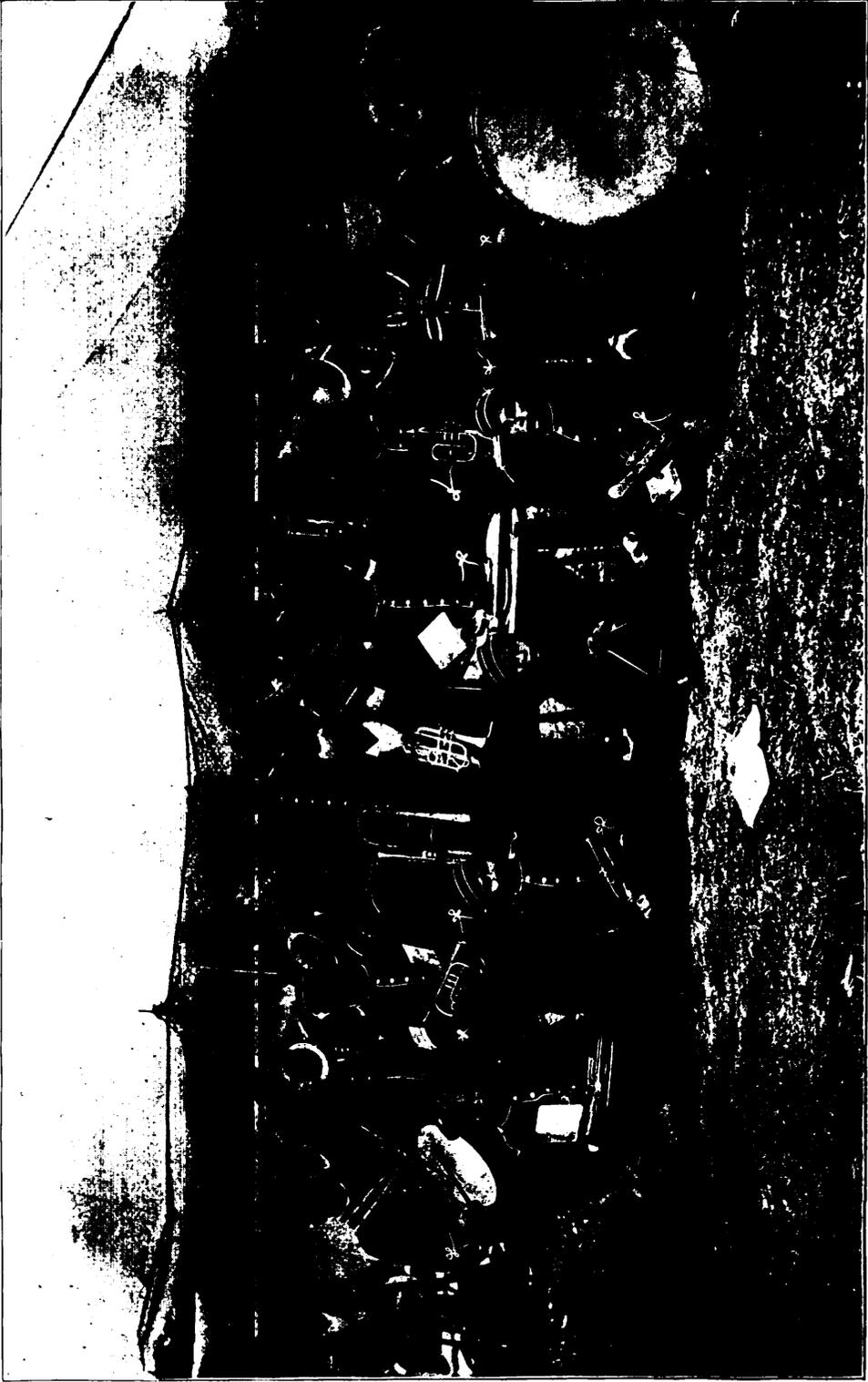
INDUSTRIAL AND BOARDING SCHOOLS.







REGINA INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL BUILDING.



THE BRASS BAND, REGINA INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

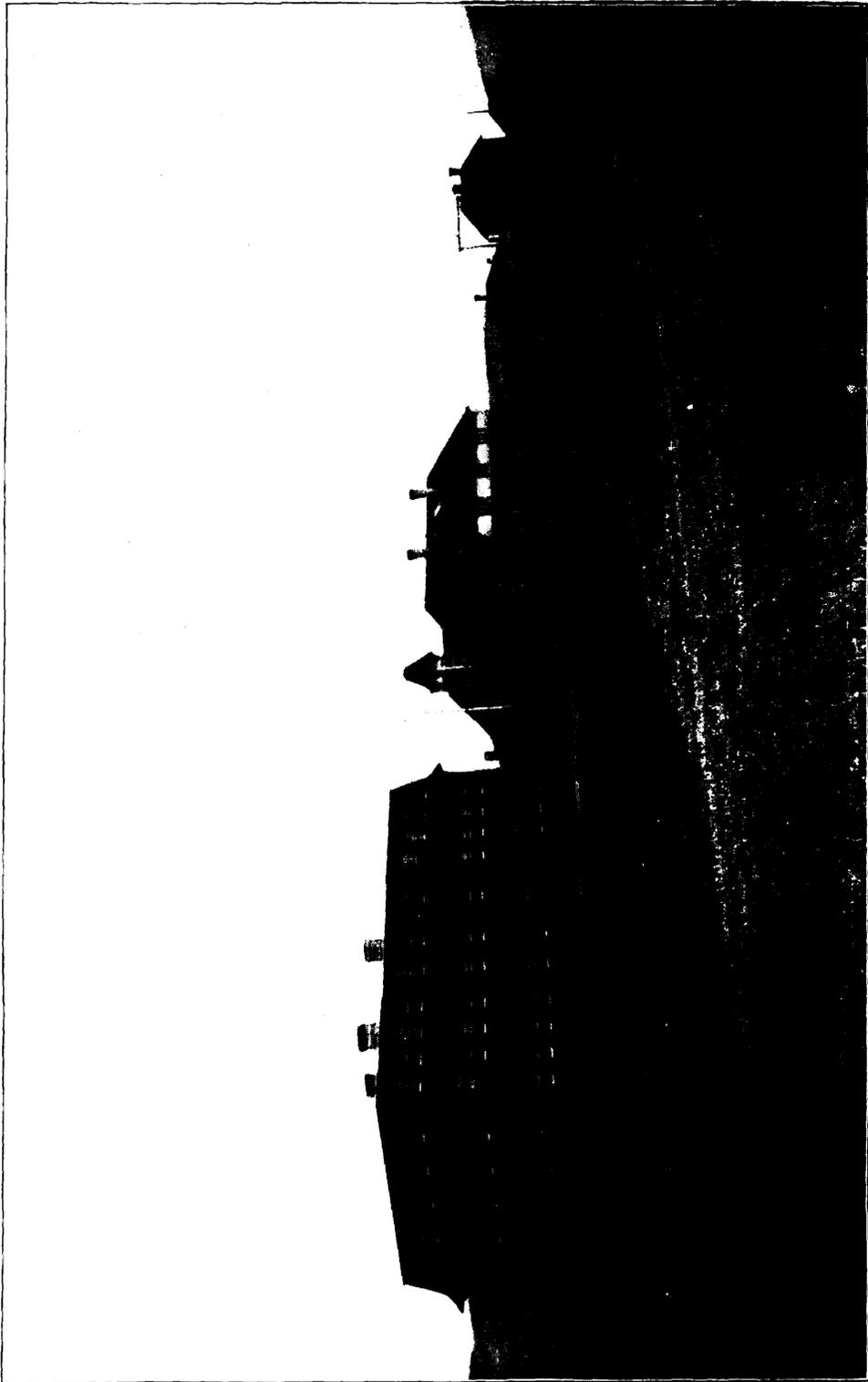






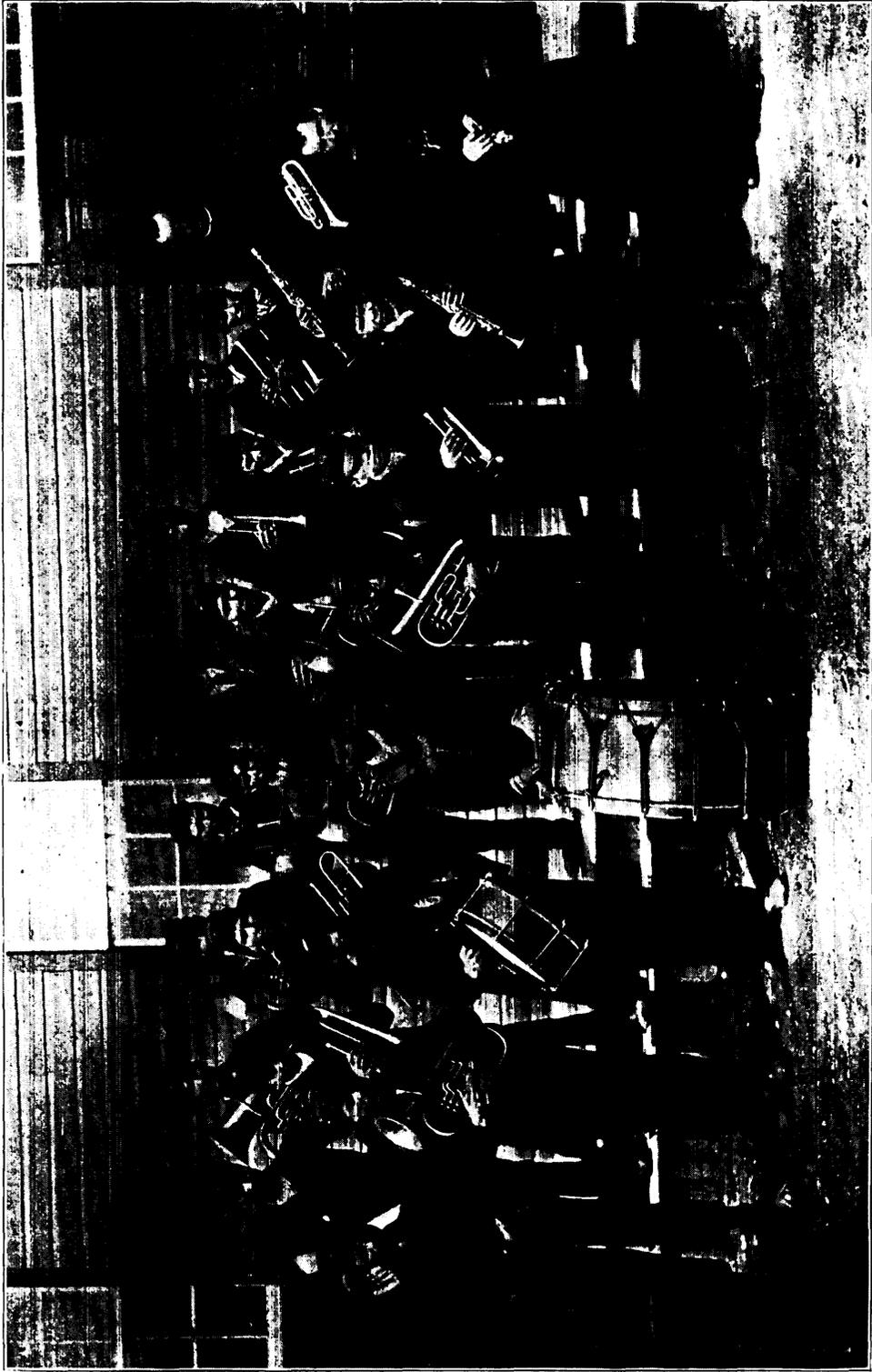
CLASS OF PRINTERS WITH INSTRUCTOR, REGINA INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.



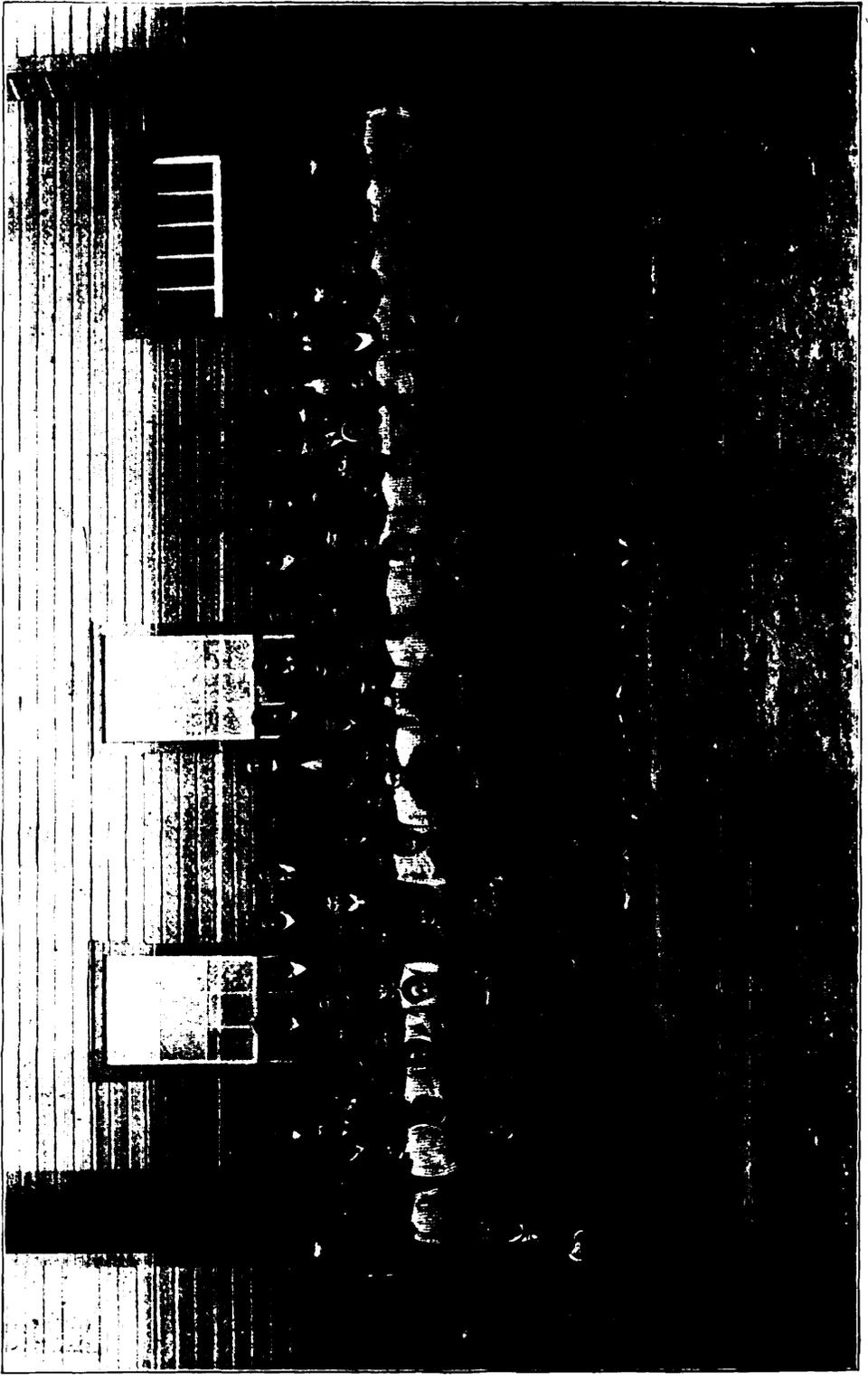


ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS, HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA.





THE BRASS BAND, ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA.



PUPILS OF THE ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA.



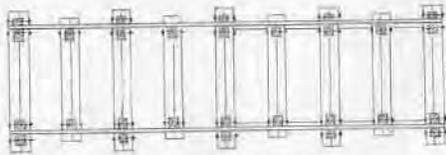
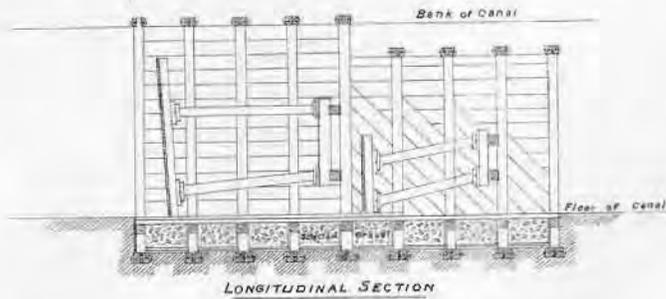
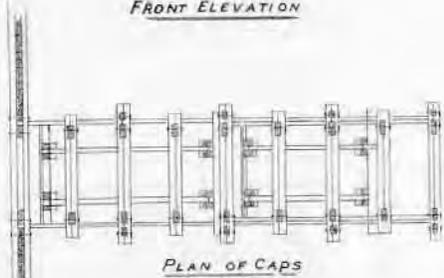
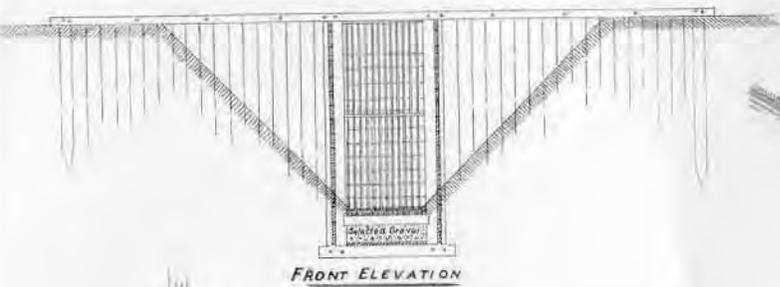


GROUP OF PUPILS AND TEACHERS, REGINA INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

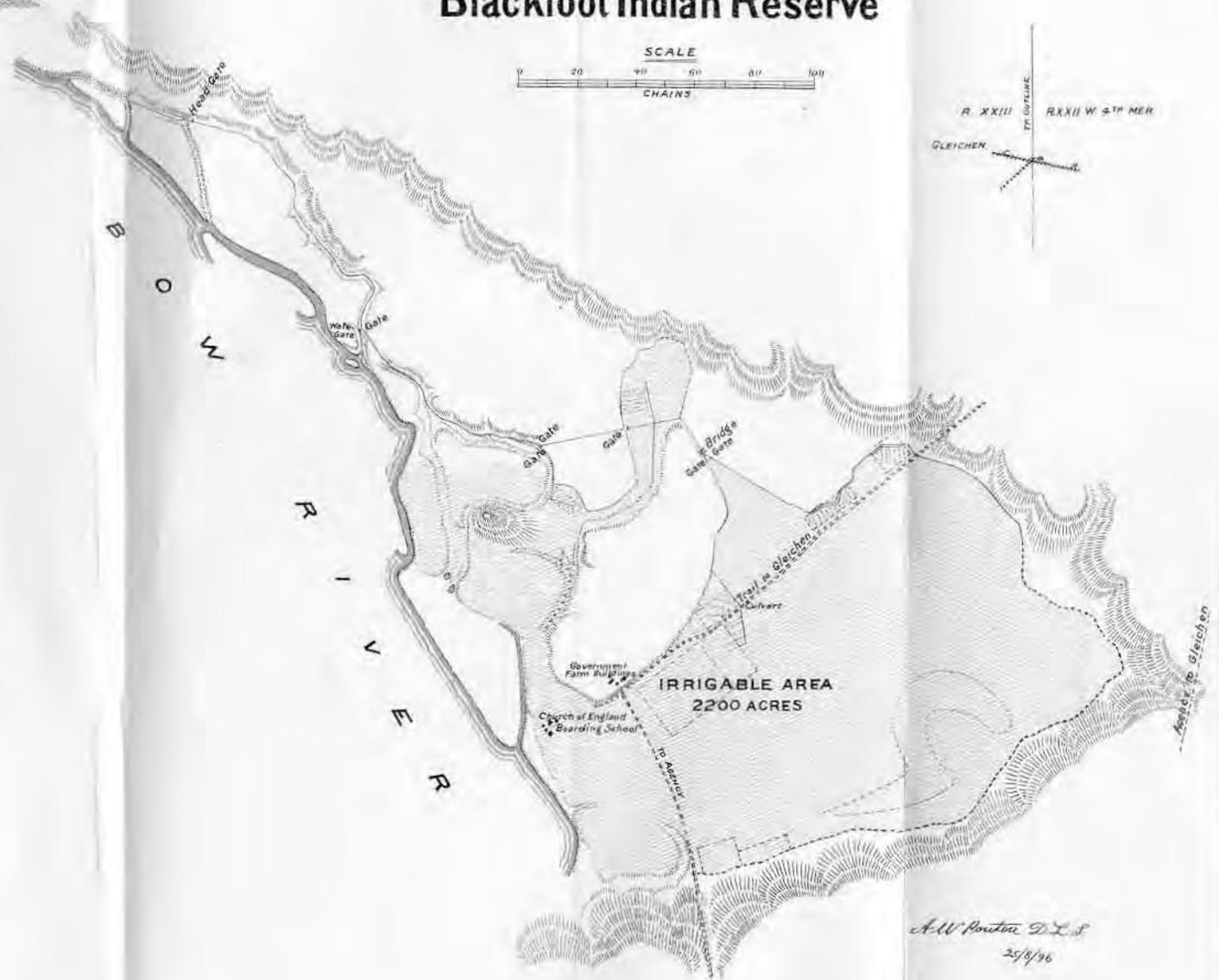
RETURN B (6)—INDIANS OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC—*Continued.*

No. of account.	—	Grant.		Expenditure		Grant not used.		Grant exceeded.	
		\$	cts.	\$	cts.	\$	cts.	\$	cts.
	Brought forward.....	44,506	00	43,016	66	1,581	42	92	08
128	Schools.....	31,390	00	31,362	43	27	57		
		75,896	00	74,379	09	1,608	99	92	08
	Less refund erroneously included in account 111.	10	00	10	00				
	Total.....	75,886	00	74,369	09	1,608	99	92	08

DETAILS OF HEAD-GATE



General Plan
showing
IRRIGATION CANAL
constructed on the
Blackfoot Indian Reserve



A. W. Houston D. L. S.
25/8/96















REPORT
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
ALGONQUINS OF GOLDEN LAKE,
CASTILE, SOUTH ALGONA, 26th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Vital Statistics.—Since my last report there has been one death and two families emigrated, which leaves the number in the band only seventy-nine, being eleven less than last report.

Sanitary Condition.—The sanitary condition of the Indians is good. The people are quite tidy and respectable in appearance, and their houses are clean and well kept.

Occupation.—Very few of the Indians have much taste for farming. I might say there are only three who farm to any extent, while the rest prefer to hunt and work on the river in the spring for the lumbermen.

Education.—There is one school on this reserve (a splendid one) taught by a white teacher. The attendance has not been satisfactory, owing to the carelessness of the parents in sending their children to school.

I have, &c.,

E. BENNETT,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
CHIPPEWAS OF BEAUSOLEIL,
PENETANGUISHENE, 20th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement on Indian affairs in my agency for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Vital Statistics.—The population of the Chippewas of Beausoleil is the same as last year—three hundred and ninety-seven.

Occupation.--The progress of this band has been very encouraging the past year. During the summer the Indians were engaged in peeling tan bark and were highly complimented by the purchaser of the bark for the careful manner in which they had performed their work. During the winter they took out a large quantity of cordwood for the steamboat company, also the hemlock logs were taken out from which the bark had been peeled during the past summer. In this way they have been continually occupied and received fair remuneration for their labour, which places them in a fairly prosperous condition.

Crops.--The crops this year promise good results, the land being exceedingly fertile, and the prospects are that the Indians will be well supplied with provisions during the coming winter, both for their families and stock.

Health.--The health of the band has been good, there having been no contagious diseases of any kind amongst them during the past year.

Visit from Deputy Superintendent General.--On 15th May last the band was honoured by a visit from Hayter Reed, Esq., Deputy Superintendent General, who carefully inspected the several holdings on the reserve and expressed himself well pleased with his visit. The Indians were well pleased and encouraged with the very kindly interest Mr. Reed displayed in their affairs.

Education.--The school is under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Douglass, the Methodist missionary on the island, and the children are making fair progress.

Road-making.--The band has adopted a system of road-making similar to that under regular municipal control.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. MCGIBBON,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
CHIPPEWAS, MUNSEES AND ONEIDAS OF THE THAMES,
MELBOURNE, 31st August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour herewith to transmit my annual report and tabular statement respecting the three bands included in this agency, for the year ended 30th June, 1896. These are the Oneidas of the Thames, the Chippewas of the Thames and the Munsees of the Thames.

ONEIDAS OF THE THAMES.

Name of Reserve.--The reserve occupied by these Indians is called after their name—the Oneida Reserve.

Location.--It is situated in the township of Delaware, county of Middlesex, Ontario.

Area.--It contains an area of five thousand two hundred and forty acres.

Resources.--The resources of this reserve are farming and stock-raising.

Tribe or Nation.--These Indians are a branch of the Oneida tribe, one of the confederacy known as the Six Nations.

Vital Statistics.--This band has a population of seven hundred and ninety-nine; consisting of two hundred and seventy-six men, two hundred and sixteen women and

three hundred and seven children. During the year there have been nineteen births and the same number of deaths and sixteen immigrations, being persons who have returned to the reserve from working among white people and whose names were not previously included.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians of this band has been good; there were no epidemics; sanitary precautions are well observed.

Occupation.—These Indians engage in general farming and work out among white people.

Buildings.—Most of the buildings on this reserve are frame and log and are well kept.

Stock.—The cattle are fairly well bred and are in good condition.

Farming Implements.—These Indians have some farming implements.

Education.—On this reserve there are two hundred and four children of school age and three schools—ungraded—and three teachers of the grade of high-school entrance. The course of studies followed is only elementary. These schools have the usual equipment. The discipline and order are good. In proportion to their attendance the progress made by the pupils is fair. The interest taken by the parents in the education of their children is not so great as could be wished.

Religion.—The Methodist Church claims five hundred and seventy-three of the members of this band, and the Church of England two hundred and twenty-six. There are two churches on this reserve and the Indians take a good deal of interest in religion.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians as a rule are industrious; some are indolent. They are generally law-abiding and appreciate the law. They are slowly improving.

Temperance and Morality.—Some of these Indians are addicted to the occasional use of intoxicants, but they are generally temperate. Some of the members of this band have more than one wife.

CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES.

Name of Reserve.—The Indians of this band reside on the Caradoc Reserve.

Location.—This reserve is situated in the township of the same name in the county of Middlesex, Ontario.

Area.—It contains an area of nine thousand two hundred acres.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are farming and stock-raising.

Tribe or Nation.—These Indians belong to the Chippewa or Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this band is four hundred and thirty-seven, consisting of one hundred and thirty-three men, one hundred and thirty women, and one hundred and seventy-four children. During the year there were eight births and fourteen deaths. There were no immigrations nor emigrations.

Health and Sanitary Condition. The health of these Indians has been good. No epidemics. Sanitary precautions have been well observed.

Occupation.—The members of this band engage in general farming.

Buildings.—Most of the buildings are of log, though there are a number of frame and two brick dwellings. The buildings are kept in good repair.

Stock.—These Indians have some fairly good farm horses and cattle. They are beginning to keep sheep, and these are doing well.

Farming Implements.—This band is fairly well provided with farming implements.

Education.—On this reserve there are sixty-three children of school age, and two schools open; that at Bear Creek having been closed, being no longer required. There are two teachers; they hold inspector's certificates. The course of studies is elementary. The schools are equipped in the usual manner. The discipline and order are good. The

progress of the pupils that attend regularly is very fair. The parents do not take as much interest in the education of their children as they ought, but some improvement is shown in this respect.

Religion.—Of this band two hundred and fifty-three belong to the Methodist Church, and one hundred and eighty-four to the Church of England. There are two churches on the reserve. The Indians take great interest in religion.

Characteristics and Progress.—Most of the members of this band are industrious and law-abiding, and are slowly improving.

Temperance and Morality.—As a rule these Indians are temperate. Some occasionally take a little too much whisky. They appear to respect the laws of morality. Mount Elgin Institute, which is situated on this reserve, affords an excellent moral and industrial training to a large number of pupils. It is under the able management of the Rev. W. W. Shepherd, who by energy and tact has accomplished a large amount of practical good amongst the Indians. The new buildings referred to in my previous report are, I understand, about ready for occupation. Owing to ill health I have not been able recently to inspect the institute, and must, therefore, refer you to Mr. Shepherd's own report for more exact and full information.

MUNSEES OF THE THAMES.

Name of Reserve.—These Indians live on a portion of the Caradoc Reserve.

Area.—The portion occupied by this band comprises two thousand eight hundred acres.

Resources.—The resources are the same as those of the larger part of the reserve occupied by the Chippewas, viz., farming and stock-raising.

Tribe or Nation.—The members of this band are the only Indians of the Munsee tribe residing in Canada.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this band is one hundred and twenty-four, consisting of forty-four men, thirty-two women and forty-eight children. During the year there were five births and three deaths.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of these Indians has been very good. There have been no epidemics. Sanitary precautions have been well observed.

Occupation.—Farming constitutes the chief occupation of this band.

Buildings.—Most of the buildings on this reserve are of log. They are in good condition. There are six frame dwellings.

Stock.—The stock consists of good farm horses, pretty fair cattle and hogs, but no sheep as yet.

Farming Implements.—This band is fairly well supplied with farming implements.

Education.—On this reserve there are twenty-four children of school age. One day school ungraded, and one teacher of the grade of high-school entrance. The course of studies is elementary. The equipment is ordinary. The discipline and order are pretty good. The progress of the pupils is fair, but their attendance is irregular; as a rule the parents manifest little interest in the education of their children, though there are some indications of improvement in this respect.

Religion.—Religious denominations are represented on this reserve in the following proportions:—Methodists, sixty-two; Church of England, sixty-two. There are two churches on this reserve. The members of this band take a good deal of interest in religion.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians are pretty industrious and law-abiding. They have shown a good deal of improvement in their farming operations.

Temperance and Morality.—They are generally temperate, and in morality compare favourably with the white people.

General Remarks.—All the bands above described show a material advancement in the improvement of their lands, their educational condition and general thriftiness.

The Chippewas show a slight decrease in population, the others have an increase. I may remark that there has been a very large increase in the farm products over the preceding year. There are also indications of a desire to adopt improved modes of cultivation. There has also been about one thousand seven hundred rods of fencing built by the Indians during the year. The hay crop has not been good owing to the very extreme drought that prevailed in the western peninsula of Ontario. I have decreased the valuation of the lands, as lands have fallen considerably in value throughout the entire western part of the province.

I have, &c.,

A. S. McDOUGALL,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
CHIPPEWAS OF NAWASH,
CAPE CROKER, 13th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR.—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement on Indian affairs for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Agency.—This agency includes only one reserve of the same name.

Reserve.—The Cape Croker Reserve is a section of land lying north-east of the township of Albemarle, in the county of Bruce, in the province of Ontario.

Area. This reserve comprises nearly sixteen thousand acres, about forty per cent of which is fit for agricultural purposes.

Resources.—The rest of the land is somewhat broken and rocky, but portions of it are excellent grazing ground, producing very rich and nutritious grasses, while other sections are covered with valuable timber.

Tribe.—The Indians residing on this reserve are known as the Chippewas of Nawash, they being a small portion of the original tribe of Chippewas.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this band now numbers three hundred and ninety-six persons, being an increase of four over last year, and is made up as follows: one hundred and thirteen men, one hundred and twenty-nine women, ninety boys, and sixty-four girls.

During the past year there were twelve deaths, thirteen births, nine emigrations and twelve immigrations. Three of the last mentioned came in by marriage from other bands. The prevailing causes of death were consumption and old age.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—I am pleased to be able to state that with the exception of the above mentioned disease the general health of this people is fairly good: their sanitary condition is very creditable: their houses and premises are kept clean and orderly.

Occupation.—The general occupations of the members of this band are farming, fishing and getting out timber in the winter season. There are quite a few who are making good progress in farming, and if they continue to apply themselves in that direction, their success is assured.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—The barns and stables are not so good as could be desired, but as there is a new saw-mill now in operation on the reserve, lumber and shingles can be procured easily, and I hope to see outbuildings greatly improved, which will add materially to the better condition of wintering the stock and protecting farming implements from exposure to all kinds of weather.

Education.—There are three day-schools on this reserve, which were kept open during the whole year, and presided over by an efficient staff of teachers, one holding a second-class, and the other two third-class certificates. There are about seventy children of school age on this reserve, and those who attend school regularly are making fair progress. The equipment of each school is fairly good and will compare favourably with schools in other rural sections of Ontario.

I regret to say some of the Indian parents do not take as much interest in sending their children to school as they should do.

Religion.—There are two churches here. One is a handsome stone building belonging to the Methodist body, to which denomination about two-thirds of the population belong. The pastor is the Rev. W. B. Danard, who is a zealous missionary, and I trust doing a good work among the Indians. The other is a good frame building and belongs to the Roman Catholic portion of the band. These people are visited occasionally by clergymen of their denomination from outside missions. On the whole the Indians appear to take quite an interest in religious matters.

Characteristics and Progress.—Some of the Indians are industrious and are in comfortable circumstances, having good houses and enough of stock and implements to work their lands, and no doubt they will become wealthy in due time.

Temperance and Morality.—It is much to be regretted that many of the Indians are addicted to the use of intoxicants, and notwithstanding the severe penalties of the law for supplying liquor, they are able to obtain it, and it proves to be one of the greatest evils we have to contend against, and generally speaking drunkenness leads to other acts of immorality.

General Remarks.—In my concluding remarks I have much pleasure in stating that the members of this band have nothing to fear in the way of want or suffering. By proper application to their several occupations and by taking advantage of the other resources which are open to them, they have a bright future before them.

I have, &c.,

J. W. JERMYN,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA,
ATHERLEY, 31st August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report and tabular statement showing the condition and progress of the Indians under my supervision during the year ended 30th June, 1896.

RAMA BAND.

Vital Statistics.—The population is now two hundred and thirty-five, being an increase of six since my last census, the result of eleven births, three emigrations and two deaths.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—Sanitary measures receive prompt attention in early spring. No garbage is allowed to remain about the premises after the middle of May, and while these Indians, like others, are subject to many ailments and hereditary

diseases, yet I am pleased to state as a band they have enjoyed excellent health during the year.

Agriculture. I am glad to be able to say that this year several of this band have shown a desire to give more attention to agriculture than heretofore, and, if they can be persuaded to adopt farming for a living, there is no fear for the future; all that is necessary to make this people prosperous is application to industry and economy, and I hope in time this result will be attained.

Education. The school on this reserve is doing good work. It is taught by the Rev. J. Lawrence, who is very efficient and painstaking, and it is pleasing to note the average attendance is on the increase and the pupils are making fair advancement in their studies.

Religion. It is with pleasure that I report a great improvement in the mission church building; the whole building has been renewed, painted and refurnished, and is to day one of the most elegant country churches in the neighbourhood. At the re-opening services the attendance was so large that the church was unable to accommodate the people.

GEORGINA AND SNAKE ISLAND BAND.

Vital Statistics. This band numbers one hundred and twenty, an increase of two during the year, the result of one emigration, one death, two immigrations and two births.

Agriculture. I am pleased to report progress in farming operations in connection with this reserve. Most of the Indians of this band depend entirely on farming for a living, and are certainly quite practical and thorough in this line. All their crops look well.

Health and Sanitary Condition. Their houses and premises are neat, clean and very comfortable. The health of this band has been good during the year.

Education. The school continues to be efficiently conducted by Mr. Mays. The attendance is fairly good, and those who attend regularly are making satisfactory progress.

Temperance and Morality. The laws of temperance and morality are well observed by this band, and if the law of temperance and sobriety is violated by the Indians of this and the Rama Band, it is because they frequently visit the adjacent villages and towns where they find white men who are base enough to supply them with intoxicating liquor.

The families on Snake Island are very comfortable: their houses and premises are neat and well kept.

I have, &c.,

D. J. MCPHEE,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,

CHIPPEWAS OF SARNIA,

SARNIA, 26th August, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith my tabular statement and annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

The Indians under my charge are the Chippewas of Sarnia, residing on Sarnia, Kettle Point and Aux Sables Reserves.

Vital Statistics.—They number at the present time four hundred and forty-four, a decrease since my last report of five by death and four by enfranchisement. Mr. Edward Wells has been enfranchised, and has drawn his share of capital for himself and family.

Agriculture.—The progress in farming among the Indians has been very fair this last year. The crops in 1895 were excellent, which has helped the Indians very much; but I am sorry to have to report that much of the oat crop this year has been destroyed by the continuous rainfalls that visited this section of the country during July and August—in fact, there are many fields of grain in this part that will not be harvested, as it has rotted on the ground.

Health.—The health of the Indians on the reserves is good at present, there being only one case of consumption on the three reserves.

Education.—There is one school on each of the reserves. The school on the Sarnia Reserve is taught by Miss Welsh. The attendance has been very fair, and the progress quite satisfactory. The school on Kettle Point Reserve is taught by Miss Little. The attendance at that school has been much better than usual, and the progress very fair. The school at Aux Sables Reserve is taught by Miss Annie Vance. The attendance has been very small, the children that should attend that school chiefly belonging to the few Pottawattamie families living on the reserve, and they are very careless about sending their children to school.

Council-house.—The new council-house in course of construction on the Sarnia Reserve, on the bank of the St. Clair River, will add much to the appearance of the reserve. The Indians on that reserve are now fixing up the grounds for their fall fair to be held in October. Their intention is to have a fine fair ground for the purpose of holding an annual fall fair.

I have, &c.,

A. ENGLISH,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,

CHIPPEWAS OF SAUGEEN.

CHIPPEWA HILL, 30th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Name and Location of Reserve.—The Saugeen Reserve is located in the county of Bruce, on Lake Huron.

Area.—It comprises about twelve thousand acres.

Resources.—There is considerable timber on the reserve, and large quantities of fish are taken during the season each fall. There is also quite a quantity of grain grown.

Tribe and Vital Statistics.—The Indians of this band are Chippewas, and form a population of three hundred and seventy persons, as follows:—eighty-nine men, one hundred and six women and one hundred and seventy-five children. There were twenty-one deaths and twelve births registered during the past year. There were also six emigrations and seven immigrations, making a decrease of eight in the population. The deaths were principally due to consumption and complaints peculiar to infants.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The Indians have enjoyed very good health during the past year, a mild epidemic of measles being the only infectious disease, and it was confined principally to the children and with no serious results. They have been vaccinated and are quite clean in their surroundings.

Occupation.—General farming is carried on to a certain extent by all, and during the season a number engage in the herring-fishing. A great deal of wood is taken out during the winter, and the women earn a good deal by the sale of their baskets.

Buildings.—The buildings are fairly good, most of the people having very comfortable houses.

Stock. The horses are much better of late years, and the Indians are gradually getting more cattle.

Education. There are good brick schools at French Bay, Scotch Settlement and Saugeen, the teachers of which are well qualified for their position and take a very great interest in the progress of their pupils. All the elementary subjects, such as reading, spelling, geography, grammar, writing and arithmetic, are taught in each of the schools. The schools at French Bay and Scotch Settlement are comfortably furnished and well lighted and heated. The school at Saugeen is a model of comfort and convenience, being furnished with patent seats and desks, slate blackboards, heated by furnace and having large play-rooms in the basement. There are ninety children of school age and the average attendance is about fifty.

Religion. There are two churches on the reserve, both of the Methodist denomination. The one at Saugeen is of brick and well furnished, having cost about \$5,000. The other building is of wood and is located at French Bay. Service is held by the missionary in each church every Sunday and an extra service is held in the evening conducted by the Indians themselves. They are quite regular in their attendance, and are quiet and attentive.

Progress. They are all fairly industrious and quite law-abiding, and are gradually improving their cattle, buildings and lands. Chief Thos. Solomon has a very comfortable house, and has a fine tract of land under cultivation, and is well provided with horses, harness, wagon, &c. Ben Jackson is another Indian who is doing very well, having quite a number of acres under cultivation. He also has a good house, wagon, harness and horses. He received a prize of \$12 last year for having the best cultivated farm on the reserve.

Temperance. There is very little intoxication, there having been only some two or three cases during the year.

General Remarks. The fences and outbuildings belonging to the agency have been repaired, and now present quite a pleasing appearance. The scarcity of feed during the past winter was severely felt, but the prospects for the coming harvest are good.

I have, &c.,

JOHN CROWE,

Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
MISSISSAGUAS OF ALNWICK, CHEMONG AND RICE LAKE,

ROSENEATH, 15th August, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—Inclosed herewith find tabular statement in connection with the Mississagua Indians of Alnwick, Rice Lake and Chemong, or Mud Lake, for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

ALNWICK RESERVE.

Location and Area.—This reserve is in the township of Alnwick, in the county of Northumberland, and contains three thousand four hundred and four acres, chiefly good land, of which about two thousand four hundred and seventy acres are cleared and largely under cultivation.

Vital Statistics.—This band numbers two hundred and thirty-eight, that is when I took the census on the 1st May last, being an increase of nine over last year, made up as follows: four births more than deaths during the year and five immigrations from outside of the reserve, caused by men marrying women from other bands and places.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There is no infectious disease amongst the Indians here, with the exception of one case of consumption. These people in general are clean and keep their houses and surroundings clean and tidy.

Farming and other Occupations.—A large proportion of the cleared part of this reserve is worked by the Indian locatees and they are doing fairly well. Last year they raised one thousand one hundred and seventy bushels of wheat, two thousand four hundred and forty-five bushels of oats, one thousand eight hundred and sixty bushels of pease, three thousand one hundred and five bushels of potatoes, besides large quantities of other cereals and roots. About one thousand and fifty acres are worked by white tenants. A few of the Indians make their living by making baskets, fishing, hunting, gathering wild rice and working for farmers and others, but the chief mode of living is by farming.

Buildings, Stock, &c.—Most of the buildings on this reserve are good, they are chiefly frame houses and barns. These Indians have sixty horses, sixteen cows, sixty-six pigs, besides other stock; twenty-eight ploughs, twenty-four harrows, eighteen wagons, and numerous other implements.

Education.—There is a good brick school-house on this reserve, well equipped. The school was taught last year by Mr. A. O. Kidd, who holds a third-class certificate. He was well liked and had the very best order in his school and the children made good progress. There are about thirty-five children in the band of school age, and the attendance was fairly good, but not as good as might be desired. The course of studies pursued in this school is the same as in the public schools in Ontario.

Religion.—There is one church on the reserve and it is under the Methodist denomination; two services are held each Sunday and are fairly well attended.

Characteristics.—The Indians are law-abiding and many are industrious and are growing richer each year in the way of accumulating stock, farming implements and furniture, &c. I might mention Robert Franklin, Chief Crowe, ex-Chief Chubb, E. Comego, John Sunday (grandson of the celebrated John Sunday, head chief of many Indians), James Marsden, Robert Marsden, John P. Chase, and several others.

Morality and Temperance.—The Indians on the whole are moral, but there are a few who indulge in the use of liquor occasionally.

RICE LAKE RESERVE.

Location and Area.—This reserve is in the township of Otonabee in the county of Peterborough, and contains about seventeen hundred and fifty acres of good land, of which about seven hundred and fifty-five acres are cleared and under cultivation and pasture, &c.

Vital Statistics.—This band numbered seventy-nine when I took the census last spring, being the same as the year before. There were three deaths, one immigration and two births during the year. The immigration was by marriage from Chemong Lake.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the members of this band is good, there is but one case of ill health, being that of an old woman, and this is due to old age, I think. These people are clean and tidy in and about their houses and premises.

Resources of Reserve and Occupation of Indians.—The greater part of the cleared land is worked by the locatees and many of them are doing very well; last year they raised eleven hundred and forty bushels of wheat, nineteen hundred and eighty-five bushels of oats, eight hundred and fifteen bushels of pease, ten hundred and ninety five bushels of potatoes, in addition to other grain and roots. About two hundred and ninety acres of the reserve are rented to white tenants. Nearly all the resident Indians make their living by working their lands and are doing very well by getting stock and implements about them; I might mention Daniel Cowe, jr., Jeremiah Crowe, Chief Paudush, James Jarvis, Wellington Cowe and others. A few of the resident Indians make their living entirely by fishing, hunting, gathering wild rice, working for others, etc.

Buildings, Stock, &c. The greater number of houses on this reserve are log (flatted logs), but in general they are good and comfortable; the remainder are frame of a very good quality. These Indians have fifteen horses, twelve cows, fifty-nine pigs, thirteen young cattle, besides numerous farming implements.

Religion and Education. There is a frame church and frame school-house on the reserve. The school-house is small and poor, but it is very well equipped. The school was taught last year by Mr. John A. Windsor, who holds a second-class professional certificate. I consider him a good teacher and many of the children made good progress under him. There are about fifteen children on this reserve of an age to attend school, but there are five at the Muncey Institute, and I am informed they are doing well there.

The people here are Methodist, and Mr. Windsor preaches to them every Sunday and the services are well attended.

Characteristics. These people on the whole are moral, well behaved, and I have found them honest, but a few unfortunately indulge in liquor occasionally; they are, however, law-abiding people.

CHEMONG OR MUD LAKE RESERVE.

Location and Area. This reserve is in the township of Smith in the county of Peterborough, and contains about two thousand acres. A part is good land and a part is very stony, of which only about two hundred and ten acres are cleared.

Vital Statistics. This band numbered one hundred and sixty-three when I took the census in May last, being an increase of one, caused by one immigration by marriage; the births and deaths were equal during the year.

Health. There has been no epidemic of any kind during the year, and the health of the people generally has been good.

Occupation. As the country around this reserve becomes more settled and cleared up, hunting and trapping become less remunerative, and fishing too is becoming less productive; these circumstances are forcing the younger members of the band to turn their attention to other pursuits as a means of making a living; some hire with farmers, others work in the lumber woods in the winter season and on the "drives" in the summer season, and as a rule get good wages; while those who remain at home give much more attention to the cultivation of their lands, and as a result they are becoming more self-reliant.

Buildings. There are sixteen frame and seventeen log houses on this reserve. The frame houses are good, but the log ones are old and poor. There have been nine new frame houses built recently, which adds very much to the appearance of the reserve and to the comfort and health of those who occupy them. There are several frame houses now under construction.

Education.—There is a good frame school-house on this reserve fairly well equipped. The school was taught during the year by Mr. A. E. Kennedy, who holds a second-class certificate (professional); it was open during the whole year, and the children attended very regularly except in a few cases, and on the whole made very fair progress.

Religion.—The church services are well attended and the Sabbath school is open the whole year and is fairly well attended by the children and young people.

Characteristics.—The people on this reserve with few exceptions are clean, well behaved and law-abiding.

I have, &c.,

JOHN THACKERAY.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,

MISSISSAGUAS OF THE CREDIT,

HAGERSVILLE, 10th September, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I beg to inclose a tabular statement of the Mississaguas of the Credit, for the year ended the 30th June, 1896.

Vital Statistics.—The census of the band remains the same as last year, namely, two hundred and forty-two. The births were eight, additions two; the deaths nine and removals one.

Agriculture.—The soil upon this reserve is clay loam, and corn is not raised very extensively; the yield, however, was better than last year.

The wheat crop was less and the straw very short. Oats were a good crop, but the straw also was remarkably short, in many cases too short to bind. Pease were a good crop and barley somewhat better than the year before. There was a large yield of potatoes.

The hay was a total failure: owing to a severe frost and a subsequent drought, it did not mature. Very many of the fields were not cut, and there were only one or two farms which yielded enough to last a small stock through winter. By this famine in hay, and the very small quantity of straw, it was found that the Indians were not going to be able to winter their stock without assistance. The council asked for relief for their people from the department and it was furnished in the shape of baled hay from the east, which was paid for from the funds of the band, to be refunded by the individuals receiving it. This prevented what no doubt would have been a calamity, and only a few head of stock died during the winter, which was a very severe one.

Inspector's Visit.—To ascertain the exact needs of this band, and to inspect the reserve and agency generally, Mr. Inspector Macrae paid a visit to this place in February last, and made a house-to-house visit. He accomplished this during very inclement weather, the snow storms being very severe.

Education.—Mr. N. F. Black having resigned his position as teacher, Mr. J. H. Porter has replaced him, and is conducting the school in a satisfactory manner. By properly managed examinations the children are moving up in their classes, and this spring two of them, Effie Wood and Regie McDougall, have passed the entrance examinations and are attending the high-school.

Religion.—The aged missionary, the Rev. Charles Stringfellow, was thrown from his buggy and received a very painful compound fracture of his leg. He was consequently obliged to give up his work upon the reserve, and has been replaced by the Rev. E. H. Taylor. The church is in a prosperous condition.

General Remarks.—Although several meetings have been held, between the Mississaguas and the Six Nations, in respect to a money dispute as to the payment of squatters' improvements, no settlement has as yet been arrived at. The two nations, in discussing the case, however, expressed a strong feeling of friendship towards each other which was pleasing and satisfactory.

For many years the members of this band have considered that they had a claim against the Government for a large sum of money, the result of the sale of their reserves at Port Credit, Oakville and Bronte. During the past year the case was laid before the Dominion and Provincial Board of Arbitrators, and the matter was argued at Quebec in November, 1895. The decision was against the Indians' claim, and as a consequence, the capital account of this band has been reduced about one-half.

The health of the people has been good. Peace and quietness reign amongst the council and the band. The visit of Mr. Macrae, has, I think, spurred the men on to greater activity in farming, and there is a prospect now of an abundant harvest this fall.

I have, &c.,

P. E. JONES, M.D.,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
MISSISSAGUAS OF SCUGOG,
PORT PERRY, 30th June, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR.—I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report and tabular statement on the Scugog Reserve for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

There are no important changes to report in connection with this reserve since last year.

Vital Statistics.—There have been no births nor deaths in the band, so that the population remains the same as last reported, viz., thirty-seven.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There has been comparatively little, if any, sickness, and sanitary precautions are very well observed.

Education.—The band being small, has no school, but six or seven of the children are attending the white school quite near the reserve, and are making very gratifying advancement in the subjects taught. One of our families of the name of Goose, has, unfortunately, a child deaf and dumb—but a bright intelligent little girl—and her parents, with commendable interest and enterprise, sent her to the Institute at Belleville, where she is attaining marked proficiency in the arts taught there.

Occupation. Only two or three members of the band take much interest in agriculture, the others prefer to follow the customs peculiar to their race, of hunting, fishing and basket-making. On procuring information for my tabulated statement herewith inclosed, I find as a result of the above industries that the members of the band have sold during the year, in baskets, \$421.50; fish, \$114, and fur, \$116.30, or a total of \$651.80. This is creditable for a small band of thirty-seven.

Leasing of Lands on Reserve.—The privilege accorded to the Indians by the department of leasing their lands without surrendering, will, in my opinion, be a decided advantage to them; as a result on this reserve nearly all fenced land is now cultivated, and presents an appearance quite in contrast with former years.

Temperance. There is not much drinking by members of the band, only one or two indulged to any extent.

I have, &c.,

WM. BATEMAN,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,

MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTÉ,

DESERONTO, 30th July, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I beg to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Name and Location of Reserve.—The Tyendinaga Reserve is situated in the county of Hastings.**Area.**—It contains an area of seventeen thousand acres.**Resources.**—The resources of this reserve are building stone and gravel.**Tribe or Nation.**—These Indians belong to the Mohawk tribe.**Vital Statistics.**—Men, two hundred and eighty-nine; women, three hundred and four; children, five hundred and eighty-six; births, thirty-nine; deaths, nineteen; immigrations, thirty-five; emigrations, twenty-seven; increase of population, twenty-eight; causes of death: children's diseases, some consumption, one case of cancer and old age.**Health and Sanitary Condition.**—The health of these Indians is good. Their houses are kept clean and neat. There have been no epidemics.**Occupation.**—The members of this band engage in farming and work in the mills at Deseronto, and at different trades.**Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.**—The buildings are in a good state of repair. The stock is well kept. The majority have all they require in modern implements.**Education.**—Three hundred children should attend school. There are four schools, and three teachers with third-class certificates and one with a second-class. The authorized course of studies is followed. The schools are well equipped, and the discipline in each school is good. The progress of the children is fair, and a steady improvement is noticeable. The parents are all anxious that the children shall be well educated, and many parents help their children in their studies. A number of the children attend the high-school in the town of Deseronto.**Religion.**—The Indians of this band belong to the Church of England. There is one missionary, two churches, built of stone, and a mission school used for divine service. A great improvement has taken place in church work during the last few months, the churches being filled with Indians, and the Sunday-schools are in splendid working order. There are three Sunday-schools, and three services held each Sunday, and an evening service will be held very soon in the east end of the reserve; also a Bible class is carried on one night in the week. All this is done by the missionary himself.**Characteristics and Progress.**—The Indians are industrious and law-abiding, and are becoming richer.

Chief Sampson Green works his own farm of one hundred acres, which is in a fine state of cultivation. Chief Stephen Maracle is doing well upon his farm. Chief Solomon Loft is also doing well. Isaac Powles is a prime farmer—very few white men are his equal. Dr. Oronhyatekha has a fine farm in a splendid state of culture. John Loft has a fine farm. William Brant, Joseph Brant and Walter Brant are all doing well, and their boys are becoming farmers.

Temperance and Morality.—The Indians are not as bad in the use of spirits as the white people in this section, and the morality of both men and women is better.**General Remarks.**—The great drought of 1895 caused a perfect failure in hay and straw, and we were put to a large expense in procuring such fodder. During the spring

of 1896 it cost us over \$1,000 to save our stock, which we did without a loss. Our tenants had the same trouble, but are getting over it.

We improved our roads very much this season, a great deal of road-work being done, as also we are expending \$100 in stone and gravel.

Dr. Oronhyatekha continues to improve Captain John's Island, and keeps a large number of Indians at work every day. The improving of this island adds value to the reserve.

The brass band keeps up its practices, and is playing very well.

The prospect of the welfare of the band never was brighter. Crops look well and are good. Lots of corn, wheat, pease, fruits and vegetables, and with their progressive industry all will be well.

I have, &c.,

W. GEO. EGAR,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
MORAVIANS OF THE THAMES,
HIGHGATE, 25th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR, —I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report and tabular statement respecting the Moravians of the Thames, for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this band is two hundred and ninety-nine, being a decrease of five since last report. A number of very old people have died during the year.

Agriculture. Farming among the Indians on this reserve is improving, not that they cultivate much more land than formerly, but they cultivate it better; they keep the land clean, and plant their seed at the proper time; they find that a little extra work laid out on the land insures them a better crop. This encourages them to try to do better work each year. Farming is the chief occupation of the Indians.

Occupation of Indian Women.—The women make a great many mats and baskets; this they do mostly during the winter months.

Blacksmith. There is one blacksmith shop on the reserve with an Indian blacksmith. He appears to have a paying amount of work to do and nearly all done for the Indians.

Crops. The crops have been fairly good, except hay, which was only about half a ton to the acre, owing to a heavy frost in the spring and the dry weather through the summer.

Stock. There is an increase in the number of horses, sheep, pigs and young stock, and a decrease in the number of milch cows, but a better lot of grade milch cows I have not seen anywhere.

Improvements. Improvements in fencing have been made to quite an extent. A lot of land formerly in commons has been fenced in, and a number of acres broken up and planted.

Education. We have two schools. The one supported from the funds of the band has a good average attendance of pupils; they all speak and understand English and are making fair progress in their studies. The second school is supported by the Moravian Church, and is under the management of the Rev. Mr. Hartmann. The children

in this school have nearly all lost one and in some cases both of their parents. The children are fed, clothed, and given a good education free of all cost to themselves or the band.

Religion.—The churches, three in number, look after the welfare of the Indians spiritually, and I am pleased to say that they do their duty well.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The sanitary conditions on the reserve are good. The houses have been cleaned and whitewashed, the premises are clean, and there is no sickness of any account on the reserve at the present time.

General Remarks.—In concluding this report, I do not hesitate to say that the condition of these Indians was never better, the present crops all look well and promise a good yield, and during the seventeen years that I have been in charge of this agency I never saw the reserve look as well as it does to-day.

I have, &c.,

JOHN BEATTIE,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
OJIBBEWAS OF LAKE SUPERIOR—EASTERN DIVISION,
SAULT STE. MARIE, 1st September, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward you herewith my annual report of the three bands of Indians under my charge, viz., the Garden River Band, the Batchewana Band, the Big Head Michipicotin Band.

GARDEN RIVER RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the St. Mary's River, about eight miles below the town of Sault Ste. Marie, and extends eastward to Echo River.

Area.—The reserve contains about twenty-two thousand acres.

Resources.—This reserve is said to contain mineral. Two locations for iron have already been sold, but have not been worked for some years. There is also a marble quarry, which was worked at one time, but, owing to the duty charged by the American Government, it had to be abandoned, the holders finding no market for the marble in this country. There is still a large tract of mountain containing marble not yet surrendered. There is also a considerable amount of timber, viz., pine, spruce, balsam, tamarack, cedar and poplar. A good deal of this has from time to time been cut and sold. There is some good farming land, but that cultivated by the Indians on the St. Mary's River is mostly sand, and it is extraordinary the crop of potatoes they get off it, considering that the same land has been worked from year to year. Wheat has been tried without success, the land being chiefly adapted to root crops. Oats are grown in small quantities. The short season and June frost are against grain.

Tribe.—These Indians are descendants of the Chippewas, mixed with French Canadian half-breeds, of which the latter are by far the greater number.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of one hundred and seventeen males and one hundred and thirty-two females, male children one hundred and nine, female children one hundred and thirteen. The births were twenty-three, deaths five, immi-

grations three and emigrations three: these two last were caused by marriages and taking over by grandparents. The increase over last year is eighteen.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—Scrofula prevails to a large extent among the Indians of this band, and generally ends in consumption and chest complaint. Infectious diseases have not been common among them. There were three cases of diphtheria: these were isolated, and no further cases occurred. As a rule the houses and premises are clean.

Occupation.—These Indians earn their living in various ways during the summer season, going out with fishing parties and explorers. Some do trading in the berry and sugar season. They do very little in hunting or fishing. The law preventing them from selling partridges is against them, as formerly they used to make a great deal of money out of this pursuit. In the winter they work in the various lumber camps; they also work at boat-building, carpentry, &c. The women do a little bark-work, basket-making, berry-picking and sugar-making, and make rush mats, &c.

Buildings. The houses are mostly built of log, a few of them frame, and white-washed outside. The barns and stables are made of logs.

Stock. The stock consists of cows, oxen, horses, pigs and poultry.

Farming Implements.—The farming implements consist of ploughs, harrows, one threshing-machine and one fanning-mill. These are owned by individual Indians, and are not gifts from the department.

Education.—There are two schools on the reserve. The Protestant school is taught by Mrs. Atkinson, who holds a second-class certificate. At this school forty-eight should attend: thirty-six only attend, and these not regularly. This is the fault of the parents, who keep them at home on the slightest pretense. The pupils are mostly in the low grade, that is cards, first and second books, and a very few in the second and third book. They also learn writing, which they do very well for small children, drawing, arithmetic and singing.

The children are making fair progress considering their irregular attendance. During the last quarter ending the 30th June, the average attendance was nearly twenty-two. This is better than it has been for some time, and is a good deal owing to the constable, W. J. Pine, who went among all the parents insisting on their sending their children to school, and looking after those who strayed away.

The other school is under the management of the Rev. G. A. Artus, with Miss Lamorandière as teacher, who does her duty well in bringing the children forward. Thirty-six attend the school, and with the exception of nine have attended very regularly. Five Roman Catholic children go to the Protestant school, it being much nearer to their home. Twenty-five of these are in standard number I., seven in number II., four in number III. These are taught reading, spelling, geography, writing, arithmetic, drawing and singing, and are all making very good progress.

The attendance at this school is more regular than at the Protestant. This is in a great measure owing to the Rev. G. A. Artus, who insists on the parents sending their children, and the care and attention shown by Miss Lamorandière. There are only about ninety children who should attend the two schools, and this school has its full complement.

Religion.—There are three churches on the reserve. The services of the Church of England are conducted by the Rev. A. R. Atkinson; his church is well attended on Sundays and holy days.

The Roman Catholic Church services are conducted by the Rev. G. A. Artus, who has a large attendance on Sundays and saints' days. There are other priests who assist at times in this church.

The Methodist Church has no minister, merely the building, the church having been closed for some years, there being only five families of that denomination.

Characteristics and Progress.—The Indians are good workers when at it, but as a rule, after earning money enough to go on with, they take a rest. They are good men in the bush; they are as a rule orderly, and have a great dislike to the jail. The lock-up which was built on the reserve has not yet been put into use.

With regard to the riches of the Indians, as a rule they are not a saving people; the money they earn is generally spent as soon as received. They are able to support themselves and no relief has been granted this year.

Temperance and Morality.—I regret to say on this subject that many of the band are addicted to drinking, and the proximity to the United States gives them the opportunity of getting liquor when required. Only one Indian was arrested for drunkenness this year, and he was fined five dollars or fourteen days in jail; on the second day the fine was paid. When in liquor they manage to keep out of the way.

I also regret to say that there are many cases of immorality among the young men and young women, and this even the clergy cannot put a stop to.

The great difficulty in liquor and other cases is the evidence. You may hear of a case and the witness an Indian, when on investigation, you find the evidence no good, they then know nothing. Unless you can obtain evidence from a white man, a prosecution is of no avail.

General Remarks.—The greater part of this band reside on the reserve; there are in all ninety-nine families, twenty-four of these, equal to one hundred and twenty-one head, reside outside the reserve, many of whom own lands of their own, and are mostly French half-breeds.

The chief of this band is Pequetchenene. There are four sub-chiefs, Jacob Waikimah, John Askin, Jarvis Augustin and John Augustin. Several councils have been held, but nothing of importance has been done.

THE BATCHEWANA BAND.

Location.—This band has only a small reserve of its own, viz., Whitefish or St. Mary's Island, situated at the rapids near the town of Sault Ste. Marie, and a reserve at Goulais Bay, granted by the Ontario Government and the Indian Department.

Tribe.—These Indians are descendants of the Chippewas mixed with French Canadian half-breeds.

Vital Statistics.—The members of this band number one hundred and six male adults and one hundred and eight female adults, eighty-nine male children and seventy-seven female children, making a total of three hundred and eighty. There were twelve births, eight immigrations, nine deaths and five emigrations, making an increase of six persons. Immigrations and emigrations are caused by marriages, and going over from one family to another.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There has been very little sickness in this band, compared with the Garden River Band, and the deaths have been from old age, drowning and summer complaint with children. The houses are all kept in good order.

Occupation.—Thirty-three families of this band live in the Bay at Garden River Reserve. These earn their living in the same way as the Garden River Band. They are good workers, but do not benefit by any of the profits of the Garden River Reserve. Besides farming, they earn their living by working in the shanties, picking berries, going out with tourists on fishing excursions in the summer, and also do a good deal in exploring. The women make bark-work mats and baskets, and work in the sugar camps on the Garden River Reserve; very little of the latter is now made by any of the Indians.

Those who reside at the Sault, the Rapids, Goulais Bay, Batchewana, the Lizzard Island and Michipicotin, consist of sixty families numbering two hundred and twelve persons. These get their living by fishing for Ainsworth & Ganley, who pay them from two to two and a half cents a pound for their fish. They also work for the fishing tugs, supplying wood, and in the season pick berries and sell to the traders; in the winter they hunt.

The Hudson's Bay Company used to have two posts, one at Agawa River and another at Michipicotin River, and it was at these posts they sold their furs. This year both have been closed, and it was difficult for me to get a return of the furs taken.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—As already stated, the band has only a small reserve at the rapids, about twenty-two acres; there are four houses. The Indians at this point grow only a few potatoes, and they support themselves principally by fishing. Those residing on the Garden River Reserve farm quite an area of land, and are possessed of ploughs, harrows and wagons; they raise potatoes, pease, Indian corn, oats and other cereals, and own cows, horses and other domestic animals.

Education.—The Indians living on the Garden River Reserve are all Roman Catholic and attend the Garden River school to the number of twenty-four.

Religion.—There are two churches, both Roman Catholic, one at Goulais Bay and one at Batchewana. These are supplied by missionaries from time to time, and in their absence by lay Indians or half-breeds. They all appear to be very devout.

Temperance and Morality.—Many of the Indians are members of a temperance society, but I regret to say that others are as the Garden River Band addicted to the use of liquor, which they easily get on the American side of the river. The morals among the young people are rather loose.

General Remarks.—The chief of this band is Nubenaigooching, now a very old man. He resides with some of his band on the Garden River Reserve.

Those living along the shore of Lake Superior, I only visit once a year when paying the Robinson Treaty annuity money, and meet them all along from Point aux Pins to Michipicotin, and in many cases feed them and give them tobacco.

Four Indians of the band have land of their own, bought from the department, on which they reside. I am informed that this has been sold by the Ontario Government for taxes.

BIG HEAD MICHIPICOTIN BAND.

Location.—This band has a small reserve at Michipicotin River.

Tribe. These Indians are also descendants of the Chippewas mixed with French Canadian half-breeds.

Vital Statistics.—The total number of the band is three hundred and thirty-eight. During the year there were fourteen births, nine immigrations and twenty deaths. I am not able to say to what causes the deaths were due, but some families were nearly all taken away. There were two emigrations caused by marriage and transfer to other families.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The houses and reserve are kept clean and in good order.

Occupation. The land on this reserve is very sandy, and the Indians do not grow anything of consequence; among the thirteen families who reside at the river they only raised about twenty-five bushels of potatoes, and a few other roots; most of their time, instead of looking after their gardens, is taken up by fishing for Ainsworth & Ganley.

The Hudson's Bay Company used to be their great support, taking their furs and giving them supplies and work. This post has been given up and the Indians remaining at the river will have very hard work this winter to subsist.

The majority of the band are scattered all over the country from Batchewana, the Lizzards, Biscotasing, Chapleau, Missanabie, Brunswick House and other stations of the Hudson's Bay Company. This makes it very difficult to get the payments made and the census taken: some of the members remain for two or three years without being heard from, as in their hunting excursions they go far above the height of land.

Education.—There is a school-house on the reserve at Michipicotin River, but no school has been held there for several years.

Religion. There are forty-six Church of England members in this band, the remainder being Roman Catholic; they have a church which is attended to by missionaries occasionally, and in their absence by lay Indians.

Characteristics and Progress.—I only visit these Indians once a year when paying the Robinson Treaty annuity money, and although they are very poor they always seem contented, and if they get any money usually spend it at the first opportunity.

Temperance and Morality.—Complaint was made to me that these Indians get liquor, and at Christmas and New Year they get a supply from somewhere along the line. There is no magistrate there, and as it is one hundred and fifty miles from here I am unable to do anything to put a stop to it. Always on my visits everything is orderly and no signs of anything going wrong. I generally am compelled to spend from five days to a week in Michipicotin River on account of the weather, but see little of the Indians after I have fed and paid them, as they then start on their various pursuits.

General Remarks.—The chief of this band is Sanson Legard, a man getting on in years, who now is anxious to retire in favour of one James Cass, a younger member of the band, and on my last visit the members present, only a small portion of the band itself, were anxious to have him for chief.

I visited Chapleau and paid the Indians there according to instructions. They expressed a wish to have a reserve granted them near Lake Windemere, near the Canadian Pacific Railway, where they said they could get good fishing and be in a better place in case of sickness. As a rule they are a very contented lot of people; they complain of the loss of the small amount of interest money they used to receive, but I explained to them that it had been expended on doctors during the sickness among the Chapleau and Missanabie Indians a few years ago.

SHINGWAUK HOME.

Before closing my report, I may say a few words regarding this institution. It still keeps up its complement of pupils, and very great improvements have been made in the building. The dormitories have been considerably enlarged and far better ventilation is the consequence; the new iron bedsteads are also a great improvement, and the hot-air furnaces gave great satisfaction during the past winter.

Since the advent of Mr. George Ley King the changes made in the building are a great improvement, and it would not be recognized as the building of which he first took charge: and there has been very little sickness among the pupils under him.

I regret to say that I have not been able to visit the institution for the last two months, owing to my time being taken up in other matters. The children all appear to be contented and are getting on well in their studies. The food supplied is good and wholesome and they appear to have plenty. A new bakery was to have been put up, but this I have not yet seen. Tailoring, carpentry and farming go on satisfactorily. The clothes made by the boys are very good. Other branches of work are still continued, such as shoemaking, cooking, baking and laundry-work, the boys attending the school half of the day and spending the other half at their different trades.

The recent improvements in the building were the work of the boys under the carpenter foreman, with but little outside assistance, and no little credit is due to them for the manner in which they did the work.

I have, &c.,

WM. VAN ABBOTT,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
OJIBBEWAS OF LAKE SUPERIOR—WESTERN DIVISION,
PORT ARTHUR, 31st August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement on Indian affairs in my agency for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

FORT WILLIAM RESERVE AND BAND.

Location.—This reserve is on the Kaministiquia River.

Area. It contains an area of thirteen thousand and forty acres.

Vital Statistics.—These Indians number three hundred and seventy-seven, consisting of seventy-six men and three hundred and one women and children; during the year there were twenty-one births and twelve deaths, and eight emigrations and seven immigrations, making an increase of eight over last year. Their health is good and there have been no epidemics or diseases. Deaths were by natural causes.

Occupation.—The occupation of these Indians is principally farming. They make their own canoes and sail-boats, fish in the fall for winter's use, and a few leave their families in winter and go off to their hunting grounds for fur catches, and exploring for new mineral finds.

Buildings. Their buildings are principally square logs and many are clapboarded and whitewashed, and the yards and premises are cleaned every spring, showing a neat appearance.

Education. They have two schools, one the St. Joseph's Convent Orphanage entirely for Indian children, who are well dressed and cleanly kept, educated and taught different kinds of work to be useful to them when grown up, and when old enough are placed out in respectable families; the other is the day-school, well attended, with the best of discipline and order. The teachers are nuns of this convent, well qualified, and the course of studies is the same as taught in the common and high-schools of our town and all in English. The equipment of the schools is of the best kind, and the progress of the pupils is good. I visit these schools and report every month to the department, and they are also visited once a year by the provincial government inspector and reported upon to the department. Every sanitary precaution is taken, vaccination carefully looked after, and a place for the isolation of persons suffering from infectious diseases provided.

Religion.—The head missionary or superior, a Roman Catholic priest, lives permanently on the reserve, and a travelling missionary is always out among the different bands. They have one church, and have divine service every morning of the year, at six o'clock, as well as the other services on Sundays, which are well attended.

Characteristics.—They are industrious and law-abiding, are never imprisoned for dishonesty, such as theft, etc., but sometimes for drinking, which is not often, as they are carefully looked after by three constables, and brought before me for trial. A great many belong to the temperance society, and never touch liquor. According to population, these Indians drink less and are better behaved than the white men by whom they are surrounded.

Tribe. They are of the Ojibbewa tribe.

Breakwater.—A breakwater is being built along the bank of the river by the department to prevent the spring freshets from washing away the bank from year to year. This spring several of the Indian houses and river road fences had to be removed back on account of the encroachment caused by the river cutting away the bank.

This last winter these Indians cut and sold over a thousand cords of spruce pulp wood and other cord-wood. On account of the fur catches and fish becoming more scarce every year, some families, particularly widows with families of small children, have become poor, so much so that for several winters they have had to be assisted by the department, to enable them to live, and at my suggestion, with the endorsement of the department, I procured three acres of good ground, with two good squared-log houses, fit to accommodate these poor families along the frontier. The Indians gave about fifty days' gratuitous labour in ditching and fencing round this ground with barbed wire, and planting with potatoes, and expect a yield of at least eight hundred bushels, which, together with their fish catches this fall, will keep these poor families and children comfortable, and other winters to come; thereby will be a yearly saving to the department, and these Indians agree to plant this ground for the poor every year. The crops on this reserve, of potatoes and other vegetables, hay and oats, are exceptionally good this year. The roads and farms are kept in good order, and with their oxen, horses, cows and young stock the Indians live comfortably.

Religion.—Of the members of this band two hundred and ninety-nine are Roman Catholics and nineteen are pagans.

RED ROCK RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is on the side of the renowned Nepigon River.

The Indians of this band are of a roaming nature, and only a few are settled on the reserve, and some are on Lake Helen, and Poplar Lodge on Lake Nepigon.

Area.—This reserve contains an area of six hundred and forty acres.

Occupation.—Fur-hunting and hiring to tourists in summer are the principal occupations of these Indians.

Education.—They have a school-house on the reserve, but it is not well attended; also a school at Lake Helen that has been better attended this last year than formerly.

Vital Statistics.—The population is two hundred and fourteen, consisting of forty-two men and one hundred and seventy-two women and children. During the year there were thirteen births, five deaths and five emigrations, making a decrease of nine compared with last year. There are forty-two children of an age to attend school. The equipment is good, and the discipline of Lake Helen school is good; that of Red Rock is not so good. There is a Roman Catholic church at Lake Helen, well attended when the priests visit the place, which is about every month. I may say there is more intemperance in this band than in any other in my agency, caused by tourists.

Religion.—Of this band thirty are Protestants and one hundred and eighty-five Roman Catholics.

ENGLISH CHURCH RESERVATION.

This reservation I did not visit this year, as the Indians were absent. I met them at Red Rock, where I paid them their annuity money.

NEPIGON BAND.

Vital Statistics.—This band numbers eighty-one men and four hundred and thirty-five women and children, and one hundred and twenty-three of an age to attend school, *i.e.*, between six and sixteen years. During the year there were fourteen losses by emigration and thirteen by death, and an increase of two by immigration and twenty-two by birth, making three less than last year.

Reserve.—This band has Gull River Reserve, with an area of seven thousand five hundred acres, on Lake Nepigon, but few live upon it on account of a scarcity of fish. They live along the lake, principally on Jackfish Island, where they have a good school and teacher, who has good discipline and order, and the school is well attended and progress good.

Religion.—This building is also used for a Roman Catholic chapel, where the traveling missionary attends every few months. Divine service is well attended. Of this band two are Protestants, one hundred and eighty-one Roman Catholics and three hundred and forty-nine pagans.

Crops.—On this island good crops of potatoes, corn, cabbage, turnips, carrots, beets, etc., are grown, principally by the teacher, Mr. J. A. Blais, who is a good example, and has furnished many Indians with seed gratuitously, and they also grow good crops.

Occupation. The Indians of this band live entirely by fur-hunting and fish.

PAYS PLAT BAND.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of fifty-six, consisting of nine men and forty-seven women and children, and twelve of an age to attend school. During the year there were two deaths and one birth.

Education. These Indians have a school-house and a very competent teacher. The school is well attended.

Occupation. These Indians live principally by farming and fishing, and are prosperous.

Religion.—All the members of this band, fifty-six, are Roman Catholic.

PIC BAND.

Location and Area.—This reserve is on the Pic River, and contains eight hundred acres, divided off in twenty-five acre farms fronting on the river.

Vital Statistics. This band has a population of two hundred and fifty-one, consisting of one hundred and twenty-three males and one hundred and twenty-eight females, of whom one hundred and forty-eight are children. During the year there were two births, two emigrations and two immigrations, making a decrease of one compared with last year.

Occupation. They live by farming, fishing and fur-hunting. Their soil is poor, of a light sandy loam, and their crop not as good as some former years. They have a span of horses that are not suited for them like oxen, but obtained them against my wish and that of the department.

Education. They have a school-house, and had a teacher up to 1st July, and made good progress, but at present they are without a teacher. There are fifty-five children of school age on the reserve.

Religion. The members of this band are Roman Catholics, with the exception of one Protestant. They have a Roman Catholic church, visited about every two months by the missionary priest, Rev. Father Spect.

Characteristics.—These Indians are law-abiding and temperate in their habits.

LONG LAKE BAND.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of three hundred and thirty-six, consisting of fifty-eight men and two hundred and seventy-eight women and children, and fifty-five of an age to attend school. During the year there were eight births, eight deaths and six emigrations, leaving them the same number as last year.

Reserve.—These Indians have a reserve of six hundred and forty acres on the bank of Long Lake, but the soil is a cold clay and will grow only hay. This year nine families who were encouraged by Mr. P. Golchere, the Hudson's Bay Company's officer in charge of that post, who furnished twenty-eight bags of seed, have chosen better and warmer soil in different places and will have a fair crop for their first, about four hundred bushels of potatoes, and fifty of turnips. They requested me to ask the department for some grub-hoes, spades, hoes, saws and other tools to clear land, build

houses and farm with, which I am sure the department will take pleasure in doing. They never expect to plough, at least for some years to come.

Characteristics.—These Indians are sober, industrious and honest, and make the largest fur-catches of any band in this district or between Lake Superior and James's Bay. Their sobriety is accounted for by their being entirely away from the bad example of white men.

Religion.—Of this band three hundred and thirteen are Roman Catholics and thirty-one pagans.

Education.—They have never yet had a school, but are anxious to have one.

Sanitary Condition.—I may further mention that in a sanitary way all the Indians in my agency, numbering about one thousand eight hundred, are carefully looked after. I have vaccinated them every two years for the past thirteen years, and they have been free from epidemics.

General Remarks.—All are taught English in their schools. All the Indians in my agency belong to the Ojibbewa tribe. I have constables in each band, which proves to have a good effect.

I have, &c.,

J. P. DONNELLY,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
OJIBBEWAS OF MANITOULIN ISLAND AND LAKE HURON,
MANITOWANING, 12th October, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement, with statistics of the Indians under my charge, for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Sanitary Precautions.—I am pleased to say that the Indians have in all cases complied with the instructions given them last spring in regard to sanitary matters, and have in all cases cleaned up their premises and otherwise shown a marked improvement in their mode of living.

The Thessalon River Band numbers one hundred and eighty-two. These Indians are mostly fishermen, and pay but little attention to farming, yet a number of them have fair gardens and small clearings and work in the lumber shanties in the winter and at the saw-mills in the summer. They have a good school with a fair attendance of children. Most of the men are good workers and steady.

The Maganettawan Band numbers sixty-eight. These Indians mostly live at West Bay on the Manitoulin Island, where they have good farms and gardens, and are what might be called very prosperous. Some of the Indians, however, work in the lumber camps in winter and load vessels in summer. There are only five families of this band who reside on the reserve, and they have been transferred to the Parry Sound Agency under charge of Dr. Walton.

The Spanish River Band numbers five hundred and fifty-four and is divided into three divisions. The first reside at Sagamook on the Spanish River Reserve; the second live on the reserve on the left bank of the Spanish River and at Pogumasing and Bis-cotasing; the third reside on the Manitoulin Island. They are industrious and find employment at the different saw-mills on the north shore of the island.

The White Fish Lake Band numbers one hundred and forty. These Indians complain of the scarcity of game and fish on their reserve, and that their hunting is not remunerative. Many of them find employment as guides; some work on the Canadian Pacific Railway; others in saw-mills and lumber camps. They have a good school at their village, which is fairly well attended; also a school at Naughton Station on the C. P. R. They are very steady and industrious and fairly well-to-do; their houses are comfortable and their stock well looked after and cared for.

The Ojibbewas of Mississagua River number one hundred and sixty-two. They are in fair circumstances and are good citizens, but they complain of scarcity of fish, fur and game. They do not farm extensively, but they work at the shanties and saw-mills. A number of the members of this band reside at Biscotasing where they find employment on the C. P. R. They also fish and hunt. They have a good school at their village on the Mississagua River, which is fairly well attended. On the whole they are very intelligent and industrious.

The White Fish River Band numbers eighty-seven. These Indians farm but little; they work at getting out timber, and some find employment in the saw-mills. They have a good school under the auspices of the Church of England, and are a very intelligent, steady and sober lot of Indians.

The Serpent River Band numbers one hundred and twenty-two. These Indians find employment at the different saw-mills near by. They are good workers and are doing well. The greater portion of the band removed last summer to Cutler on the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is on their reserve. They have a good school there, which is fairly well attended.

The Tahgaiwinini Band numbers one hundred and seventeen. They farm and fish chiefly, but a number of them work in lumber camps, and as a general rule they are prosperous. The greater portion of this band reside on the unceded portion of the island at or near Wikwemikong.

The Point Grondin Band numbers fifty-two. There are only five families who reside permanently on the reserve; the remainder live at or near Wikwemikong. They have no school at their village. The members of the band fish during summer and work in lumber camps during winter.

The Indians of Manitoulin Island "unceded." These Indians number one thousand one hundred and fifty-six. They are industrious and hard-working. They are good farmers and fishermen, and during last winter they took out fifty thousand ties and ten thousand posts, which the department sold for their benefit at good prices, and the Indians worked at good wages in loading the timber during the summer.

THE OJIBBEWAS AND OTTAWAS OF THE MANITOULIN ISLAND.

The Cockburn Island Band numbers fifty-one. These Indians are steady and industrious. They farm but little. They find work with Hitchcock & Co., the licensees of the timber limits, the year round. There is no school at this place.

The Sheshegwaning Band numbers one hundred and sixty-six. These Indians are good farmers, and are hard-working and industrious. The village is nicely situated on the bay, and some very fine houses are erected in which the Indians reside. There is also a nice church and a good school, and both well attended, both of which are under the auspices of the Roman Catholic church at Wikwemikong.

The West Bay Band numbers two hundred and fifty-three. The Indians of this band are successful farmers and are well-to-do. They have a fine church and school-house at Wikwemikong, both under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church, and both are well attended.

The department granted \$150 for the improvement of roads on the reserve last summer, which was laid out under the supervision of Mr. William Vincer, who reports the Indians as being good workers.

The Sucker Creek Band numbers ninety-one. These Indians are good farmers, are hard-working, industrious, and a thrifty lot of Indians. They have a church and school under the auspices of the Church of England, which are both well attended.

The department granted \$50 for improving the road on the reserve last year, which was well laid out in making repairs by Chief Charles Obatosaway, the work being done by the Indians of the band.

The Sheguiandah Band numbers one hundred and fifty-six. These Indians farm chiefly for a living, although a number work in lumber camps during the winter months. They have a nice church and school-house under the auspices of the Church of England. They are thrifty Indians.

The South Bay Band numbers sixty-seven. These Indians fish and farm successfully and are thrifty. Their church and school are both under the auspices of the Wikwemikong missionaries.

The Sucker Lake Band numbers fifteen. These Indians appear to be prosperous and contented.

The Obidgewongs of Lake Wolsey number ten. These Indians farm and fish in summer and work in lumber camps in winter.

Education.—There are nineteen schools in this division, all of which are fairly well attended; the children as a general rule are clean, tidy, well clad and respectable.

General Remarks.—I may say that the whole of the Indian population are apparently happy and contented, and as a general rule they are very industrious.

I have, &c.,

B. W. ROSS,
Indian Supt.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
PARRY SOUND SUPERINTENDENCY,
PARRY SOUND, 3rd September, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report and tabular statement showing the condition and progress of the various bands in this superintendency for the year ended 30th June last.

PARRY ISLAND RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the eastern shore of the Georgian Bay near the town of Parry Sound.

Area.—It contains an area of twenty-seven square miles.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are purely agricultural. The proximity to the town of Parry Sound, a great lumbering centre, enables the Indians of this band to obtain plenty of work at almost all times.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indians of this band belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population on this reserve is eighty-two, consisting of eighteen men, twenty-one women and forty-three children. During the year there was one birth and three deaths; and four immigrants who had long been residents on the reserve were by order of the department added to the census list, making an

increase of two compared with last year. The cause of the three deaths was consumption. Of these two are specially to be deplored, as they were the best educated girls in the superintendency.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians of this band has been good. The deaths, above referred to, occurred in two families in which several relatives had previously died of the same disease.

Occupation. These Indians have abundant means of earning a living. In addition to their farms, which might be better cultivated, they depend to some extent on basket-making and the manufacture of Indian work. The men during summer act as guides to tourists and others, and during winter and spring they work in the lumber woods and on the timber drives.

Buildings, Stock, &c.—These, I regret to say, are of an inferior character. Progress, however, is the order of the day, and a mower, owned by a Cape Croker Indian resident on this reserve, made its appearance on the island this summer.

Education. I regret that the educational affairs of this band are not all that could be desired. There are two schools on the reserve, each taught by a white female teacher, holding a third-class certificate, and though there are twenty-two children of school age in the band, independent of the children of Indians who reside on the reserve but do not belong to the band, the average daily attendance at both schools does not amount to half the above number. The regrettable cause of this is the lack of interest taken by the parents in the education of their children. The progress of the pupils who attend school regularly is good: the course of studies taught is that authorized by the department, and the equipment of both schools, as well as the discipline and order, are all that could be desired, but all are to a great extent rendered ineffective by the smallness of the attendance.

Religion. Religious denominations are represented by the Indians of this band in the following proportions: thirty-eight Methodists, twenty-three Roman Catholics and twenty-one pagans. The Methodists are ministered to by a resident missionary in a most comfortable and convenient church; and the Roman Catholics receive the occasional services of one of their clergy in the Skene school-house, their own church being only in course of erection. The interest taken by these two classes of Indians in religious matters is all that could be reasonably expected, and, fortunately, they live together in thorough harmony.

Characteristics and Progress.—Without saying that the members of this band are as industrious, energetic and enterprising as could be desired, they compare favourably with many white settlers in this district. That they are sufficiently industrious, frugal and decorous, is evidenced by the fact that no aid or relief has been asked for on behalf of any one of the band during the past year, nor has there been any conviction or even information tending to conviction for infraction of any of the laws of the land during the same period.

Temperance and Morality.—During the year not a single instance of intemperance in the use of intoxicating liquors has come under my notice, nor am I aware of the existence of any other form of immorality.

General Remarks.—My report on this band may be summed up by my saying that, except in the lack of interest taken in education, they are as comfortable, happy, contented, prosperous and progressive as could be expected or desired.

SHAWANAGA RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated four miles inland from the eastern shore of Shawanaga Bay, on the east side of the Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, and twenty-three miles north of the town of Parry Sound.

Area.—It contains an area of fourteen square miles.

Resources.—Amongst the resources of this reserve is farming, the soil being light, dry and sandy, and rendered less productive by a neglect of proper fencing. These

Indians have a bad habit of leaving their "gardens" in the month of July, and allowing their crops to take care of themselves. Fishing and collecting wild fruit are also profitable resources of this band.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indians of this band belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of one hundred and nineteen, consisting of thirty-two men, thirty-five women, and fifty-two children. During the year there have been six births, two deaths, two immigrations and two emigrations, resulting in an increase of four in the year. The causes of the deaths were consumption and old age, and the other changes were through marriage.

Health.—During the past year the health of this band has been very good. No disease of any moment invaded the band. One child died of phthisis, and a non-resident woman of, I believe, old age. No precautions for the preservation of their health are taken by the Indians of this band, and the only result of repeated instructions, is a promise to build larger houses as soon as they are able.

Occupation.—Besides a rudimentary sort of farming, fishing and the gathering of wild fruit, this band last winter was engaged in lumbering on their reserve, and in consequence passed comfortably what would otherwise have been a hard winter. I encourage them to devote much attention to fishing.

Buildings.—The buildings of this band are small, made of logs, and quite insufficient for the number of occupants. There is a prospect that a gradual improvement in this respect will take place. The stock is very small and poor, and the agricultural implements of the simplest kind.

Education.—The number of children of school age is thirty-four, educated at a school taught by a female teacher, holding a third-class certificate. The equipment of the school is very good, it having been recently furnished with a set of desk-seats. The course of study is the one authorized by the department. The discipline of the school is very good and the progress of the pupils is fair. The interest of the parents in education is at present very good, owing, I think, to the presence of an active, energetic teacher.

Religion.—About two-thirds of this band are Roman Catholics, and the rest are Methodists. There are not any pagans in the band. Two churches, one belonging to the Roman Catholics and the other to the Methodists, are in course of erection, but from the progress made, they will, I fear, not be ready for services for some time.

Characteristics.—The main characteristics of this band are indolence and a disregard of cleanliness. With the majority nothing but dire necessity will induce them to work, and as soon as immediate needs are supplied they fall back into sloth and inaction.

Temperance and Morality.—In the band itself the principles of morality and temperance are fairly well observed.

HENVEY INLET RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated on one of the arms or inlets of the Georgian Bay.

Area.—It contains an area of thirty square miles.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are agriculture, fishing and hunting.

Tribe or Nation.—These Indians belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of one hundred and ninety-two, consisting of fifty-six men, fifty-nine women and seventy-seven children. During the year there have been nine deaths and an equal number of births, together with five immigrations and the same number of emigrations. There has consequently been neither increase nor decrease in the band. The causes of the deaths were old age in two cases, inflammation of the bowels in one, and consumption and children's diseases in the remainder. The reasons for the immigrations were as usual marriage, and the transfer of orphans into the family of a relative.

Health and Sanitary Precautions.—The health of the band is at present good. The heavy death-rate of the year was caused by the usual privations of a hard winter. No precautions against disease are taken by this band.

Occupation.—Many of this band engage in fishing, all more or less in primitive agriculture, and the younger men in hunting.

Buildings, &c.—The buildings of this band are of logs. The dwelling-houses are comfortable and clean but such cannot be said of the barns and stables. The agricultural implements are few and simple, consisting of several ploughs and a harrow.

Education.—The number of children of school age is forty-eight. One school, conducted by a male teacher holding a third-class certificate, is well attended during winter. The equipment of the school is old-fashioned, but all that is needed at present. Owing to the distance of the reserve and school from my residence, I cannot report on the discipline, progress, &c., of the school; but from the superior character and ability of the present teacher I judge that both are in a satisfactory condition. The energy of the teacher has, I am glad to say, excited an increased interest in school matters.

Religion.—Nearly three-fourths of this band are Roman Catholics and the remainder Methodists. A Roman Catholic church is, and for several years has been, in course of construction. The observance of the teachings of religion is a marked characteristic of this band.

Characteristics.—The band is hardy, industrious and thrifty. Located on a somewhat sterile reserve and isolated in position, it is gratifying to observe the neatness and cleanliness of attire, the well-nourished and muscular forms of the men and the comely and happy appearance of the women as all appear at muster and pass inspection. With each member of this band it is evident that, apart from the money consideration, annuity pay-day is not the least happy day of the year.

Temperance and Morality.—In this respect the character of this band is all that could be desired.

NIPISSING RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the north shore of Lake Nipissing.

Area.—It contains an area of sixty-four thousand acres.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are: agriculture, lumbering, hunting and employment as guides to tourists.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indians of this band belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of one hundred and eighty-eight, consisting of fifty-one men, fifty-five women, and eighty-two children. During the year there were ten births, five deaths, four immigrations, four emigrations, making an increase of five for the year. All the deaths occurred from diseases peculiar to old age and to children. The immigrations and emigrations were the result of marriages between members of this band and those of the Henvey Inlet Band.

Health.—The health of this band may be considered fairly good, though at the time of my visit there were some cases of sickness. Nothing of an epidemic nature has affected the band, and they ignore all sanitary precautions.

Occupations.—These are numerous and various. Situated on the Canadian Pacific Railway near a divisional point and in the centre of a lumbering district, the occupations available to this band are such that every taste can be suited. Certainly of late labour has been in excess of the demand, but of such work as was to be had this band got a fair share.

Education.—There are forty-one children on the reserve of school age, and one school with a teacher holding a third-class certificate. I regret to have to say that in no way is the school what could be desired or expected. It is hoped that this condition will soon be remedied.

Religion.—This band is composed entirely of Roman Catholics, who worship in a sufficiently large and neat church, whose tall spire is a decided feature on the shore of their lake.

Characteristics.—These Indians are of a superior class: active, energetic, and self-reliant.

Temperance and Morality.—In these respects their character is that of any rural community of the better class. There has been marked improvement during the past few years.

DOKIS RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated at the outlet of Lake Nipissing at the head of the French River.

Area.—It has an area of about twenty-five thousand acres, consisting of two islands.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are agriculture and lumbering. This band formerly engaged extensively in trading, but the facilities for such occupation having, for them, passed away, the older men have turned to farming and the younger ones to lumbering.

Tribe or Nation.—This band nominally belongs to the Ojibbewa nation, but in reality they are half-breeds with a large admixture of French blood.

Vital Statistics.—The population is seventy-five, consisting of nineteen men, thirty women, and twenty-six children. During the year there were three deaths and three births, one emigration and two immigrations. One death resulted from old age, the other two were children, while the other change was the result of the marriage of one of the band with a white woman.

Health.—The health of this band has been exceptionally good.

Occupation.—As stated above, under the head of "Resources," the occupations of this band are farming and lumbering. It is almost needless to state that they make better lumbermen than farmers, as it is quite evident that some of them hold the latter occupation in some contempt.

Buildings.—The buildings on this reserve are only three in number and of these two are poor and small. There is little, if any, stock, and implements are almost *nil*.

Education.—The refusal of the members of this band to dispose of their pine timber, and the jealousy with which the chief has prevented any of the band except three of his sons from settling on the reserve, has resulted in the absence of all educational work. There is no school-house on the reserve, nor any means by which the youth of this band can be taught.

Religion.—All of the Indians of this band are Roman Catholics, but they have no church erected.

Characteristics.—The national characteristics of this band are French rather than Indian. They are intelligent in a certain direction, but in some cases are deficient in common prudence. I base these remarks on their persistent refusal to surrender their pine timber so that it may be sold for their own benefit.

Temperance and Morality.—In these respects the band is most exemplary.

TEMOGAMINGUE BAND.

Location.—No reserve has been yet given to this band. The various members live in a scattered manner around the shores and in the vicinity of Lake Temogamingue, situated about forty miles west of Lake Temiscamingue.

Resources.—Almost the only resource of this band is hunting, and this is fast failing in productiveness. Except in the immediate neighbourhood of the Hudson Bay Company's post on Lake Temogamingue, there is no attempt at farming, and when

remonstrated with on the subject these Indians express their willingness to cultivate the soil as soon as a reserve is definitely given to them, but they hesitate to clear land that may not be within the bounds of such reserve.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indians of this band are pure Ojibbewas.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this band is seventy-eight: twenty-one men, thirty women, and twenty-seven children. During the year there were three deaths and one birth, and marriage and the adoption of an orphan have caused three immigrations and two emigrations.

Health. The health of the band has been good during the year, for though three deaths are reported, one of them occurred during the previous year in a family that was absent in 1895, and consequently not then reported or known to me.

Buildings.—A few houses belonging to this band have been erected on Bear Island. Some are very good, others are very poor, and from observation and information I judge that the bulk of this band lives in tents all the year round.

Education.—There are no facilities for education. These Indians would willingly erect a school-house and appropriate a portion of their annuity money towards the salary of a teacher if they could have a school built on land that was part of their reserve. The want of the reserve is the impediment in educational as well as other matters. I am glad to know that this matter is receiving the attention of the department.

Religion.—This band is composed entirely of Roman Catholics. A church is in course of erection near the Hudson's Bay post, but though it will be used by the members of this band, it cannot strictly be said to belong to them. As my intercourse with them is restricted to a few hours each year, I cannot report on their religious characteristics. They seem, however, to be a class usual among other bands of Indians.

Characteristics.—This band is of an unusually hardy character. Of all the Indians I know, they excel in their ability for long and severe labour with the paddle and in portaging.

Temperance and Morality.—Their character in these respects is altogether satisfactory.

WATHA RESERVE, FORMERLY CALLED "GIBSON RESERVE."

Location.—This reserve is situated between the southern end of Lake Muskoka and Georgian Bay, Lake Huron.

Area.—It contains an area of twenty-five thousand acres.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are agriculture and labour in the lumber woods.

Tribe or Nation.—These Indians are Mohawks, or as they are more generally known, Iroquois. They were originally residents of Oka, P.Q.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of one hundred and twenty-four, consisting of twenty-six men, twenty-four women, and seventy-four children. The number of births during the year was six; number of deaths, one; cause, consumption. Several families have emigrated back to Oka to the extent of seventeen individuals. Consequently there is a total decrease in the band of twelve persons. No reason can be given for such emigration beyond the natural restlessness of this band.

Health. The health of this band has been exceptionally good during the past year.

Occupation.—The band relies chiefly on farming. In winter and early spring the young men find employment in the lumber camps and on drives, and later they act as guides to pleasure and hunting parties.

Buildings.—There have not been any additional buildings erected during the past year.

Education.—One school, taught by a white teacher, under the auspices of the Methodist Missionary Society, is in operation in this band, in which there is a school population of forty-seven children, of whom thirty-nine are entered on the school registe

which shows for June quarter an average daily attendance of sixteen. Considerable improvement has taken place in the progress of the pupils during the year, and more interest in the education of their children is taken by the parents. The equipment of the school is not all that could be desired, but compares favourably with many rural white schools.

Religion.—Three religious denominations unequally claim the adherence of this band. There are one hundred Methodists, twenty-three Plymouth Brethren, and one Roman Catholic. A Methodist missionary is stationed on the reserve, and a church belonging to his denomination has been erected and in operation for a number of years. The interest taken in religion by this band is the same as that taken by any civilized community.

Characteristics and Progress.—This band is the most industrious and progressive of any in this superintendency. A mowing-machine has made its appearance on the reserve, which, considering the virgin nature of the clearings, speaks well for the enterprise of the owner. This with an addition of ten acres of new land brought under cultivation this season, and the general air of comfort and plenty that is evident on all sides, leaves little to be desired in the matters of well-being and progress.

Temperance and Morality.—As far as I can judge, this band is most exemplary in these respects. Two cases of departure from the moral code that were reported to me caused much trouble and distress in the band. This, I take it, indicates a high moral tone generally.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have, &c.,

THOS. S. WALTON,
Indian Superintendent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
POTTAWATTAMIES AND CHIPPEWAS OF WALPOLE ISLAND,
WALLACEBURG, 28th September, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report and tabular statement on the Chippewas and Pottawattamies of Walpole Island, for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Location.—The reserve includes the whole of Walpole Island in the county of Lambton, province of Ontario.

Area.—Estimated at twelve thousand acres fit for cultivation, with natural drainage, and fifty thousand acres of marsh and prairie land, reclaimable for the most part at moderate cost.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are: farming, fruit-growing, market-gardening, fishing and stock-raising.

Vital Statistics.—The Chippewa Band is composed of one hundred and seventy men, one hundred and sixty-five women, one hundred and forty-one boys, one hundred and sixty-three girls; total, six hundred and thirty-nine.

The Pottawattamie Band consists of fifty-two men, fifty-two women, forty-four boys, forty-nine girls; total, one hundred and ninety-seven.

Total, both bands, eight hundred and thirty-six.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The general health has been very good during the year. There have been no epidemics. There have been some cases of typhoid fever and some deaths from that disease. Owing to defective drainage and bad water, there is likely to be a continuance of the disease. Sanitary precautions in the way of premises being kept clean have been pointed out and urged and in most cases have been observed, but not in all cases. Vaccination has been attended to as well as it is possible to perform a duty to which nearly all the Indians are averse and which they will avoid if possible.

Occupation. The Indians are engaged for the most part in agriculture. Those who depend entirely upon farming for a living are getting on and are, many of them, very well-to-do, and very comfortable in their houses, having plenty to eat, and something to sell, together with cattle and horses sufficient for their requirements, and some to sell. Others (too many) depend on making baskets, axe handles, bows and arrows and other things for sale, which is at the best a very uncertain way of making a living, and these latter Indians are always poor and have not many comforts in their homes, and their surroundings are not conducive to long life or present comfort. Effort has been made to persuade them to put some crops in the ground to provide for winter, but with only partial success.

Buildings, Stock and Implements.—The houses are for the most part well and substantially built, and are warm and comfortable enough. There is a great lack of out-buildings (barns and stables), and there is not care enough taken of horses and cattle in the winter, especially horses, which are allowed to run out for the most part through the winter and are in consequence in no condition to work in the spring, so that for the lack of a team that is able to work, many of the Indians are unable to get as much sowing and planting done as they would if their teams were well kept through the winter. This neglect to take care of their horses in the winter applies to all the Indians. I may say there are no exceptions.

As to the cattle, they get on better than the horses without regular feed and warm shelter, but the cattle suffer as well as the horses, and there is not enough provision made for the comfort of stock in the winter season. Neither do they provide sufficient feed for their stock, though there is hundreds of tons of hay more than is ever cut, which could be cut, enough for the support of all the stock they have now or ever will have, the hay supply being practically inexhaustible. There have been large quantities of hay cut within the last three or four years, and a large quantity is being cut this present year, which is very creditable, and for which I have given them due credit and assistance when in my power to do so, but it is all for sale, and scarcely any of it with a view of having plenty of hay for their stock during the winter.

With regard to farming implements, as will be seen by the accompanying tabular statement, the Indians are nearly all pretty well provided for in this particular, and none of them are hindered from working the land by the lack of implements.

Education. With regard to this subject, the importance of which is perhaps greater than any other, I have to report that there are three schools on the reserve, all of which are regularly kept every school day through the year; they are well attended; fair progress is being made in the different branches taught; and the schools are visited regularly by the Inspector of Schools for the county of Lambton, and his directions are carried out to the letter. The schools are also visited by myself, and reports are sent to the department monthly. The school-houses are kept clean, warm and comfortable. They are well supplied with books and school material, and a fair common-school education is within the reach of every child of school age on the reserve, which privilege is being taken advantage of by most of them.

There are a good many of the older and farther-advanced children attending the industrial schools at Shingwauk Home, and at the Mount Elgin (Muncey) Institute, where they have the advantage of being educated and taught to work at farming, and to learn the different trades, as their inclinations or capacity may direct.

The teachers of the three schools on the island are all Walpole Island boys. Two of them were educated at the Shingwauk Home, and one at the Mount Elgin Institute. They are all doing good work in the schools, and no complaints are being made either

by the inspector of schools or the parents of children as to the capacity of the teachers or the work they are doing.

It is due to the management of the two institutions above named, viz., Shingwauk Home and Mount Elgin (Muncey) Institute to report that the greatest care is being manifested for the welfare and advancement of pupils attending these institutions, and the teachers of our three schools are not the only ones who have been sent to them and came back after putting in their time with good records and capable of taking their places and succeeding in whatever calling they may have chosen. I may say further that I have received the utmost kindness from the principals of both of these institutions, and they have always been willing to make room if possible for some boy or girl who needed a home, and for whom I have made application for admission into one or the other of these institutions.

Religion.—There are two churches on the reserve, where services are held every Sunday, viz., the Church of England and the Methodist Church.

No. 1, Chippewa School, is under the auspices of the Church of England, and No. 2, Methodist Mission School, under that of the Methodist Church.

Characteristics and Progress.—The Indians as a whole are not industrious. Many of them are indolent; if it were not so, they might be all rich, as there is a competence within the reach of every one of them.

They have as good land as there is in America, can use as much as they choose of it, they have money enough distributed among them each year to assist them materially in their farming operations, they have markets all around them where they can sell everything and anything they raise, and everything they manufacture. They have no taxes to pay. They have the best stock ranges in Canada, with capacity for supporting unlimited numbers of cattle, and places left to cut hay to feed them all during the winter season, and plenty of land to raise corn and roots to fatten and fit them for sale, all of which is lying idle, and is no use to them any more than it would be if covered with water.

In answer to the inquiry, "Are they becoming richer or poorer?" I beg to report, and am only too glad to be able to report, that they are unquestionably getting on. All of the Indians on the reserve are better in every way than they were twenty years ago, as witness the crops raised in 1895, which are shown in the accompanying tabular statement, which shows an increase over the crops raised in 1894 of seven thousand six hundred and thirty-six bushels, the crop of 1894 having over one thousand five hundred bushels of apples included in the number of bushels, while the apple crop in 1895 was a total failure, and there is not a bushel of apples reported in the crop of 1895. The bushels reported are all grain and roots.

Temperance and Morality.—On this subject I beg to state that with the exception of a few who drink and get drunk, and will continue to do so as long as intoxicants are manufactured and sold, the people of the Walpole Island Reserve are as little addicted to the use of intoxicants as the same number of people of any community in Canada, with as many well-behaved men and women as can be found in the same numbers anywhere, and it is only necessary for any person to attend a church service on Sunday, or a social gathering on a week day, to be convinced of the truth of this statement.

General Remarks.—There are instances of individual progress of which honourable mention might be made, and names given, but there are a great many who are not making much progress but who are the most worthy, honest, honourable men in the world, whose names I could not give in a list of names of individuals who are making good progress, so I do not give any names, hoping that this will be a sufficient reason for not doing so.

I have, &c.,

ALEX. MCKELVEY,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
SIX NATION INDIANS,

BRANTFORD, 24th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR.—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement of the Six Nations Reserve of the Grand River for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

THE SIX NATIONS RESERVE.

Location.—The reserve is located in the township of Tuscarora and part of the township of Onondaga, in the county of Brant, and a portion of the township of Oneida, in the county of Haldimand.

Area.—The reserve contains forty-six thousand one hundred and thirty-three acres.

Resources.—The chief resource of this reserve is agriculture.

Tribe or Nation.—The tribes consist of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Tuscaroras, Cayugas, Senecas and Delawares, all comprising the Six Nations.

Vital Statistics.—There are one thousand and eighty-one men, nine hundred and ninety-five women and one thousand five hundred and ninety-one children, making a total of three thousand six hundred and sixty-seven. There were one hundred and twelve deaths and one hundred and forty births during the year. The increase in population of the reserve remains about the same as in previous years. Consumption continues to be the most frequent cause of death.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians has been generally good. There has been an absence of infectious diseases (save consumption), except that in the month of November last typhoid fever of a severe type broke out in one family, when six members were ill at one time; it was confined to this family. The Indians are using each year more sanitary precautions, such as the destruction by fire of refuse matters and filth by which diseases may be engendered, and using lime whitewash on the buildings. They also realize the importance of having a supply of good water, and cease using surface and ditch water. During the past year several good wells were completed.

Occupation.—The chief means of making a living is by general farming, though many depend greatly upon berry-picking among the white people, and basket-making during the rest of the year.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—During the past year marked improvement has been made in the buildings on the reserve. Since the system of granting loans from the capital money to individual members, on the recommendation of the council of the band, wherewith to improve their respective holdings, has been in operation, many dwellings and barns have been built and repaired, which has been the means of greatly improving the condition of the Indians, as well as increasing their facilities for earning a livelihood from their farms.

The stock and farming implements are increasing in number each year, and with good barns and proper storing places during the winter, great benefit will certainly be derived.

All spring crops were in excess of any previous year. Fall wheat and hay were a poor crop; during the winter most of the Indians were obliged to feed grain to their stock on account of the failure of the hay crop.

Education.—Education is given great attention by the Indians. There are ten schools on the reserve, all well attended. Nine are under the control of the school board, which is composed of :

One	representative of the	Indian Department
Two	do	New England Company
One	do	Methodist Conference
Three	do	Council of the Six Nations

And one Inspector.

And the other school is entirely controlled by the Six Nation Council, which annually appoints three chiefs as trustees to manage the school. The teachers of the school board are Indians, while the teacher of the school under the control of the council is a white man. The school population (six to sixteen years) is six hundred and seventy-four. The buildings and premises are kept in a thorough state of repair. The schools are inspected twice each month by the inspector, who reports each visit to the honorary secretary of the board, and monthly to the Department of Indian Affairs.

Every effort is made to have all children of school age attend regularly. Each teacher is provided with a map or plan of the section, showing where each house is situated, with instructions to visit each home of the children of the section and insist on regular attendance at the school. The result is that parents are taking more interest in the education of their children. The discipline and order are better among the Indian than white children.

Religion.—The Church of England and the Methodist and Baptist Churches have missionaries residing upon the reserve. Divine services are held by the Church of England in seven localities, the Baptist in five, the Methodist in three and the Plymouth Brethren in one. All the services are well attended and great interest is manifested by the Indians in their church and Sunday-school work.

Characteristics and Progress.—The Indians are becoming more industrious every year, as is shown by the interest in their homes and the increase in general farming. They are a most law-abiding people, and have local by-laws on their reserve, which are respected by all. They are steadily progressing.

Temperance and Morality.—There are several temperance societies on the reserve. The use of intoxicants among the Indians is undoubtedly on the decrease.

General Remarks.—The Six Nation Indians are certainly steadily advancing and in most respects are the same as their white neighbours. There are four brass bands on the reserve : all have important engagements among the white people. Large contracts are undertaken and successfully carried out by the Indians, not only on the reserve, but among white men. They hold their annual fall fair and ploughing matches, and take great interest in them. The Indians generally are good ploughmen, and are successful among their white neighbours in carrying off some of the most important prizes. The road-work is well attended to, and the roads kept in good condition, under the direction of forty-three path-masters. The Indians have an insurance system by which the nation pays one-third of the loss by fire, which is assessed by two fire inspectors. During the past year the amount paid for fire losses was unusually light, amounting to eighty-eight dollars and twenty-six cents.

I have, &c.,

E. D. CAMERON,
Superintendent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
 ABENAKIS OF BÉCANCOUR,
 BÉCANCOUR, 30th July, 1896.

The Honourable
 The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
 Ottawa,

SIR.—I have the honour to submit my annual report, accompanied by tabular statement, for the year ended the 30th June, 1896.

Agency.—This agency comprises only the one reserve of Bécancour, in the county of Nicolet.

Area. This reserve contains an area of one hundred and seventy-five acres.

Tribe. The Bécancour Band of Indians is part of the Abenakis tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band is composed of fifty-four members: twenty-one men and thirty-three women. In addition to these, there are seven children. This year there was only one death, and no birth. The band has not undergone any change through either emigration or immigration.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—Most of the Indians have enjoyed good health, and the sanitary conditions under which they live are good. All the members of the band have been vaccinated.

Occupation.—Ten of these Indians cultivate the soil: the greater number make baskets and other articles of a similar nature: two followed the chase and two others acted as guides to American tourists.

Houses and Furniture.—The houses and furniture are not what might be desired. The same may be said of the premises. These Indians do not make any improvements.

Education. Of the ten children of an age to attend school only eight are entered on the roll. There is but one school, conducted by a teacher holding an elementary school certificate. The course of studies followed is that of the public schools of the province of Quebec. The discipline is good and progress satisfactory. The parents do not take sufficient interest in the education of their children.

Religion.—All the members of this band are Roman Catholics; but, having neither church nor missionary, they attend the parish church at Bécancour. Some of them, however, are very neglectful in this respect.

Characteristics and Progress.—As a rule the Indians are fairly industrious; but, owing to their improvidence, they are for the most part poor, even very poor.

Temperance and Morality.—The members of this band are more temperate than formerly, and their morality is good.

I have, &c.,

H. DESILETS,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
 ABENAKIS OF LAKE ST. FRANCIS,
 PIERREVILLE, YAMASKA COUNTY, 27th August, 1896.

The Honourable
 The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
 Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June last.

Vital Statistics.—The Abenakis Band of St. Francis numbers three hundred and seventeen.

Health.—There have not been any contagious diseases amongst these Indians during the past year. Nevertheless there were more deaths than usual.

Education.—The schools on the reserve were well attended during the past year, particularly at the close of the year. Several of the children made decided progress.

Conduct.—The conduct of the Indians generally was better than during the previous year.

Occupation.—Most of them employ their time making baskets and other fancy articles, which they sell at good prices.

Temperance.—The number of Indians addicted to drunkenness has decreased this year and it is to be hoped that next year will see a still greater improvement in this respect.

I have, &c.,

A. A. MONDOU,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
 ALGONQUINS OF RIVER DESERT,
 MANIWAKI RESERVE, 14th August, 1896.

The Honourable
 The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
 Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

The River Desert Agency is so called from the Desert River, which bounds the reserve from the mouth of the Eagle to the Gatineau River.

Maniwaki Reserve.—The reserve comprises the township of Maniwaki.

Location.—This reserve is on the Gatineau River, in the county of Ottawa, province of Quebec, about ninety miles from the city of Ottawa. It is bounded on the east by the Gatineau, on the south by the township of Bouchette, on the west by the county line, on the north-west, and north by the Eagle and Desert Rivers, which separate it from the township of Egan.

Area.—This reserve comprises about forty-five thousand acres. In this area are included several lakes, the Bitobee, Congua, Big Cedar, Little Cedar, Pickanock, &c.

Resources.—The land on the reserve is generally good, and although there is some waste land, the greater portion is well suited for agriculture.

It is believed that there are minerals, especially phosphate, on the reserve, but as it is difficult to obtain a title, there is no encouragement for prospectors to seek for minerals.

The lakes and streams abound with fish. There is yet some merchantable timber, although not much pine. There is considerable cedar, basswood, tamarack and spruce. About three-fourths of the reserve is included in the timber licenses of Messrs. Edwards & Co., and Messrs. Gilmour & Hughson. About six thousand acres are located to Indians, and about fourteen thousand acres are granted or surrendered, leaving more than thirty thousand acres yet available.

Tribe or Nation.—Maniwaki was originally granted to the Algonquins, Têtes des Boules, and Nipissings. The greater part of the Indians are Algonquins from Oka. There are several families of the Têtes des Boules.

Vital Statistics. The present population, as appears on the pay-list, is three hundred and eighty-two, consisting of one hundred and three men, one hundred and seventeen women, and one hundred and sixty-two children, being an increase of three. During the year there were seven births and nine immigrations, and thirteen deaths. Of these three were adults and ten children; they were from the following causes:—consumption, three; pneumonia, three; sunstroke, one; colds, three, and infantile diseases, three.

The immigrants were formerly living on the reserve, and after an absence of fifteen years again joined the band. Besides the number on the pay-list there are about one hundred and ten members who belong to the band but who have been absent from the reserve for more than fifteen years.

Health and Sanitary Measures.—The health of this band has been good for the past year. No contagious or infectious diseases were prevalent. The premises of the Indians have been kept clean. I have furnished each family with lime for white-washing. Every year about the 15th August, when the non-resident Indians are here for the annual festival, those members of the band requiring the operation are vaccinated by the band physician, Dr. Mulligan.

Occupation. About fifty-seven families are located on land. Of this number thirty farm considerably. Among other occupations may be mentioned hunting, in which all engage, more or less, the making of bark canoes and snow-shoes, at which the Desert Indians are very proficient. Several members of the band are always in demand as guides for tourists, explorers and others, and are also good river-drivers and workers in the woods. The women tan moose and deer hides, out of which they make mitts and moccasins. They also make baskets and beaded work for sale.

Buildings, Stock, Farming Implements. Several dwelling-houses have been erected on the reserve since my last report, and some outbuildings. The farmers have been acquiring stock, especially working horses. Among the farming implements purchased recently is a mowing-machine for Chief Peter Tenesco.

Education. There is yet but one school on the reserve. There are about seventy-five children of school age, of whom but fifteen attend school. The teacher, Miss O'Connor, is efficient and painstaking, and her pupils are making good progress. The school is well equipped with desks and seats. Good discipline is enforced. The Indians in general are careless about the education of their children. Even those living in proximity to the school are not regular in attendance.

Religion. The Indians on this reserve belong to the Roman Catholic religion. There are three missionary priests in Maniwaki who devote the greater part of their time to the spiritual welfare of the Indians in summer, travelling more than five hundred miles to visit the different bands between Maniwaki and James's Bay.

There is one large church in Maniwaki for the use of Indians and white people. The ecclesiastical authorities proposed building at their own cost a church for the exclusive use of the Indians, but the latter did not approve of the project, so no action was taken.

The members of the band as a rule attend regularly to their religious exercises.

Characteristics and Progress.—The Indians on this reserve are law-abiding. Some of them are not as industrious in farming as could be desired. Several members of the

band are yearly improving. Among this number may be mentioned the Chief, Peter Tenesco; sub-chief, Michel Comondo; Charles Comondo, Antoine Tenesco, Bazil Otjik, all of whom clear some new land every spring. They have erected new buildings recently and are acquiring stock and farming implements.

Temperance and Morality.—Some of the members of the band are addicted to the use of intoxicants, but the large majority are temperate. Immoral conduct among them is rare and serious crimes are unknown.

I have, &c.,

JAMES MARTIN,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
AMALECITES OF VIGER,
CACOUNA, 29th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward my tabular statement for the year ended the 30th June last, also my annual report for the same period, as follows:—

The Cacouna Reserve consists of merely about half an acre in the village of Cacouna on which the Indians have their houses. They formerly owned the island called Isle Verte and land in the township of Viger, but most of this land was surrendered by them and sold for their benefit.

Tribe.—These Indians belong to the Amalecite tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population is one hundred and twenty-five, consisting of twenty men, thirty-one women, and seventy-four children. During the year there were two births, one death and one immigration, making an increase of two. The immigration was through marriage. There were no emigrations. The causes of death were pneumonia and old age.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The sanitary condition of the Indians during the year has been excellent; they did not suffer from any contagious disease. Their reserve is situated in a village in which the board of health enforces strictly the sanitary regulations ordered by the physician; the Indians are bound to observe the regulations.

Occupation.—Some of the men follow the chase; none of them fish. They are sometimes employed as guides by tourists. The general occupation of the members of this band is the making of baskets and snow-shoes, which art is so general that this tribe has to compete with the work of other Indians who gather during the summer season, which is a great wrong to them. There is no cultivation of the soil worth mentioning, for the reserve contains only about half an acre, it having been purchased simply to provide the Indians with ground for their dwellings.

Education.—The young children attend school fairly regularly, but the parents do not appear to take much interest in the matter; also the parents are often obliged to withdraw the children before they have made much advance on account of the large number of very poor widows who require their children to work for them. There is no school on the reserve; the Indian children are sent to the convent or to the model school at the village. The number of children of school age is thirty-seven.

Religion.—All the members of this band are Roman Catholics. They have neither church nor missionary; they all attend service in the parishes where they live and receive the attention of the priests residing there.

Characteristics and Progress.—As a rule they are industrious and energetic, but they are improvident and they are all poor. They are usually very quiet; but when thwarted, they are very vindictive.

Temperance and Morality.—Few of the men are naturally drunkards: but when travelling they fall into excess when they can procure liquor. They are frank and honest and are well civilized.

I have, &c.,

NARCISSE LEBEL,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
HURONS OF LORETTE,
JEUNE LORETTE, 16th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, last.

General Aspect of the Village.—The Huron village of Jeune Lorette maintains its antique appearance which suits it very well. Its little church, one of the oldest on the continent, with its precious relics, souvenirs of the French regime; its small but tidy houses: its site admirable and admired: the imposing water-fall roaring at its feet; the forest background: all make it a very attractive place to tourists. The Huron village is almost legendary: it will celebrate in the month of September next year the two hundredth anniversary of its existence.

Area of the Three Reserves belonging to the Huron Tribe.—The Huron tribe owns three reserves: (1) the village reserve, containing an area of 40 arpents, upon which most of the band reside; (2) the reserve called the "Quarante Arpents," which, as the name indicates, contains one thousand six hundred arpents*; those who cultivate the soil reside on this reserve; (3) the reserve in the seigniory of Rocmont, county of Port-neuf, which, according to the title deeds, has an area of fifteen square miles. This reserve is at present under license to Mr. Rousseau of Ste. Anne de la Pêrade for the spruce and pine timber. This license will expire on the 30th of April next.

On the two reserves first mentioned some houses are rented to white men who work for the Indians. The leases made with these white men are registered at the department.

Vital Statistics.—The population last year was four hundred and nine. This year there have been six deaths,—two women from consumption, and four children: reducing the population to four hundred and three. On the other hand there have been nineteen births, making the present population four hundred and twenty-two, as follows:—

Men.....	94
Women.....	94
Children.....	234
Total.....	422

* In the province of Quebec amongst the French Canadians, land is frequently measured by the length of the side of an acre, so that the expression "Quarante Arpents" (40 acres), means measuring 40 acres in one direction, by 40 acres in another direction = 40 x 40 = 1,600 acres.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—In few places are the sanitary conditions more favourable. No epidemic has ever brought distress and death among our people. The sanitary precautions adopted by the tribe and approved by the Governor General in Council in 1891 have had full effect ; during the whole year the people have been exceptionally fortunate in this respect.

Occupation.—As I have said in previous reports, the chief industry and means of earning a livelihood followed by the people is the making of moccasins, snow-shoes and fancy wares. I believe the Huron tribe has a monopoly in the manufacture of these articles. If the quantity of these wares that they make were not subject to a competition as ruinous as unscrupulous, our people would undoubtedly live in comparatively enviable ease and would be able to enjoy such comfort as their energy for work deserves. Unfortunately the work is not so remunerative as it used to be in past years. What was worth \$3 ten years ago will not sell for half that price to-day. Fancy wares have almost no value now, they are given away. This, however, does not gainsay the fact that the energy for work is still the same ; only instead of working for seven or eight hours a day, the people are obliged to work from twelve to fifteen hours a day to enable them to procure the necessaries of life.

There is another occupation which I might class under this heading, that is, the employment of our hunters and fishermen as guides during almost all seasons of the year. The Huron Indians have always been noted in this respect, and when travellers undertake a journey over our lakes and through the distant forests on the north shore in the province of Quebec, they are very careful to engage in advance some of our experienced Hurons, whom they pay handsomely. At certain seasons of the year, especially during winter, it is nothing unusual to see three-quarters of our men accompanying gentlemen. They then earn on an average \$1.25 a day, clear of all expenses. This is luck for them. Recently I heard a distinguished traveller praising the Huron guides.

Such of our Indians as are in the habit of hunting and fishing on their own account—and there are many, for this is the nature of the Indian—are becoming more and more discouraged owing to the great difficulty which they meet in following the game and finding the fish. Nearly all the lakes where they were accustomed to fish freely have been put under license by the provincial government. The establishment of the National Park has deprived them of the liberty of hunting as they please, and if one should attempt to break the law he would render himself liable to be severely punished and to lose his ammunition and hunting outfit. They intend appealing to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for an exemption in this respect.

Agriculture.—The Quarante Arpents Reserve would be very suitable for agriculture if those who try to make a living out of the soil for their families could, while working it, make use of advantageous and more productive improvements ; but they are obliged to limit themselves by whatever they can earn while working elsewhere than on their own lands : they never make the progress they might if they had the means to follow improved methods of farming, as they have not the money to provide them ; this, together with bad harvests in succession, tends to make them forsake agriculture. Only five or six families follow a life of farming, and without much success, and every year they are obliged to take other means to provide necessaries for their families. Last year the harvest was almost a complete failure, and with the exception of potatoes these farmers had to buy seed grain at a high price.

Education.—I am happy to observe the marked progress in teaching and education among the youth of our village since my last report. Thanks to the wise and devoted spirit of the department, we have now two teachers instead of one. The school is divided into two classes, one for the boys, the other for the girls. This system has worked very well, and I do not believe that any other arrangement of the classes could have better results.

It affords me pleasure to say that the girls' class, conducted by Miss E. St. Amand, an intelligent, educated and devoted teacher, deserves special mention. Her method of teaching, which is in accordance with the instructions of the department, has been followed by surprising results, especially in reading, arithmetic, geography and history.

The teacher in charge of the boys' class, Miss Dubeau, has not been rewarded with such satisfactory results, but still she is very faithful and painstaking, and deserves credit for what she has done.

An average of eighty-three pupils attended the classes—thirty-seven boys and forty-six girls. This is almost the full number of children of an age to attend school.

Both teachers hold diplomas for elementary schools. They teach reading, history, geography, arithmetic, catechism and English.

Our school is perfectly furnished, and well supplied with books and everything necessary to its proper working. The repairs made during the course of the year have made it very comfortable, and it is always kept in perfect order.

The parents have reason to be and are proud of the marked progress made by a number of their children during the year, and they were pleased with the prizes brought home by the children. This encouragement cannot do otherwise than stimulate the zeal of both for the progress of education.

Religion. - With the exception of five, all the Indians are warmly attached to the Roman Catholic religion, whose service is conducted in the ancient chapel that I mentioned in the beginning of this report. The missionary in charge is the Rev. Abbé Guil. Giroux.

Temperance and Morality.—Thanks to the constant vigilance exercised by authority in the village, there have not been any of those disturbances which one had to regret in the past. There were some isolated cases of intemperance, and some people spoke of making a complaint; but when I asked them to lay a regular information before me so that the offenders might be punished, they obstinately refused. I therefore thought that they had no reason for going any further with the matter. Moreover the threats of prosecution and the prosecution itself would have had less effect than the means of persuasion which I employed to put a stop to these disturbances through intemperance.

Character and Progress.—The Huron Indians, as a rule, are fond of hunting and fishing. This taste is instinctive with them. When not engaged in these occupations they employ their time diligently making snow-shoes, bark and canvas canoes, moccasins, &c. The skill of the women in using moose hair and ash in making baskets and all kinds of articles is the admiration of everybody. There are even some old women eighty years of age who have not lost their skill, but exhibit it in a marvellous manner. The tribe feels the general depression in business, and there has not been any special progress among those engaged in trade.

Composition of Agency.—To the Huron tribe I would add thirty-one Indians of the Amalecite tribe, residing in the county of Quebec, and who have no reserve. They live by trading, hunting and fishing, and do not farm at all. I have also fourteen Abenakis of St. Francis, residing in the county of Quebec, and thirty Micmacs and Abenakis in the county of Charlevoix, living by hunting and fishing, and who farm very little; also an old Algonquin woman, seventy-eight years of age, who is supported by public charity, and to whom the department makes a monthly allowance of \$5. The number of Indians in my agency is, therefore, four hundred and ninety-eight.

I have, &c.,

ANTOINE O. BASTIEN,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
IROQUOIS OF CAUGHNAWAGA,
CAUGHNAWAGA, 29th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 30th June last in regard to the agency of the Iroquois of Caughnawaga, also tabular statement respecting the affairs of the tribe.

Area of Caughnawaga Reserve.—This reserve has an area of twelve thousand acres, of which four thousand four hundred are under cultivation, about four thousand in timber and the remainder in underbrush. Most of the soil on the reserve is of good quality.

Resources.—The resources of the reserve consist of agriculture and quarrying stone.

Tribe or Nation.—These Indians belong to the Iroquois tribe.

Vital Statistics.—There are on the reserve four hundred and sixty-six men, four hundred and sixty-five women, and nine hundred and fifty-eight children under twenty-one years of age. There have been eighty-seven births and sixty-six deaths during the year. The decrease in the population this year compared with last year is owing to the fact that some families that had been absent for some time were entered in the census as temporarily absent, but this year I had to deduct their names on account of their prolonged absence. There has not been any remarkable emigration during the year.

Sanitary Condition.—The sanitary condition of the tribe has been pretty good, as a result of the precautions prescribed by the board of health having been attended to. There has been no epidemic on the reserve.

Occupation.—Some of the Indians engage in farming, others take rafts down the rapids; others, again, act as pilots in running the rapids. Some of them sell medicine in the United States and elsewhere and engage in various occupations: work on barges, in the manufacture of lacrosses and snow-shoes, etc.

Buildings.—The buildings of the Indians in the village and on the farms are very suitable for the care of their stock.

Farming Implements.—Nearly all the Indians are provided with farming implements.

Education.—On this reserve there are four hundred and twelve children of school age. Of this number about two hundred attend school very irregularly. Only very little progress is made by most of them. There are two Roman Catholic schools—one for the boys, with a master, and one for the girls, with a mistress and assistant.

There is a Methodist school for boys and girls, with a master. The pupils in the Roman Catholic schools are at present being taught in standard IV. The equipment of the schools is satisfactory. The discipline and order in the Roman Catholic schools are good. For the most part the parents do not seem to take much interest in the education of their children, and do not send them regularly to school.

Religion.—There are on the reserve one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two Roman Catholics, two missionaries and one Roman Catholic church; and twenty-seven Methodists, with a clergyman and a school-house used as a church. The Indians take great interest in their religion.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians are industrious, but all the same they do not appear to make much progress in material welfare.

Temperance and Morality.—There certainly has not been any progressive movement in temperance, but the morality of the tribe has improved.

Improvements.—The improvements in the water-courses and roads made during the past year have been of great benefit to the people living on that part of the reserve in the draining of their lands and in the transport of their produce.

General Remarks.—The affairs of the band generally are in a very satisfactory condition, and the Indians are quiet.

I have, &c.,

A. BROSSEAU,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,

IROQUOIS OF ST. REGIS,

ST. REGIS, 29th July, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit my report and tabular statement for the year ended the 30th June, 1896.

Location.—The St. Regis Reserve is in the township of Dundee, Huntingdon county.

Area. It contains an area of four thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine acres.

Tribe or Nation. The Indians of this band are Iroquois.

Vital Statistics. This band has a population of one thousand two hundred and fifty-four, consisting of four hundred and four men, three hundred and fifty-nine women, and four hundred and ninety-one children. The number of births during the year was thirty-eight, deaths twenty, immigrations seven and emigrations two; increase, twenty-three. The immigrations and emigrations have been the result of marriage.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The Indians mostly die from lung disease. There are frequently cases of whooping cough, measles or chicken-pox among the children. As a rule the Indians keep their premises quite neat and clean.

The vaccination has not been a success, as they are opposed to it.

Occupation.—Basket making, lacrosse-making, hunting, fishing, acting as guides to tourists. Farming in general is in fair progress, improving gradually from year to year.

Buildings, Stock, Farming Implements, &c.—They are still improving their houses and outbuildings. Their principal stock is horses and cattle; no sheep. They are inclined to take more interest in horses than in cows, which I consider is not to their benefit. As to farming implements of all kinds, they are well supplied.

Education.—The number of children of school age is two hundred and eighty-seven, number of schools five, four Roman Catholic and one Protestant; well located for convenience. Grade of teachers, elementary course of studies taught: first, second and third grades. Equipment of schools, good. Discipline and order, fair. Progress of pupils, not satisfactory owing to the lack of interest taken by the parents in sending, consequently progress cannot be expected, for the following reasons: first—they have to learn the English language, which requires years; second—one day at school and three days out of school is not of much use; third—when in school they are taught in English; when out of school they return to their native tongue; fourth—there are children of school age and over that never have attended school.

Religion.—Roman Catholics, one thousand one hundred and sixteen; missionary, Rev. M. Mainville. Methodists, one hundred and thirty-eight; Rev. E. Tennant, residence, Cornwall, Ont. Two churches—one Roman Catholic and one Protestant. The Indians appear to be sincere in their religious belief.

Temperance.—There are many of them that do not make use of intoxicants, and others will if they can be had.

Morality.—Very good, although some few cases of bigamy.

Characteristics.—They are developing gradually, an improvement being noticeable in the partial adoption of the customs of the country and in the increased reverence shown for the laws.

Individual Progress.—Mitchell Benedict resides on Cornwall Island; age about eighty years; is one of the most prosperous farmers on the island. He occupies about one hundred and thirty-five acres—under cultivation about seventy acres, the rest under second growth timber and pasturage. House, size, 24 x 36; kitchen attached, 24 x 18; also clapboarded and painted. Storehouse, 30 x 24; two corn cribs, 18 x 12; horse barn, 36 x 24; barn, 30 x 40; cow stable attached, 40 x 12. Cattle, twenty-eight head; horses, four. Buildings, land, etc., all in very fair condition.

Louis Benedict, son of Mitchell Benedict, teacher of the Protestant school, Cornwall Island, occupies about fifty acres of land in good condition. House, 22 x 18; kitchen attached, 15 x 20; horse barn, 16 x 24; barn, 30 x 40; all in good condition. He has seven head of cattle and four horses.

Mitchell Jacob, ex-chief, occupies about forty acres of land on Cornwall Island, about half under cultivation, the remainder under second growth timber and pasture. House, 30 x 20; kitchen attached, 20 x 16; barn and stable, 56 x 30. Cattle, eleven head; horses, three. This Indian manufactures about forty-five dozen lacrosse sticks during the year, which sell at \$10 a dozen; he also makes about \$250 from the sale of baskets made by his family.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE LONG,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,

LAKE TEMISCAMINGUE INDIANS,

NORTH TEMISCAMINGUE, 25th August, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

I have but little change to report as to the condition of the Indians on this reserve.

Vital Statistics.—There have been seven deaths and the same number of births during the year, although there is an increase of twenty-two, this owing merely to the return to the reserve of Indians who formerly belonged to this band, they having been living away from the reserve until now.

General Progress.—In regard to living, these Indians are doing very well, although considering their opportunities they might have done better still. They appear to be more inclined to improve their little clearances. The department having supplied them with new seed oats, pease and timothy, also farming implements, gave them great encouragement to work at their farms. They had very fair crops last fall, especially potatoes.

I have not seen an intoxicated Indian this summer so far.

The fur-hunting of the Indians is becoming less every year.

Education.—The children are attending school very fairly and are making good progress. The number attending school is forty-nine, daily average attendance twenty-seven.

I have, &c.,

A. McBRIDE,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
MICMACS OF MARIA, BONAVENTURE COUNTY,
MARIA, 30th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit my annual report for the year ended 30th June last accompanied by tabular statement for the same period.

Health.—Since last year the Indians in my agency have suffered very much from illness. Several have died and others will soon follow them.

Material Condition.—There is never much material progress amongst my Indians. It will need some new blood, I think, before these people will become prosperous.

I have, &c.,

J. GAGNÉ, Priest,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
MONTAGNAIS OF LAKE ST. JOHN,
POINTE BLEUE, 19th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit my annual report to the 30th June last.

Vital Statistics.—The men number two hundred and forty, and the women two hundred and seven. During the year there were thirteen deaths and sixteen births. The absence of some families in the interior is the cause of a decrease of twenty-eight.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—As a rule the Indians do not enjoy good health, and they are scrofulous. Consumption is almost epidemic amongst them; every year some of them fall victims to it. During the present year there has not been a single case of fever. Dr. F. Fluhmann vaccinated the Indians last summer.

Occupation.—In winter most of the members of this tribe live by hunting and fishing. In summer they act as guides to tourists and make bark canoes, moccasins, mitts, &c. A few work on their farms all the year round. Improvement is apparent among the latter; their houses are kept in better order, some families even provide themselves with the luxury of a drawing-room, something hitherto unknown amongst them; one man has supplied himself with improved agricultural machinery.

Education.—There are ninety children of school age; the attendance is small compared with this number. The parents are very indifferent about what concerns the future of their children. The half-breeds are improving in this respect. The teaching is conducted in French, English and Montagnais. A qualified teacher teaches in our single school, which is well equipped in every respect. The discipline is good and progress fair.

Religion.—There are two churches on the reserve. One is used by the Roman Catholics, and the other by the Protestants. Two Roman Catholic missionaries reside

in the place. A Protestant clergyman makes several visits during the year. These Indians are Christians.

Characteristics and Progress—As has always been the case, the Indians do not trouble themselves much about material goods; they are somewhat philosophical on this subject. All the same, they appear to live more comfortably and they are better dressed than formerly. Alas, strong drink is always making its direful ravages. The law, in spite of its severe penalties, is impotent to control such disorder. Immorality often follows drunkenness.

General Remarks.—Left to themselves, the Indians are generally quiet and peaceful; but when some one tries to disturb them, they are easily excited. Liquor-dealers often avail themselves of this fact and set the Indians against the authorities, and so in this indirect manner obtain a small revenge.

I have, &c.,

L. E. OTIS,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
MICMACS OF RESTIGOUCHE,
CAMPBELLTON, N.B., 15th September, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—In making a report for the year 1895-96, I have little to add to my report of last year.

Occupation.—It is lucky for the Micmac tribe of Restigouche Reserve that so many of the band are employed in the woods making lumber and driving the same in the spring to the different mills along the Restigouche River, where they receive also employment in summer time, and where they may command fair wages on account of their skill. The crop this year is about half what it was last year and the hay is a complete failure. This state of affairs will force the Indians of my agency to kill or part with a considerable number of their stock.

Vital Statistics.—The decrease in the population this year is not so much due to mortality as to the emigration of some families to other parts of the county or to the United States, some families seeking a better living outside of the reserve.

I have, &c.,

V. J. A. VENNER, M.D.,
Indian Agent.

NEW BRUNSWICK,
NORTHERN DIVISION,
FREDERICTON, 31st July 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended the 30th June, 1896.

TOBIQUE RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated at the junction of the Tobique and St. John Rivers, in the county of Victoria, N.B.

Vital Statistics.—The population thereon is one hundred and ninety-four, a decrease of six compared with returns for last year. The births were six, while the deaths were nine, five adults and four children, the cause of death in most cases being lung trouble. It is sad at times the number of Indians that suffer and are carried off by consumption. In fact, it seems to be almost contagious amongst those of the Amalecite tribe.

Industries. The business engaged in by the band is much the same as stated in last year's report, namely, the manufacture of Indian wares, lumbering, stream driving, running rafts, hunting and farming. Lumbering being carried on extensively in this section of country, quite a number of Indians find extensive employment thereat at good wages. Another means of employment that proves profitable to Indians of this band, especially in summer season, is acting as guides. The remainder of the band, owing to age, &c., confine their labours to the manufacture of all kinds of Indian wares, which are disposed of in the surrounding district. With the exception of a few, all of the band are an active, industrious, and a self-supporting body of men.

Sanitary Measures.—Conforming to your instructions of the 18th March last, the band removed all refuse matter from, in, and about their dwellings in May. The buildings on the reserve are isolated from each other, the water for domestic purposes is pure: this, coupled with the neatness of their houses, makes a healthful place to reside at.

Agriculture.—Although land is plentiful and very fertile, most of the band prefer any other employment to farming. The cause of this is that the returns are too far off. What all Indians require is an immediate return of payment for their labour. The principal farming done last year was confined to raising sufficient oats, buckwheat, potatoes and some garden produce to supply their wants. The Indians of this reserve are very much given to keeping horses: at present there are at least fifteen on the reserve. They as a rule are all good animals, and in good condition. Most of these are used for conveying their wares from town to village for disposal. The potatoes raised last year were free from rust, and other crops were a good average.

Education.—This department for the past year was under the supervision of Miss Edith O'Brien, a teacher who holds a second-class provincial license. The number of pupils enrolled for the four quarters of the term ranged from twenty-nine to thirty-four, with an average of over fifteen for the year. The school, excepting holiday season and holy days, was regularly taught, the sessions each day being three hours in the forenoon and two in the afternoon. The subjects taught are spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, drawing, &c. Most of the children, especially those who attend regularly, display a fair knowledge of their studies. I have to report that parents do not take as lively an interest in educational matters as they should, and were it not for

the interest manifested in school affairs by their missionary, the Rev. M. A. O'Keeffe, matters would be worse.

Religion.—The Indians at Tobique are all Roman Catholics. They have a neat church finished with all modern improvements. Recent improvements made in connection with church land and graveyard, by the erection of a picket fence, add very much to the appearance of the place, and give entire satisfaction to the band.

EDMUNDSTON RESERVE.

Location and Area.—This reserve, situated at Little Falls, in the county of Madawaska, N.B., consists of between four and five hundred acres of land. It fronts on the River St. John, and is largely made up of intervale and high lands. The situation is beautiful; the land good, sufficiently so to support twenty families if properly worked.

Vital Statistics.—There are seven families who own land and live at this place. Their total number is thirty-nine, being an increase of two since my last report.

Occupation.—Their occupation is confined to the making of Indian wares, hunting, &c. They do more or less farming on their own account. The greater part of their lands they let out on shares to white neighbours, the proceeds of which with their other industries supply the wants of their families. Intemperance, I am informed, is unknown amongst them; their homes are neat and clean, and judging from every appearance they are comfortable and happy, excepting a very aged couple, whose wants have to be provided for at certain times.

Health.—This band enjoyed good health for the past year.

I have, &c.,

JAMES FARRELL,

Indian Agent.

NEW BRUNSWICK

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION,

RICHIBUCTO, 15th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I beg to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Location of Agency.—This agency comprises the north-eastern portion of the province of New Brunswick and includes the counties of Restigouche, Gloucester, Northumberland, Kent, Westmoreland and King's.

Reserves.—There are in this district the following reserves, viz., Eel River Reserve, in Restigouche county; Bathurst and Pockmouche Reserves, in Gloucester; Burnt Church, Tabusintac, Eel Ground, Red Bank, Big Hole, Indian Point, and Renous Reserves, in Northumberland; Big Cove, Indian Island and Buctouche Reserves, in Kent; and Shediac and Fort Folly, in Westmoreland county. Of these Pockmouche, Tabusintac, Big Hole, Renous and Shediac Reserves are not occupied by the Indians.

Area.—These reserves cover an area of about eighteen thousand acres. Bathurst, Tabusintac, Big Hole and Red Bank are well wooded.

Tribe.—The Indians of this superintendency belong to the Micmac tribe and comprise all the Indians of that tribe in the province of New Brunswick.

Vital Statistics.—I have been very careful in taking the census this year, and find the number of Indians in the agency on the 30th June last to be nine hundred and sixteen. This shows a decrease of forty from the preceding year. The decrease has taken place in the counties of King's and Westmoreland, where many of the Indians do not have a settled place of abode, but wander from place to place wherever they can find the most convenient locality for begging or disposing of their wares. When the census was taken this year many of these Indians were in Nova Scotia and Maine, and could not be enumerated. Big Cove, on the Richibucto, one of the finest reserves in the province, has the largest population, namely, two hundred and sixty-seven. Burnt Church, on the Miramichi, follows with two hundred and twelve, Eel Ground one hundred and forty-two, Red Bank fifty-three, Eel River fifty-three, Fort Folly forty-three, Indian Island thirty-two, Bathurst thirty, Buctouche twenty-four, scattered sixty.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—I am pleased to report that there have been no infectious or contagious diseases or epidemics among these Indians during the year, unless we class consumption as such. Fully eighty per cent of the deaths that have occurred have been due to pulmonary complaints. The Indians took pains in the spring to remove and burn all the garbage and filth that had congregated near their dwellings during the winter.

Occupation. The principal occupations are fishing, farming and the manufacture of Indian wares. Those who reside at or near the coast give the greatest part of their attention to fishing. They are in general good fishermen, and do quite as well as their white neighbours engaged in the business. Farming is engaged in to a greater extent by those living further inland. Potatoes are the principal product. This crop is more easily raised, requiring less work and attention, and the land generally being better adapted to it than to other crops. Many of the Indians, principally those living up the Miramichi River, get good wages in the spring and summer at the lumber-mills and shipping wharfs and for stream-driving. Others act as guides to sportsmen up the Miramichi and Nepisiquit Rivers.

Buildings, &c. The majority of the Indians living on the reserves occupy frame houses, but those who have no settled place of abode, in Westmoreland and King's counties, live in rude huts or shanties. These huts afford but little protection from the cold, and are often over-crowded, dirty and unhealthful. The Indians do not keep much farm stock or many farm implements about them.

Education.—There are in the superintendency one hundred and ninety-five Indian children between the ages of six and sixteen. There are two schools, one at Burnt Church and the other at Eel Ground. About thirty pupils attend these schools. Mr. Flanagan, who conducts the Burnt Church school, holds a second-class provincial license, as does also Mr. Flinne, teacher at Eel Ground. These schools are fairly well equipped and managed, and are doing good work. The course of study and books prescribed by the provincial board of education are in use. The great difficulty in the way of education is to induce the pupils to attend school after they reach the third or fourth grades. A school-house is being erected at Big Cove, where there are sixty-five children of school age, none of whom have ever attended a school. It will be ready for occupation in September. A few of the children in other reserves attend neighbouring district schools.

Religion.—These Indians are all of the Roman Catholic faith, and manifest a deep interest in their religion. Much credit is due their pastors for the interest taken by them in the bands under their charge and the influence for good which they exert. There are churches at Big Cove, Indian Island, Burnt Church, Eel Ground and Red Bank.

Progress and Characteristics.—I regret that I am unable to report as much progress among these Indians as I would wish. They are as a rule, a law-abiding, easy-going, indolent race, never looking out for to-morrow so long as they have enough for to-day. I have endeavoured to impress upon them the necessity of saving from their crops enough seed for planting in the following spring, but my advice has in most cases been thrown away. There are not more than a dozen Indians in the whole superintendency who

show a disposition to provide for the future. It is noticeable that those who live farthest from a town or village are usually the most progressive.

Temperance and Morality.—Through the influence of their pastors, the majority of the Indians are strictly temperate. There are others, however, whom no teaching will prevent getting drunk whenever an opportunity offers. I have endeavoured to prohibit the sale of liquor to Indians, but while the local liquor-dealers will not sell directly to them, they manage to get liquor indirectly from sailors and on board fishing-vessels. They are, as a rule, quite as moral in other respects as their white neighbours.

I have, &c.,

WM. D. CARTER,
Indian Agent.

NEW BRUNSWICK,
SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION,
FREDERICTON, 31st July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to present my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

KINGSCLEAR RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated eleven miles distant from Fredericton.

Vital Statistics.—It contains a population of one hundred and three, being a decrease of four compared with returns of last year. The births for the year were six. The deaths were six—three adults and three children. In most cases death was the result of lung trouble.

Industries.—The Indians of this band engage in the manufacture of all kinds of Indian wares, farming, river-driving and work in the woods. Last spring, prior to the farming season, quite a number hired for stream-driving; this work usually lasts about a month, at wages ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day and board. The Indian wares manufactured by the band, which is their principal business, are disposed of at Fredericton and to farmers in the vicinity of the reserve. The Indians take from the latter in return for their wares, provisions and produce of the farm. They prefer this trade to that of the city of Fredericton, where, in consequence of an over-stocked market, they cannot realize at times half the value of the article offered for sale. This dulness of trade and the fact that this is the source from which they derive the most of their income, leads them to seek other markets, hence their migratory habits and visits, particularly in the summer season, to watering-places that are frequented by pleasure-seekers, to whom they sell fancy wares at double the prices to be obtained at home. Some of them that are experts at the business make considerable money, whilst others do not improve their condition, yet this habit is very agreeable to their taste.

Agriculture.—This reserve is favourably situated for farming; about half of the band take an active interest in this pursuit, whilst the remainder prefer other employment. The crops planted last year consisted of potatoes, buckwheat, oats, beans, pease and garden vegetables. The produce raised by those who had manure for the land was a fair yield, whilst that of those who depended on the soil without proper fertilizing was not nearly so good. A few of the Indians are paying more attention to the raising

of cattle, a stock that is much needed for successful farming. The hay crop, owing to drought and the condition of the soil, was rather poor.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The cleansing of premises received attention last May. The reserve is well situated from a southern point of view, being in a country district, on a slope of a hill, where there is a natural drainage and a good supply of pure water for domestic purposes, which tends to make it a healthful place for the band. During the year the band was free from diseases of a contagious nature.

Education. For the past year the school was under the supervision of Miss Frances McGinn, a second-class teacher. There are twenty-three children on the reserve of an age to attend school. The number enrolled during the four quarters ranged from sixteen to twenty three, and there was an average for the year of over seventeen. The branches taught are spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, drawing, &c. In all of these, owing to the perfect attendance, the children are making good progress. This school has been regularly taught throughout the term.

Buildings. All the buildings are in good condition.

Religion. The parish church is situated in the centre of the reserve, where the parishioners of French Village and the band worship together. The church is neatly furnished both inside and outside. Their graveyard is connected with the church grounds. The children are regular attendants at Sunday-school. The priest, the Rev. William O'Leary, resides within a few rods of the church. His fatherly care is largely devoted to the spiritual and temporal care of the band; hence the good moral standing of the Indians, as well as the satisfactory attendance and general progress of the school.

ST. MARY'S RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated in St. Mary's parish, directly opposite.

Area. St. Mary's Reserve in size is two and one-quarter acres. It has, erected thereon, eighteen dwellings. Considering its surroundings it is not a desirable place for Indians. A few families, since the purchase of lands at Oromocto, are removing to that place. In time it is to be hoped that others will do likewise.

Occupation.—The occupation of these Indians is principally the manufacture of all sorts of Indian wares. Most of the articles are sold by times at fair prices to citizens of Fredericton and Marysville. Other Indians of the band engage at certain seasons of the year in stream-driving. Some load deals in scows at the Nashwaak River, at wages ranging from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day. In former years, hunting, fishing and the moccasins trade produced part of their income, but since the manufacture of oil-tanned shoe packs, commenced in Fredericton, this business is not engaged in to any extent by the Indians; consequently, whilst the condition of the Indians is not much improved, they are to be commended for the way they manage to support their families with the limited means at their command.

Farming. This industry is confined to the raising of potatoes and vegetables in gardens in connection with their dwellings. The produce raised only supplies their immediate wants during the summer and fall months.

Education. This department was under the supervision of Miss M. I. Rush for the past year. There are twenty children on the reserve that should attend school. There have been from sixteen to twenty pupils enrolled for the four quarters of the term, showing an average for the year of over eleven. The subjects taught are spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, &c. Some of the pupils who attend regularly are making fair progress; others who absent themselves, often detained for trifling causes by parents, are not doing so well. The health and comfort of the children have been amply provided for by the department. The school-buildings are in good condition.

Vital Statistics.—The population on this reserve is one hundred and twenty one, being a decrease of ten for the year. This reduction is caused by the removal of Indians to other parts of the agency. There were eight births during the year. The deaths

were two; both cases were infants. In connection with the deaths on this reserve, I am pleased to report that all of the band enjoyed good health for the year past.

Sanitary Measures.—The department's instructions in this respect were adhered to by the band, and all refuse matter was removed from their yards and premises by the 1st June last. The water used for domestic purposes is supplied by Mr. Hanneberry, the boom agent, from an artesian well in his yard that adjoins the reserve.

Temperance.—I beg to report that notwithstanding that the temptations are numerous in this locality, yet excepting a few worthless characters, I have to state that the majority of the band seldom indulge in the use of intoxicants, moreover, although poor, they observe law and order and command the respect and sympathies of their white neighbours.

WOODSTOCK RESERVE.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this reserve situated three miles below the town of Woodstock, together with that of a place called Hard Scrabble, two miles above the town of Woodstock, during the fiscal year was seventy-three, a decrease of nineteen as compared with returns of last year. This decrease was chiefly due to the removal of three families to Haulton, in the State of Maine, after the census enumeration for last year. There was one birth during the year and three deaths; one child and two adults. In each case death was the result of lung trouble. It is most singular the amount of suffering and deaths that is caused amongst the Indians of my superintendencies by consumption. I can safely assert that three-fourths of the deaths are traceable to this cause.

Occupation.—The business engaged in by the band is principally the manufacture of Indian wares that are readily sold at fair prices in the town of Woodstock, and to farmers in the vicinity of the reserve. Although there are two hundred and sixty acres of land in the reserve, of which there are not less than thirty acres of same fronting on the River St. John that in every respect is well adapted for farming purposes, yet the Indians living thereon pay but little attention to this industry. In fact, the only crops raised are some potatoes, oats, and a few vegetables, whilst the rest of the land is turned into pasturage for their horses. They, like most of the Indians of New Brunswick, prefer the sale of a basket to this mode of employment.

Characteristics.—These Indians are as a rule free from intemperance. Their morals are good. The clergy manifest a deep interest in the Indians in all sections of the agency. Some of the band make an easy living, whilst others, in consequence of sickness and loss of their best friends, find it difficult to eke out a living.

OROMOCTO BAND.

Vital Statistics.—The population at this place is forty-three, an increase of seven for the year. There was one birth and one death during the year past.

Occupation.—These Indians derive their living from the sale of Indian wares to farmers in the vicinity of the reserve and employment at a small mill in the parish of Berton.

Reserve.—Their position is much the same as last year. For years past they have lived on land owned by Mr. W. H. Staten; they are now removing to a reserve recently purchased for them by the department, with which they are greatly pleased. On the 18th June last, I laid off and allotted to each family a piece of land ninety by two hundred and forty feet, for residence and tillage, whereon they can raise sufficient crop to form a part of their living, providing they take advantage of this industry. The place is clean and healthy. In consequence of their mode of living, however, there has been a good deal of sickness among them during the past season.

General Remarks.—The rest of the Indians of the Western Agency are located at upper and lower Gagetown, Queen's county, Apohaqui, King's county, St. Andrews,

Charlotte county, and a few at Milford, St. John, N.B. These follow the same occupation as all other Indians; unless and with the exception of a few, they being without lands, take no interest in farming. Their wares, which are their sole dependency for a living, are disposed of in their respective localities, and in the city of St. John. As a rule most of these Indians are self-supporting, except when overtaken by sickness.

In conclusion, I beg to report that the census was carefully taken the past year. As a result I find that there are four hundred and forty-one Indians in this supervision, consisting of two hundred and twenty-four males and two hundred and seventeen females; also the total number of births was sixteen and deaths fourteen. The decrease of thirty-four in the whole agency, when compared with the report of last year, is largely due to the removal of Indians from New Brunswick to parts of the state of Maine and other places, with a fair prospect of not returning to the province.

I have, &c.,

JAMES FARRELL,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
MICMACS OF ANNAPOLIS COUNTY,
ANNAPOLIS, 17th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to inclose my annual report, with tabular statement, for the year ended 30th June, 1896. Beyond the information contained in my last report there is very little to note this year.

Vital Statistics.—There has been some sickness among the Indians at Lequille and two deaths. There have been no births. The population at present is seventy-eight, a decrease of two compared with last year, the result of two deaths and two Indians having moved away. These Indians frequently move from place to place.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians of my agency at the present time is good, there being no sickness of any kind amongst them. Sanitary regulations have been attended to: the interior of their houses are clean and well ventilated.

Education.—Education is rather neglected. There are ten children attending school, and an average of seven. The teacher is of grade C. These children are in the primary department, reading, writing and arithmetic. Their parents do not keep them as steadily at school as they should do.

Religion.—These Indians are all Roman Catholics, and attend to their church very strictly, which is at Annapolis town.

Characteristics.—These Indians have become sober and some of them quite industrious. There is one family at Paradise, the Labador, that is very industrious; but I cannot say the others are so industrious. They do try to make a fair living. They are not poor, but try to get all they can from the department. They do not care much about working the soil and rather neglect their crops.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE WELLS, SR.,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
MICMACS OF ANTIGONISH AND GUYSBOROUGH COUNTIES,
HEATHERTON, 15th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to lay before you my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Names of Reserves.—There are three reserves in this agency, viz., Pomquette Forks, Summerside and Afton.

POMQUETTE FORKS.

This reserve is situated at head of the Pomquette Harbour, and has an area of about one hundred and ten acres. About thirty acres of this is good intervale land, which yields a considerable quantity of hay. In fact, all of the reserve is very fertile. There is no wood of any kind upon it, the Indians depending for their fuel upon the wood of a piece of land rented by the Government from a neighbouring farmer.

SUMMERSIDE.

This is a lot of one hundred acres of fairly good land, situated on the eastern side of Pomquette Harbour, on which the Indians of the agency have their church. It contains but one permanent family. Only a small portion is cultivated, the remainder being partly woodland, but chiefly a waste of alders, shrubs, &c.

AFTON RESERVE.

This reserve is composed of two lots of the combined area of three hundred and forty-four acres, of which nearly fifty are under cultivation. There is a considerable extent of wood and arable land.

Vital Statistics.—The population consists of one hundred and fifty-eight permanent residents. During the past year there were six births and seven deaths. The decrease in population is accounted for by emigration. A number of young women have married into other bands. The nomadic instinct is still strong in the Indian, and it is next to impossible to follow him in his various wanderings. Hence it is exceedingly difficult to compute the population with any exactness. The cause of emigration lies in the greater facilities for money-making offered by the lumbering and mining districts, whither they generally resort.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There have been no contagious diseases for the past year, with the exception of a slight wave of scarlet fever. Nearly all the deaths have been caused by the usual disease, consumption. The majority of the Indians are more or less subject to pulmonary affections, which are doubtless generated by their well-known habits, their manifold wanderings with their consequent discomforts.

Occupation.—The Indians live chiefly by farming, coopering, basket-making, hunting, fishing, &c. Their progress in agriculture is very slow. One farmer, Jas. Prosper, of Summerside, makes a more than ordinarily comfortable living by farming, having a nice lot under cultivation, and realizing a considerable amount upon the products of his dairy. Coopering and basket-making, on account of decreased demand, low prices, and scarcity of material, have been on the wane for some years. Fishing for the last few

years has been comparatively a failure. All the crops of this year promise well, and, if stored in good condition, will give material aid.

Buildings, Stock, Farming Implements.—Many of the permanent residents have very comfortable little houses, which are kept very cleanly, a tribute that may be extended to their surroundings. Very few Indians keep any live stock. The farming implements consist entirely of those supplied by the Government.

Education.—On account of their erratic habits, and their remoteness, only three or four of the thirty or forty children who are of age to attend school actually do so, and, more's the pity, for they show a remarkable aptitude for learning. As soon as I have a sufficient number of them bound down to a permanent settlement, I intend to apply to the Government for a school for them, for which they have lately expressed a wish.

Religion.—In a charming situation, overlooking Pomquette Harbour, here studded with little wooded islets which seem to float on the placid water's mirrored surface, stands the beautiful little church of Ste. Anne's. Here, several times during the year, assemble the red men to attend to their spiritual wants, and to transact business of a general nature. It is at their annual festival of Ste. Anne's (July 26th), however, that they appear in their greatest number and magnificence. On that occasion several Roman Catholic priests attend to teach and exhort them, and they usually find in the poor, untutored Indian a ready listener and a docile disciple.

Characteristics and Progress.—Generally speaking, the Indians of this agency are law-abiding, though I sometimes hear complaints of their depredations on their neighbours' woods. Instead of becoming richer, they are rather the reverse. Improvidence continues to be one of their leading characteristics.

Temperance and Morality.—The Indians are very temperate, which fact I am inclined to ascribe to the stern enforcement of the laws on this point rather than to any restraint on their own part, especially as regards the young. Their morals are altogether irreproachable.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM C. CHISHOLM,

Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,

MICMACS OF CAPE BRETON COUNTY,

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, 29th August, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to inclose my tabular statement with this report for the fiscal year ended the 30th June, 1896.

Vital Statistics.—There has been no increase or decrease in the number of Indians in this agency during the past year. The number of births was ten and deaths ten, consumption being the main cause.

Crops.—The long continued drought of last year, together with the ravages of potato bugs, caused the yield of hay and other crops to be somewhat less than one-half the average amount. This year, however, hay and other crops of all kinds promise an abundant yield.

Yet, owing to sickness, old age, accidents, &c., there will always be some who will need assistance from the department.

I have, &c.,

A. CAMERON, P.P.,

Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
 MICMACS OF COLCHESTER COUNTY,
 TRURO, 28th September, 1896.

The Honourable
 The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
 Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

General Progress.—I am pleased to say that there is gradual improvement in the Indians in this district. More care is taken by themselves in making a better class of dwellings and improving their general condition.

Health.—They have had considerable sickness during the past winter and some deaths have occurred, mostly from pulmonary diseases.

Temperance.—I am also pleased to state that not much drunkenness has taken place. I believe since certain prosecutions of parties for selling liquor to them there is much more difficulty in obtaining it than formerly.

I have, &c.,

D. H. MUIR, M.D.,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
 MICMACS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY,
 PARRSBORO', 29th July, 1896.

The Honourable
 The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
 Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report, together with tabular statement, for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Although the Indians are scattered over the county of Cumberland, yet by far the greater number live on or in the vicinity of the reserve known as the Franklin Manor Reserve, situated at Half-way River, about twelve miles from Parrsboro' town, and containing one thousand acres of good land.

Vital Statistics.—At the present time there are in this county one hundred and fifteen Indians of all ages. During the past year there were nine births and five deaths, and ten Indians who for a length of time had been out of the county returned, which makes altogether an increase of fourteen in population during the past year. Except in the case of infants, a large proportion of whom die from intestinal disorders, most of the deaths are due to consumption.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of these Indians is, I believe, quite as good as that of the whites living in the vicinity. The houses and premises are, for the most part, kept clean, and once or twice during every year all refuse material about the premises is destroyed by fire.

Occupation.—The Indians in this county, like most other Indians, would rather do almost any other work than cultivate the land. They do, however, raise fairly good

crops of oats and potatoes, and many of them take considerable pride in having good gardens, but for the most part they work at lumbering, helping to chop logs for white men during the winter, stream-driving the logs in the spring, and loading lumber during the summer. Many of them make tubs of different kinds, and others make baskets, and sell them in the different towns. A few spend most of their time hunting and trapping, and the large game, such as moose, killed by them, furnishes a large supply of food. Some few others act as guides for hunting parties, and for so doing receive a large amount of money during the hunting season.

Buildings, Stock, Farming Implements.—In place of living in camps, as their forefathers did, the Indians in this county have built for themselves comfortable houses. They have among them two horse-, two cows and a heifer, also such farming implements as are actually necessary for carrying on their work.

Education.—There is no school-house on the reserve, and consequently no school. A number of the children, however, attend a public school which is situated near the reserve. I am informed by the teacher that the Indian pupils do very good work. There are twenty-four children of an age to attend school, and about ten of these do attend. Some of the parents are desirous of having their children obtain some book knowledge, while others do not seem to care.

Religion.—All of the Indians in this county are Roman Catholics. There is no chapel on the reserve, and no priest nearer than Parrsboro'.

Characteristics and Progress.—The Indians in this county are in much better circumstances than they were a few years ago, but are not nearly so well-to-do as they might be if they were willing to work steadily. If they could only content themselves to work all summer on their farms, they would, owing to the fertility of the soil, very shortly be able not only to live comfortably, but also to put away some money.

Temperance and Morality.—I am sorry to have to report that some of these Indians are intemperate in their habit-, and do obtain and drink more or less liquor. Most of them, however, are sober and well-behaved.

I am sorry also to have to report that there are those among them whose moral characters are not so good as I could wish.

I have, &c.,

F. A. RAND,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,

MICMACS OF DIGBY COUNTY,

BEAR RIVER, 16th August, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June last.

Name of Reserve.—There is only one reserve in this agency; it is called Indian Hill.

Location.—This reserve is situated between the east and west branches of the Bear River, part in Annapolis county and part in Digby county.

Area.—It comprises one thousand six hundred and fifty acres of land.

Resources.—Some of the land on this reserve is excellent for farming, but the larger part is very rocky and unfit for cultivation, and is covered with a second-growth forest, which supplies the Indians with wood for fuel and basket stuff.

Tribe.—The Indians of this district belong to the Micmac tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The Indians of this agency number one hundred and ninety. There have been thirteen births and four deaths during the past year, which gives an increase of eleven over last year. In three cases the cause of death was consumption, and in the other case scarlet fever.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians has been fair during the past year, there having been no epidemics amongst them, pulmonary diseases being most prevalent. They keep themselves and premises clean, using the sanitary precautions recommended by the department.

Occupation.—The Indians of this district have many ways of making a living; some earn good wages during the spring and early summer stream-driving logs down the rivers, at which work they are very expert; and some get large wages as guides to tourists and hunters; most of the men on the reserve were constantly employed this way for several weeks last fall. Basket-making is a permanent employment with them; when other work fails they can always get sale for their baskets. This industry is chiefly carried on by the women, who are adepts in that line. The farming done by these Indians is limited; but I am pleased to report a decided improvement on the reserve, as some of them take an interest in agriculture and raised good crops of potatoes last year, and are taking good care of their apple trees, which the Government got grafted for them and which are looking fine.

Buildings, Stock, Farming Implements.—The buildings are frame, boarded and shingled, and as the Indians on the reserve own five cows and five young stock, they have built themselves barns for their hay and cattle, which is an improvement; three years ago there was not an animal owned on the reserve.

Education.—The Indian school on the reserve is doing good work under the tuition of I. L. DeVaney, although the average is below what it should be. There are twenty children on the reserve of an age to attend school. The teacher has a provincial license, grade C. The pupils are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, grammar, &c. The school is supplied by the Government with maps, books, copy-books, ink, pens, and everything to carry on the school. The discipline of the school is good, the best of order prevails, and the children are making excellent progress in their studies, and these are scholars that would be a credit to any school of the same grade for white children.

Religion.—The Indians of this district are all Roman Catholic. They enjoy the ministrations of a priest, who lives at Annapolis, and at stated times visits the reserve, where there is a handsome chapel fitted up tastefully. The interest manifested in religion is, I fear, rather superficial.

Characteristics.—The men are generally indolent, that is, they will not come down to hard, steady labour, but for driving logs, hunting and fishing for porpoise they are very quick and smart. The women are very industrious and do most of the work.

Temperance and Morality.—The Indians generally are fond of liquor, and were it not for the law, which is so strict that they cannot get it without risk and trouble, they would be very intemperate; while there are some on the reserve that never taste the vile stuff. As a rule they are moral and law-abiding, and it is a very rare thing for an Indian to be arrested for any crime.

I have, &c.,

F. McDORMAND,

Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
MICMACS OF HALIFAX COUNTY,
SHEET HARBOUR, 24th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa,

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Location.—This agency comprises the county of Halifax, N.S.

Area.—The Indians in this agency are scattered about at different points—Sheet Harbour, Elmsdale, Wellington, Dartmouth, Cow Bay and Windsor Junction. The total area of the land occupied by them is one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five acres.

Resources.—The resources of this agency are lumbering and farming.

Vital Statistics.—The Indian population in the county of Halifax is one hundred and forty-nine, consisting of seventy-five males and seventy-four females. There have been six births, three deaths and twenty-seven immigrations, which gives an increase of thirty in population compared with last year.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There have been no infectious diseases or epidemics this year among the Indians. They have kept their premises clean. There has been no vaccination this year, all except infants having been vaccinated last year.

Occupation.—The following occupations are engaged in by these Indians: basket-making, lumbering, hunting, fishing, acting as guides to hunters, farming—raising potatoes, garden vegetables, hay and grain.

Buildings, Stock, Farming Implements.—In this agency there are thirty-eight buildings, six head of cattle and two horses.

Education.—There are twenty-four children of school age. One school with a grade D teacher. Course of studies and equipment of school are the same as in provincial schools here. The discipline and order of the school are very good. The progress of the pupils is most satisfactory. The parents are much interested in the education of their children.

Religion.—The denomination of Indians and clergy is Roman Catholic. There is no Indian church. The Indians attend divine service with the white people in the churches of the latter. The Indians are religious.

Characteristics and Progress.—The Indians are industrious and law-abiding. They are mostly self-supporting. They are not becoming either richer or poorer.

Temperance and Morality.—I have not heard of a case of intemperance or immorality of any kind since last report.

I have &c.,

D. O. SULLIVAN,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
MICMACS OF HANTS COUNTY,
SHUBENACADIE, 28th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I transmit herewith tabular statement up to the 30th June, last.

Crops.—In filling these columns I have to do so approximately, as the crops are not yet harvested. I have, however visited the reserve, and the crops are looking fine.

Progress.—The Indians who reside continuously on the reserve, seem to be improving in their condition.

Education.—The school has been a success, and the children attending have made good progress at their studies.

I have, &c.,

JAMES GASS,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
MICMACS OF INVERNESS COUNTY,
GLENDALE, 19th June, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Agriculture.—The interest in agricultural pursuits as well as the general industry, on the part of the Indians of my agency, reported last year, continue, I am glad to say, unabated. The fatherly care of the department has been materially felt and gratefully acknowledged, as owing to the continued bad crops, caused by the severe drought, potato bug, &c., during the past four years, much suffering, and in some instances, destitution prevailed. Last year was remarkable for the visitation of the "horn-fly" pest.

Hay on the meadows and marshes was light, while on the uplands the drought caused all kinds of crops to fall short at least one-half.

The tabular statement sufficiently indicates what progress there has been made in the past year.

It may be remarked that there is an improved appearance on all hands. The crops are looking well, and if the season continues favourable, promise an excellent yield.

Relief of Distress.—When visiting the reserve some time ago, I was very much impressed by the pathetic appeal of a very aged Indian woman, Widow Mary Peter Silliboy. Receiving me in her poor, loop-holed and wind-swept hut, the poor old creature, who is at least ninety-six years of age—she herself claims she is a hundred—and surrounded by her three grand-daughters, whose basket-making, &c., she still intelligently superintends,

presented a picturesque appearance, while she pathetically appealed for aid, pointing to the loop-holed and unshingled roof of the hut as well as to the dependent condition of her young charge. The bounty of the department has since opportunely come to her assistance—shingled the leaky, wind-swept hut, making it tolerably comfortable for herself and young charge; and now to listen to her, in her broken English, trying to express her gratitude and invoke blessings on the paternal Government that did it is, most assuredly, worth the cost a hundred-fold.

I have, &c.,

D. McISAAC,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,

MICMACS OF KING'S COUNTY,

STEAM MILLS, 29th August, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to inclose tabular statement and report for the year 1896.

Characteristics.—The Indians of this county are orderly and quiet as usual.

Agriculture.—They have not given so much attention to gardening for the last three years, having hitherto depended upon the department to furnish them with seed and to plough their land for them, but are now thinking of doing more so another year if they can prevail upon the department to furnish them with a team. The horse supplied to the Indian Muse-loo-yea was a good investment, as he has been self-supporting ever since.

General Remarks.—The expenditure for this county has been heavier the last year, owing to several of the Indians being a total charge on the department from old age and sickness.

I have, &c.,

C. E. BECKWITH,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,

MICMACS OF LUNENBURG AND QUEEN'S COUNTIES,

CALEDONIA, 31st August, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Location.—The Indians of this county are located principally at Caledonia Corner, the "Wild Cat" Reserve, near Brookfield, Mill Village and Milton. The majority of them live at the last mentioned place.

Occupation.—The few families who reside on the “Wild Cat” Reserve have done very well with their crops. Some Indians at Milton work in the pulp-mill, and earn steady wages. The most of them, however, occupy their time making baskets, mast-hoops, axe-handles, &c., as well as in fishing, hunting, and in some instances acting as guides to sportsmen. But Indians never save their earnings: it is a feast to-day, as long as provisions last, and the morrow is unthought of. They manage to live fairly well, except in the winter, when they are pinched with poverty.

Tribe.—The Indians of this county are of the Micmac tribe.

Characteristics.—They are a quiet and inoffensive class of people.

Sanitary Condition.—They live in wooden houses, are clean in their habits, and endeavour to keep their surroundings healthy.

Religion and Morality.—I find them attentive to religious duties, law-abiding, and, as a rule, little given to the use of intoxicating drinks.

Education.—In educational matters the Indians take a lively interest. They like to see their children attend school. We have no regular Indian schools in this county. The public schools are open to all, and many Indian children attend them. When a child is absent from school, I find it is generally owing to the want of school-books or proper clothing.

LUNENBURG COUNTY.

The Indians in this county are of two classes—the half-breeds, who live at New Germany, and the Micmacs, who live at Gold River and at Bridgewater. Those at Gold River, as well as the half-breeds, live by farming and are quite comfortable. The Indians about Bridgewater, with a few exceptions, are not over-industrious. A few Indians live also at Lunenburg and near Mahone Bay.

Education.—There is a school-house on the reserve at New Germany, built by the department. Books are supplied by the department, which also pays a teacher. The school is well attended, and the teacher, Miss Annie Taylor, is painstaking and diligent.

Characteristics.—Like the Indians of Queen’s, the “red men” of Lunenburg county are law-abiding, and make good citizens.

All information concerning their crops will be found in the tabular statement.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS BUTLER,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,

MICMACS OF PICTOU COUNTY,

EUREKA, 28th September, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit my yearly report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

General Progress.—As these reports are given annually, general information can well be dispensed with. It is difficult to judge of the change taking place in the Indian character from year to year; but taking a period of ten years I can easily discern a transformation towards a more useful life.

Occupation.—The Indians do not take as readily to farming as they do to the other avocations. Many of them are engaged this summer in discharging iron ore at Pictou Landing, and are considered excellent workmen.

Education.—There are no schools in this district.

Crops.—They derived a marked benefit from last year's potato crop, which was very good.

Health.—The tribe was free from contagious disease during last year.

Characteristics.—I am pleased to state that they are moral in character and cleanly in their habits.

I have, &c.,

RODERICK McDONALD,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
MICMACS OF SHELBURNE COUNTY,
SHELBURNE, 27th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward my annual report and tabular statement in regard to the Indians of this district for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Progress.—The Indians residing in this county have made some improvement in their dwellings; their fences are in good condition.

Sanitary Condition.—The sanitary measures recommended by the department have been carried out and their houses are clean and comfortable.

Agriculture.—They take more interest in farming than in former years; their crops are looking well.

Temperance and Characteristics.—Very few of these Indians use intoxicating drinks; on the whole they are a quiet and orderly class.

I have, &c.,

JOHN J. E. DE MOLITOR,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
MICMACS OF VICTORIA COUNTY,
BADDECK, 14th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

General Condition.—The condition of the Indians in this agency remains much the same as stated in my last report.

Education.—The school has been in operation during the year; the children attending made good progress.

Crops.—The crops so far are looking well.

I have, &c.,

JOHN E. CAMPBELL,
Indian Agent.

NOVA SCOTIA,
MICMACS OF YARMOUTH COUNTY,
YARMOUTH, 7th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June last.

Name, Location and Area of Reserve.—This reserve is known simply as the “Indian Reserve,” and is located about three miles north-east from the town of Yarmouth. Its area is about twenty-one acres.

Resources.—Part of the land on this reserve is suitable for agriculture; the remainder is woodland.

Tribe.—The Indians on this reserve belong to the Micmac tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this agency, as near as I can ascertain, is eighty-seven, made up of forty-six males and forty-one females. During the past year there were four deaths and two births, making a decrease of two compared with the previous year. Consumption was the principal cause of the deaths.

Health.—The general health of the Indians has been fairly good. No infectious diseases or epidemics have prevailed during the year.

Occupation.—These Indians are employed in basket-making, hunting and fishing. They also do a small amount of work about the town. The farming consists of raising potatoes and other vegetables.

Buildings.—There are but three buildings on the reserve belonging to the Indians.

Education.—There is no school on the reserve; the children go to the public schools.

Religion.—The Indians of this band are Roman Catholics and attend the church in town.

Characteristics.—Some of the Indians are industrious, but the greater number are indolent, wandering about from one part of the country to another.

Temperance.—As a rule they are temperate and not inclined to immorality.

I have, &c.,

GEO. R. SMITH,
Indian Agent.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,

EGMONT BAY, 24th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward my report for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

LENNOX ISLAND RESERVE.

This reserve is situated on an island in Richmond Bay. It contains one thousand three hundred and twenty acres of land, which is generally good. There are a few swamps and barren spots, comprising in all about sixty acres.

MORRELL RESERVE.

This reserve is situated on Lot No. 40, in King's county. It contains two hundred and four acres of good land. Only six families reside on this reserve.

Vital Statistics. There are in this superintendency, comprising both reserves and other localities on Prince Edward Island, eighty-four men, seventy-eight women and one hundred and forty-six children. There was an increase of twenty-one during the year.

Health. The greater number of them enjoy good health; there are some, however, who are in poor health. Consumption is the prevailing disease among them.

Occupation. The Indians residing on the reserves cultivate the land and raise fair crops. They also fish for cod in the summer, and in the fall they get oysters, which sell readily at fair prices.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements. The buildings are all frame structures. The houses are nearly all finished outside, and are whitewashed with lime, and have a good appearance. The new chapel reported last year as in course of erection is now completed, and is a magnificent building.

Stock and Implements.—The stock looks remarkably well, being in good condition, as there is plenty of good grass growing on the reserves. The farming implements consist of ploughs, harrows, rakes, scythes, pitchforks and carts.

Crops. The crop has a good appearance this year, and promises a good yield.

Education. There is only one day-school situated on the Lennox Island Reserve. Some twenty-five children attend, and are making fair progress. The children are taught the same branches as are taught in the district schools of Prince Edward Island. The school is well furnished with books, slates, copy-books and maps. Good order is maintained. Some of the parents take a great interest in education, and send their children regularly to school; others are seemingly careless, and do not send their children regularly.

Temperance. I am pleased to report that the Indians residing on the reserve of Lennox Island have kept their temperance pledge which they made some years ago.

I have, &c.,

JOHN O. ARSENAULT,
Indian Superintendent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
INDIAN SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,
VICTORIA, 21st September, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward my annual report upon Indian affairs in British Columbia for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

The reports of the Indian agents in my superintendency, together with their several tabular statements and statistical returns have been duly, and without delay, forwarded from this office to the department.

The respective agencies, and particulars in connection therewith, are enumerated as follows:—

COWICHAN AGENCY.

Location.—This agency occupies the south-east portion of Vancouver Island extending from Otter Point in the Straits of Fuca to Comox in the Gulf of Georgia.

Area.—The area of the different reserves allotted for the maintenance of these Indians covers nineteen thousand six hundred and thirty-four acres.

Resources.—Much of the land reserved consists of rich alluvial soil heavily timbered, for the most part, and costly to clear. There is also a considerable extent of hilly pasture land, which supports quite a number of cattle, sheep and horses. The streams, lakes, and bays abound with fish; and game in the surrounding hills is plentiful.

Tribe or Nation.—The Cowichans are a branch of what has been termed the Salish nation, which formerly occupied a large extent of land in Washington State as well as that in British Columbia.

Vital Statistics.—There are nine hundred and ninety-two males and one thousand and thirty-seven females, of whom five hundred and seventy-two are children. There have been sixty-two births and thirty deaths. No cases of immigration or emigration. Increase in population, compared with previous year, is thirty-two. Deaths were confined to the old people and very young. Bronchial and pulmonary affections were the principal cause.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—These Indians are a fairly healthy race and have apparently passed the decreasing stage incidental, amongst aboriginal races, to the first introduction of new conditions produced by civilized surroundings; they are to a noticeable extent adopting sanitary habits, submit to vaccination and appreciate the advantage of isolation in cases of infectious diseases, &c.

Occupation.—Employment is found in the following occupations: mixed farming, including the cultivation of fruit, these Indians having planted over a thousand trees this year, fishing, hunting, working at canneries and saw-mills, making fishing-boats and canoes, fishing-nets, acting as guides, boatmen and packers, for sportsmen and tourists, &c. The women make mats, baskets, dress deer-skins, make moccasins, knit socks and are clever at needle-work.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—The Indians in this agency have good dwelling-houses, stables, barns, &c., being well advanced in their knowledge of farming, and industrious; they continue to increase the number of their stock and farm implements.

Education.—There are three hundred and fifty children of school age and six schools, one industrial and five day-schools, as follows: the Kuper Island Indian Industrial-school, under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church, at which institution

fifty pupils are being educated and trained, particulars having been furnished in a comprehensive report forwarded from the reverend principal; day-schools, as hereunder: Nanaimo, Methodist; Somenos, Methodist; Cowichan, Roman Catholic; Songhees, Roman Catholic; South Saanich, Roman Catholic.

Religion. The converted Indians are of the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Church of England persuasions, under instruction of missionaries of like denominations. On the whole the Indians seem earnest in their belief, and much benefited by religious instruction. There are several churches established in the agency, and in nearly every village Indian houses are used from time to time for the celebration of divine worship.

The agent remarks:—"The Indians of this agency have all been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church with the exception of the Nanaimo Band."

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians are industrious and intelligent, good farmers, shrewd traders, expert fishermen, and are apt at learning trades. They are fairly temperate and moral.

Statistics.—

Value of personal property	\$73,050
Acres under cultivation	2,496
Acres of new land broken	114
Total value of real and personal property	\$810,608
Ploughs	126
Harrows	64
Wagons	191
Carts	12
Fanning-mill	1
Threshing-machines	8
Mowing-machines	8
Reapers	2
Horses	405
Cows	432
Oxen	88
Bulls	24
Sheep	865
Pigs	82
Number of young stock	610
Value of fish taken, value of furs, other industries. (Agent states that there is no means of estimating).	
Wheat, bush	80
Oats "	4,000
Pease "	100
Potatoes "	800
Hay, tons	700

The agent remarks:—"The Saanich, Cowichan and Nanaimo Bands are the only ones that grow grain for the market. The approximate estimate of farm produce is as nearly as possible correct. The crops of the different bands are so intermixed that a separate statement for each is impossible."

KWAWKEWLTH AGENCY.

Location. This agency is located in the north-west portion of Vancouver Island and includes Quatsino Sound and Koskimo Inlet, extends south-east to limits of Cowichan Agency on Vancouver Island, including the coast of the mainland of British Columbia from Cape Caution to the west limits of the Fraser Agency.

Area.—An area of seventeen thousand and fifty-two acres has been reserved for Indians throughout this agency, nearly all of which is heavily timbered.

Resources.—There being little, if any, cultivable land, the chief food supply consists of fish and game, which is plentiful. There is a good lake and fishing ground at Knight's Inlet, and a salmon fishery at the Nimpkish River opposite Alert Bay. Halibut are numerous in the neighbourhood of Newitti. Sea-otter, the skins of which are most valuable, are found on the rocks and islands of Queen Charlotte Sound, and fur-seals have been known to land in large numbers on rocky islets off Cape Scott. Bear, wapiti, and deer can be had in the Vancouver Island section. Many mink are also trapped.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indians of this nation belong to the Kwawkweth (phonetic Kuakyohl) tribe.

Vital Statistics.—There is a population of one thousand six hundred and thirty-nine, consisting of one thousand three hundred and ninety men and women and two hundred and forty-nine children. There have been seventy births and twenty-eight deaths during the year, making an increase of population over the previous year of forty-two. The deaths mostly occurred from scrofulous ailments.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There have been no epidemic diseases during the year. Vaccination has been successfully carried on. Scrofula is prevalent amongst these Indians, and is attributed by some to a continuous fish diet and imperfect cooking, &c. The old people suffer from inflamed eyes, caused, it is supposed, by the dense smoke in many of their dwellings.

Occupation.—Fishing, to obtain a food supply, is the occupation of these Indians to a great extent. They make good canoes; seek employment at the canneries and saw-mills; are always ready to hire out as canoemen and guides, &c., to lumbermen and others requiring their services; a few go sealing and fur-hunting.

Buildings, Stock and Farm Implements.—Their buildings are mostly of the primitive type, which, although capacious and substantial, are unprovided with chimneys, the smoke partially escaping through a hole in the roof. Several families often occupy one of these habitations, but of late the young people are beginning to build separate and more modern houses, and it is hoped that in time all may be induced to do likewise. These people have very few stock or farm implements, the nature of their country not being favourable either to farming or stock-raising.

Education.—The number of children in the agency of school age is one hundred and ninety. At Alert Bay there are three schools under the auspices of the Church of England, viz.:—Alert Bay Indian Industrial-school, Indian Girls' Home, and a day-school. From the two former reports have been forwarded to the department, and it may be stated that all are doing fairly well. In addition to the above, there are day schools at Cape Mudge (Methodist), Gwayasdums, and at Gwayi, in charge of the Church of England mission. At the latter point a school-house has been erected by the department, there being at that place quite a number of children. Parents in many instances are indifferent as to the education of their children.

Religion.—These natives, although not positively objecting to religious teaching, are slow in quitting their ancient customs and belief, and it is only by the education of the rising generation that the expectations of the department and the missionaries can be substantially realized. There are mission stations and churches at Cape Mudge, Alert Bay and other places.

Characteristics and Progress.—In a measure, doubtless from the ease with which they can obtain a living, these Indians are more than others inclined to be independent; they are not on the whole ill-natured or bad-tempered, but they are opposed to restraint of any kind. This may in part account for the little headway made towards civilization by this people during the past, although it is gratifying to observe that the younger members of the band are becoming more amenable to religious teachings, &c., of late years.

Temperance and Morality.—The Indians in this agency have been improving in temperance and morality of late years.

Statistics.—

Value of personal property	\$ 82,500
Acres under cultivation	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Acres of new land broken	$\frac{3}{4}$
Total value of real and personal property	\$112,366
Cows	3
Oxen	1
Bulls	1
Sheep	3
Pigs	50
Number of young stock	4
Value of fish taken	\$ 14,000
Value of furs	\$ 5,600
Other industries	\$ 17,650

The agent remarks that there is a discrepancy between last year and this in the numbers of the Kwawkewlth Band. This band occupies the same reserve and houses as the Kwi-ah-kah Band, and in taking the census last year those living amongst the Kwi-ah-kah were omitted and not afterwards taken down. There is also a difference in the number of children of school age. This year, the agent says, he has been more particular in giving the number of those of school age, as many do attend who are both older and younger. So very little is done in agriculture that there is nothing worth mentioning.

WEST COAST AGENCY.

Location. This agency lies on the west coast of Vancouver Island from Cape Cook on the north to Otter Point, in the Straits of Fuca, and inland as far as the western boundaries of the Cowichan and Kwawkewlth Agencies.

Area. The Indian reserves within this agency comprise four thousand two hundred and eighty-eight acres.

Resources. The Indians fish all the year round. There is some good timber on the reserves; big game in some localities; water-fowl plentiful; fur-seal and sea-otter in their season; beaver, wolves, martens, mink, racoons, and land-otter; evidence of auriferous deposits in many localities, and a limited amount of farming land in the southern portion of the agency.

Tribe or Nation.—The tribe to which these Indians belong is not clearly defined; they are probably an offshoot of the Kwawkewlth or Kuak-yohl tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The total number of adults in this agency is two thousand and sixteen, and of children seven hundred and thirty-four. There were sixty-three deaths and fifteen births within the year. The principal causes of death were pulmonary and bronchial complaints.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—These Indians are generally of robust constitution, but owing to the exposed lives which they lead in their seal-hunting expeditions, &c., in all kinds of weather, they are subject to throat and pulmonary affections. The only epidemic during the year was a mild form of chicken-pox, which caused no deaths.

Occupation.—The Indians of this agency engage in the following occupations: fishing, sealing, working at canneries, canoe-making, rendering dogfish oil, drying halibut, making mats and capes from cedar-bark, basket-making, and gardening to a very limited extent.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—Their dwelling-houses are most superior, some of them three stories high, painted, well furnished, and clean and neat inside. Each year produces some change for the better as regards their mode of living. There are only a few head of stock and very few farming implements.

Education. There is one boarding-school and six day-schools in operation. The children are intelligent and quick at learning. The parents in most cases are desirous

of having their children instructed. There are three hundred and forty-seven children of school age in this agency.

Religion.—The Indians are being taught by the Roman Catholic, the Presbyterian, and the Methodist missionaries, the first mentioned having come to the coast over twenty years ago, and by their influence and teachings have done much for the advancement of the natives. There are several churches and the Indians are each year becoming more earnest in the interest manifested in religious teaching.

Characteristics and Progress.—They are energetic hunters and traders; they possess considerable mechanical skill, are full of resources, hardy and inured to dangers and exposures on the sea. They are expert seal-hunters, hundreds of them finding employment on the sealing-schooners visiting the Japan and Behring Seas every year.

Temperance and Morality.—These natives having been off and on supplied with intoxicants by white traders for several generations, the habit of drinking is not new to them. On the whole they are not, however, habitual drunkards, although many of the young men freely indulge in intoxicants when in the cities and towns. During the period now reported upon there has been less trouble on the coast from that source than for many previous years. The women have nearly all ceased to visit the cities and towns for immoral purposes.

Statistics.—

Value of personal property	\$	77,700
Acres under cultivation		4
Total value of real and personal property	\$	126,350
Ploughs		2
Horses		30
Cows		9
Bulls		1
Sheep		3
Number of young stock		4
Value of fish taken	\$	22,150
Value of furs	\$	136,100
Other industries	\$	970
Potatoes, bushels		1,560

The agent remarks that he has made a change in the number of Roman Catholic Indians. The Roman Catholic clergy, he states, maintain that as nearly all the children have been baptized by them, and the young men and women also, and have all attended religious services at times and received instruction in Christianity, even if they are not able to attend church regularly, as long as they do not engage in any pagan worship they should be considered Christians. "I also find," he adds, "by the census this year that the number of children in some tribes have decreased considerably, especially at Kyuquot, Noochahtlaht and Mooachaht." A few bushels of carrots and turnips are grown by most of the tribes, and at Alberni the Indians have a little fruit for their own use.

NORTH-WEST COAST AGENCY.

Location.—This agency includes all the coast and the off-lying islands from Cape Caution in Queen Charlotte's Sound to the limits of the reserve occupied by the Nass Indians.

Area.—The area of the land reserved for the benefit of the Indians of this agency is one hundred and forty-nine thousand three hundred and forty-seven acres.

Resources.—The resources of this agency are as follows:—an abundant supply of timber, fish, game, and fur-bearing animals of land and sea, fish-oils, &c., with a very limited extent of arable land.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indians in the north are Tsimpsheans, Nass and Haidas, while some of those in the south are Kwawkwalths.

Vital Statistics.—The population is two thousand eight hundred and sixty one, consisting of one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight adults, and one thousand one hundred and thirty-three children. There have been one hundred and twelve births and ninety-nine deaths, making an increase of thirteen over the previous year. The cause of death was illness arising from pulmonary and scrofulous affections. Seven Haida Indians are reported to have emigrated to Alaska to join their relations. There were no cases of immigration.

Health and Sanitary Condition. The Indians have been regularly vaccinated; they are under the care of two qualified medical practitioners, one supported by the Methodist Missionary Society and one by the Anglican Church Missionary Society. There are two hospitals, one at Port Simpson and the other at Metlakahla. The general health of these Indians is good, and sanitary condition of their dwellings and towns satisfactory.

Occupation. They engage in the following occupations:—fishing, hunting, trapping, working at saw-mills and canneries, logging, sealing, manufacturing fish-oil, building canoes and fishing-boats, house-building, blacksmithing, trading and store-keeping, steamboating, carving in slate and ivory. They work to a limited extent in making gold and silver ornaments, and cultivate some small patches of land; make fish-nets and dress skins. The women make mats, baskets, hats, rugs and knitted articles, and cure fish for sale and home use.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—They mostly occupy neatly built houses and cottages, well lighted and furnished, painted, having good chimneys and stoves. They have expended some thousands of dollars in improved buildings this year; have employed a surveyor at a cost of several hundred dollars to lay out streets, &c., at Port Simpson; have some very fine churches and council-halls and planked side-walks. The land not being adapted for agricultural or grazing purposes, they have very few live stock and no farming implements worthy of mention.

Education.—The following schools receiving aid from the department are in operation in this agency and the natives are all anxious that their offspring shall derive as much benefit as possible from them.

The Metlakahla Indian Industrial-school is conducted under the auspices of the Church of England Missionary Society and provides for thirty-two pupils. The principal's report as to conduct, management, &c., has been duly forwarded to the department.

The Indian Girl's Home at Port Simpson, in charge of the Methodist Missionary Society, is also doing good work.

The undermentioned are the day-schools in this agency:—Aiyash, Metlakahla, Kitkatla, Kincolith and Massett, Church of England; Port Essington, Port Simpson, Lakalsap and Bella Bella, Methodist.

Religion.—The most of these Indians profess Christianity and are carefully observant of religious ceremonies, &c. There are churches in this agency at nearly all the villages and at the canneries where Indians gather during the fishing season.

Characteristics and Progress.—The Indians of this agency are industrious and energetic in their efforts towards advancement in civilized acquirements, possess considerable intelligence and mechanical skill which they turn to good account.

Temperance and Morality.—Each year affords additional evidence of their self-control; and instances of intemperance and open profligacy are becoming rare.

Statistics.—

Value of personal property	\$209,100
Acres under cultivation	147½
Acres of new land broken	6½
Total value of real and personal property	\$704,850
Number of other implements	815
Horses	28
Cows	10
Bulls	1
Pigs	17
Number of young stock	25
Value of fish taken	\$ 78,500
Value of furs	\$ 50,850
Other industries	\$216,600

The agent remarks that salmon-canning, house-building, working at lumber mills, logging, steamboating, oil-refining, fishing, hunting, selling game and cutting and selling cord-wood are the chief means employed by his Indians in making money.

FRASER AGENCY.

Location.—The limits of this agency are defined by the international boundary on the south, by the Kamloops-Okanagan Agency on the east, by the Williams Lake and Kwawkwalth Agencies on the north, and by the Gulf of Georgia on the west.

Area.—The reserves contain forty-seven thousand four hundred and ninety-two acres.

Resources.—The resources are timber, fish and game. In some localities there is good farming and pasture land to a limited extent. There are considerable tracts of good land, heavily timbered and expensive to clear. Mineral deposits and quarries of excellent slate, well fitted for roofing purposes, are known to exist.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indian tribes in this agency are branches of the Salish nation.

Vital Statistics.—This agency contains a population of three thousand three hundred and eighty-one, consisting of two thousand two hundred and ninety-eight men and women and one thousand and eighty-three children. During the year there were forty-nine births and one hundred and ninety-eight deaths; no record for previous year. No particulars have been furnished by the agent as to cause of death. There has been no immigration or emigration.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The natives are fairly robust and healthy, and during the past year have not suffered from any epidemic. They have been vaccinated. Considerable attention is bestowed upon the sanitary condition of their dwellings and villages, &c.

Occupation.—These Indians engage in the following occupations: farming, stock-raising, fishing, hunting and trapping for furs, logging, working at canneries and saw-mills, discharging cargoes and loading ships, drying fish, making baskets, mats and fishing nets, &c.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—To a great extent the old style of dwelling-places has been abandoned and houses and cottages, comparing favourably with those of their white neighbours, are now being occupied. There are many good barns and stables. In such localities as are suitable as many stock as can be safely cared for during the winter months are kept. The Indians are fairly well supplied with farming implements.

Education.—There are five hundred and eighty-nine children of school age and three schools: the Coqualeetza Home at Chilliwack, with accommodation for one hundred pupils, under the supervision of the Methodist Missionary Society; the St. Mary's

Mission Boarding-school, with seventy-one pupils, under the Roman Catholic Mission ; and the All Hallows (Girls) Boarding-school at Yale, where twenty-five pupils are educated and looked after. Full reports of these schools, giving the number and grade of teachers, course of studies taught, equipment, discipline and order prevailing therein, &c., &c., have been forwarded to the department from the respective principals in charge.

Religion. The denominations to which the Indians of this agency belong are the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Church of England, and each of these has missions established. The natives are reported to be fairly earnest in religious observances and regular in their attention to religious instruction ; their conduct giving evidence of the good effect of such religious training. There are several churches of each denomination in the agency.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians are industrious and generally honest in their dealings. Many of them are endeavouring to imitate the whites in their efforts to acquire property and improve their homes, &c., some few of them having saved money, which they either place in the savings bank or in the keeping of some trusted white man. On the whole they are making satisfactory progress.

Temperance and Morality.—An improved condition under this head is observable.

Statistics.

Value of personal property	\$ 160,360
Acres under cultivation	3,705
Acres of new land broken	93
Total value of real and personal property	\$ 1,072,718
Ploughs	113
Harrows	95
Wagons	84
Fanning-mills	1
Threshing-machines	1
Number of other implements	1,945
Horses	709
Cows	817
Oxen	152
Sheep	205
Pigs	2,181
Number of young stock	475
Value of fish taken	\$ 42,100
Value of furs	\$ 16,915
Other industries	\$ 31,200
Corn, bushels	850
Wheat "	3,251
Oats "	11,614
Pease "	7,125
Barley "	1,134
Potatoes "	19,798
Hay, tons	1,560

The agent makes the following remarks in regard to the statistics of his agency :—
 " There is a decrease in population of eight hundred and seventy-four since my last return. This is owing to the fact that I have been enabled to get an accurate census taken ; as really no actual decrease has taken place of late years. At Douglas you will notice a decrease of twenty-eight. These Indians have gone and settled at Pemberton Meadows, the land being better there. The Indians at Mission, Burrard Inlet, have in former census returns been also entered at Skwaw-wamish, Howe Sound, thereby entered twice, which was misleading. At Seymour Creek there is an increase of ten ; this was owing to the return of a number from the Mission on the election of a new chief for Seymour Creek. Soon after taking charge of this agency I discovered that the census returns previously furnished were inaccurate I thought to drop them

down gradually to the correct number, a few each year, but I feel it better to correct them at once without further delay."

KAMLOOPS-OKANAGAN AGENCY.

Location.—This agency has the state of Washington on the south, the Kootenay Agency on the east, the Fraser and Williams Lake Agencies on the west, and the Williams Lake Agency on the north.

Area.—The Indian reserves cover three hundred and nineteen thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight acres.

Resources.—This agency contains the following resources: stock-ranges, farming land; auriferous deposits, a bountiful supply of salmon from the Fraser, and in some sections game in abundance.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indians in this agency belong to the N'bla-Kapm-uh and Shuswap and Okanagan branches of the Salish nation.

Vital Statistics.—The population is three thousand five hundred and fifty-one, of which one thousand three hundred and ninety are children. The births during the year were one hundred and sixty-one, and deaths one hundred and twenty-nine, making an increase of thirty-two as compared with the previous year. There were no immigrations or emigrations. The deaths were from old age and natural causes rather than from any epidemic or virulent disease.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—Attention is paid to the vaccination of the different bands; there is a continued improvement in sanitary conditions: much suffering during the winter from colds and la grippe; a few cases of erysipelas, with fortunately very few fatal results.

Occupation.—The following occupations are followed by the Indians in this agency: cultivation of the soil, stock-raising, hunting and trapping, fishing and curing, packing and teaming, mining, herding stock, trading, as section hands on railroad, logging and cutting fire-wood, &c. The women make gloves, moccasins, dress deer skins, gather and dry berries, &c.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—Most of these Indians have good dwelling-houses and live separately, having given up the rancherie mode of dwelling together in families under the same roof. They have barns and stables which compare favourably with their white neighbours.

Education.—There is an Indian industrial-school at Kamloops under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church, at which fifty pupils are being cared for and educated in accordance with the departmental standard, besides being trained in different trades and all branches of practical farming. A very interesting report from the reverend principal has been forwarded.

Religion.—The Indians are mostly Roman Catholic, and have churches or houses where religious services are held at nearly every village.

Characteristics and Progress.—They are active, energetic and fairly successful as farmers and stock-raisers, and are progressing in other industrial and economic pursuits.

Temperance and Morality.—Considering their opportunities, scattered as they are through a country thickly settled with whites, these Indians are on the whole reasonably abstemious and free from gross immorality.

Statistics.—

Value of personal property	\$	126,591
Acres under cultivation		2,552
Acres of new land broken		4
Total value of real and personal property	\$	532,424
Ploughs		192
Harrows		99
Wagons		63

Carts	1
Fanning-mills	27
Threshing-machines	2
Mowing-machines	16
Reapers	4
Number of other implements	4,459
Horses	4,912
Cows	1,421
Bulls	8
Sheep	1
Pigs	683
Number of young stock	585
Value of fish taken	\$ 6,875
Value of furs	\$ 11,699
Other industries	\$ 94,280
Corn, bushels	185
Wheat "	8,789
Oats "	6,370
Pease "	488
Barley "	222
Beans "	260
Potatoes "	12,740
Hay, tons	1,250

KOOTENAY AGENCY.

Location. This agency is situated in the south-east section of British Columbia, having the Rocky Mountains on the east and north, the United States territory on the south, and the Kamloops-Okanagan Agency on the west.

Area. The reserves in the aggregate amount to forty-two thousand and sixty-one acres.

Resources.—The reserves in many localities are of fairly good land, which, when irrigated, yields average grain and root crops; but on some reserves, not having water for irrigation, the returns are poor; on these reserves there are also considerable summer ranges for cattle, and hay meadows. Fish abound in the lakes and streams, and game and furs are to be had in the mountains, though not as plentiful as in former years.

Tribe or Nation.—With the exception of the Shuswap Band settled at the Columbia Lakes, the Indians are likely an offshoot of the Tinneh nation, as their name of Kootenay seems to indicate.

Vital Statistics.—The population is five hundred and sixty-two, of which two hundred and forty-three are children. There have been ten births and twenty-nine deaths, which makes a decrease of nineteen as compared with the census of last year. The cause of death has been reported as chiefly consumption and severe colds amongst the aged.

Health and Sanitary Condition. These Indians are subject to pulmonary complaints and bronchial affections. During the year reported upon, there have been more deaths than usual. Such of the sick as could not assist themselves were attended to by the Indian agent, medicine and medical attendance having been provided by him also. Constant care is taken to teach the Indians the benefits arising from a proper observance of sanitary precautions in their dwellings and around their villages, &c.

Occupation. They engage in general farming and stock-raising, hunting and fishing, and occasionally acting as guides to hunters and miners; they also do considerable packing and teaming, having plenty of horses.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—Their style of dwelling-houses is rather backward. They mostly live in tents or mimis during the summer, and only assemble at their village, St. Eugene Mission, for a few months of the winter; there

their houses are small and built of logs. At the Columbia Lakes, however, better houses are appearing, and in time it is hoped that the advance in that direction will be general, every encouragement being given them. Some of these Indians have considerable cattle and horses, and the number of farming implements is increasing with their advance in farming industries.

Education.—There are one hundred and fourteen children of school age. The Kootenay Industrial-school is near the St. Eugene Mission, and is under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church. It educates and trains fifty pupils, boys and girls, who are carefully instructed, the boys being taught farming and various trades, and the girls household-work, knitting and sewing, &c. A general report of management, course of studies, equipment, discipline, and progress of pupils, &c., has been sent to the department from the reverend principal. The interest of the parents of the children being cared for is most gratifying, and since the school was established a gradual improvement in the manners and actions of the natives, old and young, has been observable.

Religion.—The Indians are Roman Catholics in this agency. They have churches at the Shuswap Reserve on the Columbia Lakes, at St. Eugene Mission. Religious services are periodically held in Indian houses at Tobacco Plains, and at the village of the Lower Kootenay Indians. The Indians in the eastern portion of the agency have for years taken a sincere interest in the religion taught them and have been temperate, moral, and industrious in their lives; but the natives known as the Lower Kootenays have not given satisfactory evidence of any endeavour to follow consistently the precepts of the teachings they for years have received.

Characteristics and Progress. Of late years the Indians in the eastern section of the agency have advanced most satisfactorily. Farming and stock-raising are, to a certain extent, successfully carried on, and the desire to improve their condition is noticeable within the past few years. The natives known as the Lower Kootenays located on the Kootenay River and Lake, are not of an industrious or domestic turn. They live chiefly by fishing and hunting, and their proximity to the boundary line has the effect of making some of them idle and more or less irregular and unsatisfactory in their habits.

Temperance and Morality.—The Upper Kootenay Indians are noted for both these virtues. The Lower Kootenays are of an inferior standard.

Statistics.—

Value of personal property.....	\$79,850
Acres under cultivation.....	350
Acres of new land broken.....	31
Total value of real and personal property.....	\$190,255
Ploughs.....	47
Harrows.....	16
Wagons.....	15
Fanning-mills.....	2
Mowing-machines.....	3
Number of other implements.....	33
Horses.....	1,690
Cows.....	353
Oxen.....	48
Bulls.....	23
Number of young stock.....	310
Value of furs.....	\$2,400
Wheat, bushels.....	420
Oats.....	3,110
Pease.....	135
Potatoes.....	1,375
Hay, tons.....	145

The agent remarks that the decrease in the St. Mary's Band is caused by the death of a number of very old Indians, and some young children, and a very low birth-rate. He adds that the same remark applies to the Tobacco Plains Band. The increase in the Columbia Lake Band is accounted for by a higher birth-rate, less sickness and better living and by the addition of two families from the St. Mary's Band. The Lower Kootenays do not show an increase or decrease. The Shuswaps show a decrease of one by death.

WILLIAMS LAKE AGENCY.

Location. This agency is situated north and partly west of the Kamloops-Okanagan Agency, south of the Babine Agency, having the Rocky Mountains as a portion of the eastern boundary and the Fraser and Kwawkwalth Agencies for western boundary.

Area. There are seventy-four thousand and sixty-five acres reserved for this agency.

Resources. The reserves contain much good timber. Many of the lakes and streams are well stocked with fish and wild fowl; the Fraser River supplies salmon; gold is found on some of the river bars during very low water; and there are considerable areas of farming and grazing lands. Fur-bearing animals and game, large and small, are to be found throughout the country.

Tribe or Nation. These Indians belong chiefly to the Salish and Tinneh peoples.

Vital Statistics. The population is two thousand three hundred and fifty-eight, consisting of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine adults and four hundred and fifty-nine children. During the year there were forty-two births and twenty-one deaths, making an increase of twenty-one in population compared with last year's census. There were no immigrations or emigrations. The principal causes of death were pneumonia and la grippe.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—These Indians are healthy and strong; they were visited by no widespread epidemics, and sanitary precautions are encouraged in every way. There are two medical practitioners in the agency. Houses are generally good and kept fairly clean.

Occupation. Mixed farming, freighting, working as farm-hands amongst the settlers, hunting, fishing, &c., are the occupations followed by these Indians.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—The houses are comfortable and fairly well kept; there are a good many barns and stables throughout the agency; there are a good many cattle and horses, &c., with a reasonable supply of farming implements.

Education. There are one hundred and forty-nine children of school age. There is but one school in this agency, the Williams Lake Industrial-school, under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church. There are fifty pupils cared for and undergoing the same course of training as those in similar institutions in this superintendency. The reverend principal's report, with all particulars, has been duly forwarded.

Religion.—The Indians are Roman Catholics; there are several Roman Catholic missionaries stationed in different localities; there are many churches and services, and religious festivals and meetings for instruction are periodically held all over the agency. The Indians seem to worship devoutly and to take a great interest in their religion.

Characteristics and Progress.—They are industrious, and generally succeed in making a fairly comfortable living; some of them on better reserves than others are well off, whilst the less favourably situated have more or less of a struggle for existence.

Temperance and Morality.—Their conduct in this respect is satisfactory, and gives evidence of a pleasing advance in civilized acquirements over past years.

Statistics.--

Value of personal property	\$ 58,500
Acres under cultivation	1,265
Acres of new land broken	15
Total value of real and personal property	\$ 222,087
Ploughs	102
Harrows	37
Wagons	28
Fanning mills	10
Threshing-machines	2
Mowing-machines	28
Number of other implements	542
Horses	2,720
Cows	983
Bulls	38
Pigs	479
Number of young stock	234
Value of fish taken	\$ 1,490
Value of furs	\$ 7,380
Other industries	\$ 22,600
Wheat, bush	3,701
Oats "	2,370
Pease "	862
Barley "	260
Beans "	162
Potatoes "	4,655
Hay, tons	1,493

The agent states that early frost destroyed nearly all the grain and potato crops at Alexandria Reserve. At the Kanim Lake Reserve a new church was built, value \$1,500, an addition to the value of the buildings.

BABINE AGENCY.

Location.—This is, of all the agencies, the most northerly in its situation, and is bounded as follows :—on the east by the Rocky Mountains, the north and west by the North-west Coast Agency, and on the south by the Williams Lake Agency.

Area.—All the reserves for this agency have not, as yet, been surveyed. Approximately, however, the reserves may be taken to cover forty-four thousand six hundred and thirty-one acres.

Resources.—The principal food supply of these Indians is fish, fur-bearing animals and game (cariboo, deer, mountain-sheep and goat, &c.). They also own a few head of cattle, plant yearly some small gardens, and flock in large numbers to the canneries on the Nass, Skeena and Rivers Inlet for employment.

Tribe or Nation.—These Indians are mostly of the Tinneh nation.

Vital Statistics.—The population is two thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, of which eight hundred and one are children. The births for the year number thirteen and deaths thirty, making a decrease of seventeen as compared with last year's census. The cause of death is attributable collectively to throat, lung and bowel complaints. No immigration or emigration.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—Attention is paid to improved sanitary conditions. Vaccination by the agent is carried on periodically amongst the native men, women and children. Of late there is a marked improvement in the style of houses being built, and gradually the primitive rancherie is being abandoned for houses of a neatly built and more modern type, and occupied mostly by young married people who desire to imitate the respectable white people in their manner of living, &c. The agent reports that the

health of the natives has been good, and that no epidemic of any disease appeared amongst them.

Occupation. The occupation of these people principally consists in hunting and fishing. They are of late gradually taking to the cultivation of small patches of garden land, and to the raising of a few head of stock. They work at the salmon canneries during the fishing season. Some few of them visit the mines during the summer, where they are mostly employed in packing provisions from camp to camp, and in acting as guides to miners, &c. Farming is not profitable or certain as to results, owing to that section being subject to early frosts. In time stock-raising may be more generally carried on, there being plenty of summer feed, and of meadows off which an abundance of wild hay could be cut and saved annually.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—Their dwelling-houses are being steadily improved as regards health, comfort and appearance. The agent's returns show an increase of thirty-six frame houses, twenty-one log houses, forty-one shanties and nine stables during last year, at an estimated cost or value of \$12,020. In stock the number of horned cattle has increased by one hundred and ninety-two head, while the number of horses and pigs has slightly decreased. The change is owing to the Indians having realized the greater value of the former. The value of farming implements is incon siderable for reasons given. There is, however, a slight increase in such as they require for garden work.

Education. There are two day-schools conducted respectively by the Rev. John Field at Hazelton (under the Church Missionary Society) and at Kishpiax by the Rev. W. H. Pierce (under the Methodist Missionary Society). These schools being attended only during certain months of the year, make but indifferent progress in their attempts at education.

Religion. There are some of these natives who have adopted the Roman Catholic belief, some that of the Church of England, and others are members of the Methodist Missionary Church. The Roman Catholics are the most numerous and all have resident missionaries and churches at different places throughout the agency. Of late on the Upper Skeena River a noted change has taken place, many of the bands hitherto obstinate in their belief in the heathen rites of their pagan fathers having joined the ranks of those professing Christianity.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians are industrious; are good hunters, good fishermen; have a turn for cultivating the soil and stock-raising, and are reported to be careful and respectful in observing the lessons taught them by their spiritual and temporal guides. They give promise of considerable advancement in the near future.

Temperance and Morality.—Though not exemplary in their conduct under these heads, their actions compare favourably with the natives in other agencies.

Statistics.

Value of personal property	\$ 44,630
Acres under cultivation	197
Acres of new land broken	31
Total value of real and personal property	\$103,200
Number of other implements	6,170
Horses	337
Cows	172
Bulls	14
Oxen	44
Number of young stock	59
Value of fish taken	\$ 35,750
Value of furs	\$ 43,800
Other industries	\$ 28,700
Potatoes, bush	2,330
Hay, tons	24½

The agent makes the following remarks:—"The slight decrease in population is attributable to a large death-rate amongst the youngest of the children and the very oldest of the adults, especially during the month of May last. The weather here during that period alternating between very hot and extremely chilly days caused a mild influenza to prevail. Under the heading 'Number of other implements,' I am classing those of every description. Figuratively speaking, a wave of religious feeling swept over the villages of the Kitksun division during this year, and surprisingly many Indians embraced Christianity. With that tendency existing, I consider the conversion of all, inside of only a few years, more assured. Consistent with the yet necessary absenteeism of the Indians during the best parts of the season, their agricultural bent is still confined to the raising of the potato, one of their mainstays. The settling on their respective holdings will bring on in due time a change and cause them to drift into mixed farming."

General Remarks.—During the year now reported upon the Indians have on the whole been industrious; their attitude has been respectful towards the Government and the department. They have been friendly in their intercourse with the whites; and have dwelt in peace and harmony with one another. There have been very few criminal cases recorded against them; their law-abiding and peaceful behaviour comparing most favourably with that of the white population in British Columbia.

During the period under consideration the superintendency has been visited by no fatal epidemic and the general health of the Indians may be put down as having been unusually good.

The statistics furnished by the respective agents compare favourably with those of the previous year, showing, on the whole, a steady advance in industrial pursuits and results.

It was very gratifying to me to notice, during my visitations throughout the superintendency, many signs of advancement, especially in regard to their mode of living and the superior class of houses being erected upon their reserves. This pleasing feature in the improvement of their respective villages was particularly noticeable on the west coast of Vancouver Island and Port Simpson and other places in the North-west Coast Agency.

The natives are also learning the true value of money as a potent factor in aiding their advancement when judiciously expended. In many instances—acting upon the advice of the missionaries and of the officers of the department—it has been noticed that they are becoming more saving of the money they earn at the canneries, and other places, and less disposed to squander it in the purchase of useless articles, or deleterious enjoyment, &c.

To such of the Indians as were found to be sick—helpless through age—and in want, relief either in food, clothing, medicine or medical attendance, as the case required, was promptly afforded by the respective agents. Every endeavour has been made in the direction of inducing such of the natives as could afford it not only to pay for themselves under such contingencies, but also to assist their friends in distress.

The promise of good crops this autumn on the Indian lands is, on the whole, very fair, although some few of the reserves on the Lower Fraser had their growing crops, in some cases, totally destroyed, in others partially, by the high water, which lasted longer than usual in that river, during the past summer.

The good to be expected from the establishment of industrial-schools in this superintendency is becoming each year more apparent, and even at the present early stage much good has been effected, as is to be seen by the influence for the better exercised amongst their people by such of the young people as have been at these schools, and by a greater desire on the part of the parents for the education of their children. It is noticeable, also, that in the houses of such of the Indians as have their children at any of these institutions a pleasing advance in cleanliness, order, and neatness, &c., has been made, the old people taking a pride in providing better surroundings for their educated children than they ever thought of for themselves.

Each year brings an increase of work to this office and to the different agencies in the superintendency, which is the result of a growing population and settlement in the

province. In all branches of the department we have been heavily taxed to keep the work from falling behind; and in this office I can testify that every one connected therewith is ever ready to work extra long hours to ensure that end.

I have, &c.,

A. W. VOWELL,
Indian Superintendent, B.C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION,
VICTORIA, 8th September, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa,

SIR,—I have the honour to submit for your information my annual report as Indian Reserve Commissioner.

I must, in the first place, draw your attention to the fact that no surveys of reserves have been undertaken during the current year. The services of Messrs. Skinner and Devereux having been temporarily dispensed with by the department, owing to the lack of funds, the unfinished surveys in the coast and Cassiar districts remain in the same position stated in my last year's report, and they cannot, unless under exceptionally favourable circumstances, be completed by two parties in one season.

The unsurveyed reserves within the railway belt, and those allotted last year for the Alkali Lake and Canoe Creek Indians also remain unfinished, and will occupy a party for about four months.

The services of Mr. Green, the surveyor, who has been specially attached to the commission, were dispensed with, by authority of the department, in the month of March, and the work he was then engaged in, viz., plotting the field-notes of Messrs. Skinner and Devereux, and the usual technical and routine work of the office, were necessarily discontinued.

Mr. Green was on 18th May employed to resurvey the Musqueam Reserve for the Langley Band of Indians, and also certain of the Cowichan Reserves; both these works were urgently needed, and special reports in connection with them were forwarded to the department.

The projected work of the commission, as applied for by the local agents, and approved by the department, comprises additions and extensions to reserves situated partly on the mainland and partly on the island of Vancouver, viz., reserves for the Nicola Lake, Sliammon, Klahoose, Euclataw and Clayoquot Indians.

To the above must be added the completion of the allotments for the Kishpiax Indians, on the Skeena. This work was interrupted by the Indians, who refused to accept any reserves at the time the commission visited the Upper Skeena.

I have, &c.,

P. O'REILLY,
Indian Reserve Commissioner.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
BABINE AGENCY,

HAZELTON, 2nd July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896, with accompanying tabular statement ; also, inventory of all Government-property in my keeping.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians in this agency has been good during this year. No epidemic disease of any kind came amongst them.

During the month of May last, aside from a few alternate exceedingly hot days, a cold penetrating north-east wind prevailed, causing throat, lung and bowel complaints, with, in many cases, fatal termination amongst the very young children and old people.

The Indians of this district have been supplied this year with the usual amount of medicines. Through their proper use, much good was effected.

The Indians have been taught to observe sanitary measures. All those visited and otherwise coming under my notice were vaccinated, and those re-vaccinated upon whom a previous operation proved unsuccessful.

Resources.—The fur-catch has been very good. The salmon runs were heavy and in consequence the supply abundant.

Improved Condition.—The once overcrowded old villages on the Skeena River are left, almost entirely, to the old of the population. Great changes have taken place. New villages have sprung up in the most favoured parts of the respective reserves. The possession of separate holdings, with comfortable houses thereon, and enough land for all purposes, is making the Indians content and ambitious for higher aims. And as a result they will remain at home and vie with each other as to the best results, and will send their children to school regularly, and improve the prospect of their future in every respect. The women, formerly mere "beasts of burden," are now tidy housekeepers, able to cook, bake good bread, sew, knit and mend, being treated by their husbands with due consideration. It is pleasing to observe, on a Sunday, families coming to church well dressed, plainly conscious of their moral elevation. A general improvement in all the Indians and their surroundings, in comparison with former years, is especially commented on by people even after a short absence from here.

Buildings.—The Indians are also much advanced in handling tools of all descriptions, principally those for woodwork. In Mr. Edward C. Stephenson, of the Anglican Church Missionary Society, at Kis-ge-gas, the most northerly village on the Babine, and four miles above its confluence with the Skeena River, the Indians find a teacher and trade-instructor in carpentry, combined. During this year a splendid dwelling-house was built there by him with the Indians' hired help ; a school is under way, and church to follow.

Farming.—It is only natural to expect that in due time attention will be paid to mixed farming. The only product raised so far, the potato, has of late been made more profitable by better planting and hoeing, and the crop this year was plentiful. Of the seeds sent by the department, the most prized are those of the Swede turnip ; the outcome of that variety stands "cacheing" well every winter and keeps, for food, till late in spring.

Stock.—The Indians are also open to the conviction now that paying attention to raising cattle, in future, will be promoting their material prosperity to a substantial extent. Already I procured a lot of yearlings, a bull and some heifers, and they are on the way to the village of Kit-wan-ga.

Making Lumber.—All the Indians' spare time, in winter, is made use of in hauling fence material and logs, whipsawing the latter into lumber for their own purposes.

In adverting to the low statistical status as to advance at the end of 1893-94, on account of the many freight canoes, valued at from \$80 to \$140 each, having been abandoned, the steamer "Caledonia" taking their place on the Skeena River, I might say that these statistics have risen to a high mark up to the end of this year, and I beg leave to mention, they are not overestimated.

I have, &c.,

R. E. LORING,
Indian Agent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
COWICHAN AGENCY,
QUAMICHAN, 5th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896. List of Government property under my charge has already been forwarded.

SOOKE.

The widows of this small village have done all they could to support themselves and their children by taking crabs and other fish to the Victoria market, but when the weather is stormy this industry is at a standstill, and, having large families of young children, they require occasional relief.

CHE-ERN-O (BEECHER BAY.)

The same remark applies to the widows of this band. It will be remembered that the people in these two villages were the greatest sufferers by the disaster to the sealing schooner "Earle" last year. Only two able-bodied men were left in this village.

Area of Reserve.—Though the reserve is a large one—seven hundred and seventy-nine acres—very little of it can ever be cultivated, being most of it rock with here and there small patches of soil.

SONGHEES.

Very little change has taken place in this band during the year.

Gardens.—The garden crops proved an entire failure last year owing to the drought, and many are so disheartened that very few gardens are worked this season. Some few members, however, cultivate patches of land with relatives in the Saanich and Cowichan Reserves.

DISCOVERY ISLAND.

The members of this band, which is a branch of the Songhees, continue to cultivate fair gardens, and keep a number of sheep, but their principal means of livelihood is fishing for the Victoria market.

TSAU-OUT, EAST SAANICH.

Religion and Education.—This reserve has considerably improved during the year. The Roman Catholic Mission has built a neat church and school-room, which is well attended, and the devoted labours of the Rev. Father Vullingsh seem to be well appreciated by the Indians.

Improvements.—They have themselves made a fairly good road through the reserve, also constructed considerable fencing during the year.

NORTH AND SOUTH SAANICH.

Crops.—There was quite a shrinkage in the grain crops on these lands last year, owing to the very dry season, and this year, I fear, it will be worse, as there has been no rain for two months, and many fields will not be worth cutting. The crops of berries have also been light, but this is made up for in a measure by the higher prices received.

Occupation.—Many of these Indians work for white farmers in their neighbourhood, but the wages paid are not more than half what was formerly paid before they had to compete with Chinese labour.

COWICHAN.

Vital Statistics.—The seven bands residing in this valley show a decrease of eleven during the year; there has been no particular epidemic, but several old people died during the wet weather.

Improvements.—A large number of fruit trees have been planted, and a still larger number are on order.

Crops.—The grain and root crops were in many places an entire failure, one hard working Indian planted ten acres of wheat; but owing to the extreme dryness of the season, there was nothing to harvest. The hay crop on the low lands was, however, excellent and well harvested.

Occupation.—Most of these Indians still continue to go to the canneries of the Fraser River during the salmon season, but do not succeed in earning as much as formerly, some trusting to a supply for food from the canneries for winter use.

CHEMAINUS.

Crops, Occupation.—These bands had poor crops also, but in the spring the saw-mills, which had been closed for three years, were re-opened, and quite a number of Indians and half-breeds got steady employment.

PENELAKUT, VALDEZ AND GAGLIANO ISLANDS.

Occupation.—In these villages quite a boat-building industry is carried on. Some of the young men are very expert builders, and find a quick sale for their boats. The men here are also expert fishermen, taking large quantities of cod and halibut, much of which is eventually shipped east.

NANAIMO.

Education.—The day-school on this reserve has been open all the year, with fair attendance and good progress, under Mr. Galloway, who, I am sorry to say, left the school. The land these Indians cultivate is seven miles away, so when the families are there the number of pupils is less.

Crops.—A large amount of grain was put in, and the ground being always moist, crops are better in a dry season than in a wet one.

COMOX.

Occupation.—Nearly all of these Indians have been living away from the reserves, near the Union wharf, where the men get occasional work on the coal steamers. The Indians in the small villages on the coast live principally by obtaining the oil from the dogfish, for which they find ready sale. They all have gardens, and some now have small orchards.

Crops and Stock.—Last year this tribe grew nothing whatever, purchasing potatoes from the farmers, and having no stock. This spring one or two repaired some of their fences and proposed putting in some crop, and this will most likely become more general, as the Chinese are gradually taking their places at the wharf.

Health.—There has been very little sickness amongst them during the year. They appear to be a more hardy class than those living inland.

KUPER ISLAND INDUSTRIAL-SCHOOL.

The enlargement of these buildings was completed in July. They now accommodate fifty-two pupils. They have been very successfully carried on, and the pupils are a credit to their teachers—Mr. O. Gallant, Sister Mary Celestine and other Sisters. A good deal of clearing has been done on the land, and the crops look well.

Songhees School.—The school on the Songhees Reserve, taught by Sisters of St. Ann, has been well attended, every child of school age being regular when in the village.

Somenos School.—During the year a Methodist day-school was opened by Rev. Mr. Spencer in an Indian house in the Somenos village. The children are only small, but appear bright and apt to learn.

Shooting in Close Season.—The Indians appreciate the change in the Provincial Game Act by which they are now allowed to shoot game for their own use at any season.

Sanitary Condition.—The sanitary condition of the agency as a whole has been good, and more care is taken in this matter than formerly.

I have, &c.,

W. H. LOMAS,
Indian Agent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
FRASER RIVER AGENCY,
NEW WESTMINSTER, 3rd September, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report, together with tabular statement, for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

A list of Government property in my charge was forwarded to the department on the 30th June ultimo.

Vital Statistics.—There is a decrease of eight hundred and forty-seven in census returns this year compared with last year. This is owing to the fact that I have been

able to obtain an accurate census, and is not caused to any extent by either death or emigration. There has been one hundred and ninety-eight deaths and one hundred and eighty-four births during the year.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians throughout this agency on the whole has been good, and no contagious disease of any kind has made its appearance among them. During the months of March and April last, I got all the Indians on their respective reserves to clean up and burn all refuse matter that had accumulated during the past winter, and put their premises in a clean and healthy condition. I also vaccinated all those whom I found had not been previously vaccinated.

Occupation.—The Indians residing at Homalko, Klahoose, Sliammon and Sechelt follow hand-logging chiefly for their living the greater part of the year, and earn good wages. They also come to the canneries to fish during the fishing season. The Skawamish and all those Indians at Burrard Inlet also follow hand-logging. Many of them also find employment in fishing for the Vancouver market. Nearly all the fresh fish used in the city is caught by Indians. Many of the young men find employment loading ships with lumber at the saw-mills in Vancouver and vicinity. The Indians residing at Musqueam, Tehe-wassan, Langley, Matsqui, Sumass, Chilliwack, Scowlitz, Cheam, Popcum, Squatits, Ohamil, Skaw-ah-looks, Hope, Skweahm, Chehalis and Pemberton Meadows all do more or less of mixed farming, and are making satisfactory progress. Very little dairying has hitherto been carried on by any of these Indians, they preferring to let the calves run with the cows. Johnny Leon, the chief of Chehalis, milked five cows during the past year and made excellent butter, which he readily disposed of to the dairy shops in the neighbourhood at a good price. James, an Indian residing on Scowlitz Reserve, milked nine cows during the past year; he also made butter, which he disposed of to the dairy shops in the vicinity at a good price. These two Indians are setting a good example to all the Indians in their neighbourhood. At Chilliwack two Indians deserve special mention, viz., Billy, chief of Skulkayu, and Joe, chief of Kwan-kwan-apilt: each of these men has about thirty-five acres cleared and in a high state of cultivation, and raises as good crops and takes as good care of them as his white neighbours do. Their example is doing a great amount of good to other Indians who are less energetic. The Hope Indians are also doing a great deal in the way of cultivation, and are making good progress. Great credit is due to Chief Pierre for the good example which he sets before the others. He has about thirty-five acres cleared and in a high state of cultivation. When he was paid off at the cannery in September, 1895, he deposited the sum of two hundred dollars in the savings bank here. This year he deposited the sum of one hundred dollars, so that he has now the sum of three hundred dollars to his credit in the bank.

Religion.—Of the Indians in this agency two thousand nine hundred and sixty-two are Roman Catholics, eighty-six are Episcopalians, one hundred and fifty-one are Methodists and one hundred and eighty-two are pagans. Those of them belonging to the several denominations mentioned, attend very strictly to their religious duties, and are really very good people. On each reserve they have a church, and on some reserves where the denominations are mixed, each denomination has its own church.

Education.—There are three schools in this agency,—one conducted under the management of the Roman Catholic Church at St. Mary's Mission, one conducted under the management of the Episcopal Church, at Yale, and one under the Methodist Church at Chilliwack. The children in each of these schools are making satisfactory progress and a marked improvement is noticeable on each periodical visit which I make to the schools. Too much praise cannot be given to those in charge of those schools, for the pains they are taking with the pupils and the care which they bestow upon them. There are five hundred and eighty-nine children of school age in this agency, and many of those who are not attending school are most anxious to go, but there is not accommodation for them. Their parents are very particular about sending their children to any school conducted by a religious denomination other than that to which they themselves belong.

Temperance and Morality.—I am happy to state that the Indians of this agency are as a rule a temperate and moral people. Some of the young men on coming to the cities occasionally get some liquor, but on the whole there is very little reason to complain of them in this respect.

I have, &c.,

FRANK DEVLIN,
Indian Agent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
KAMLOOPS-OKANAGAN AGENCY,
KAMLOOPS, 20th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement respecting the Indians belonging to this agency for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1896.

Sanitary Condition.—The sanitary conditions of the reserves continue to improve. During the winter and spring there was a great deal of suffering from colds, la grippe and a large number of cases of erysipelas. This last disease was confined to the Skichistan and Kamloops Bands. The fatalities on these accounts were very small, the births having again slightly exceeded the deaths in number.

Crops. The harvest returns, as a whole, were fair, but the price obtained by the Indians for their surplus products was not as good as in former years.

Fur Trade. In many places the fur-catch was far below the average, which is caused by the settlement of the country, and the day is not far distant when the Indians will have to give up hunting as a means of livelihood.

Occupation.—Along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, west of Kamloops, many of the Indians found employment with the railroad company. At Spuzzum and North Bend some twenty-five or thirty have been steadily employed during the year at \$1.50 per day, working in different capacities for mining companies. The bands living between North Bend and Deadman's Creek have been progressing slowly. The influx of white settlers through this section being small, the Indians are left very much to themselves.

Irrigation. The Deadman's Creek Band built a dam across one of the branches of the creek, about a mile above the village. They have thereby raised the water some five or six feet, so that it now flows through an old ditch, which gives them an abundance of water to irrigate their gardens, where the crops a year ago were a total failure.

The Kamloops Band continues to progress. These Indians have not increased the acreage under cultivation this year, but have paid more attention to the working of their old land. Some of their gardens are kept in very good order, and their crops look excellent.

The Indians of the North Thompson Band are, I may say, making more apparent progress than any other. They have built over a mile of log fencing, and are clearing a large piece of ground, which they will be able to cultivate in another year. They have also planted out some fruit trees.

The Halalt and Haltkum Bands (Shuswap Lake) progress slowly in their agricultural undertakings, which is largely due to the want of water for irrigating. On this account they are seldom able to get more than half a crop off their lands.

The Indians of the Kualt or Little Shuswap Lake Band on account of the high water of two years ago, which undermined a number of their houses, have removed the village from the end of the Little Lake to higher and more suitable ground a half mile up the Little River, as it is called, which connects the large and small Shuswap Lakes. They are clearing some of the best land, which was heavily timbered. This will be a great benefit to them, as they have had but little cultivable land.

The Spallumcheen Band had a very good crop of wheat last year, which was largely due to some of the white settlers, who gave the Indians some assistance in the shape of seed, &c., with a little advice which gave good results.

The Okanagan Indians, as a whole, had good crops for the acreage and seed planted. For a year or two past, their crops were poor, and many had no seed nor the means to buy for a large acreage. This was especially the case with the N-kam-aplix Band, but with the past crop and the prospects of another good crop this year, they will be in a different position before long.

The Nicola Bands continue to progress. They have had the usual amount of freighting to do at seasons when they do not require to work their lands, which is a great assistance in giving them some ready money to buy seeds and necessaries.

Kamloops Industrial-school.—The pupils in this school are making rapid strides. They have, during the past year, completed their carpenter shop, where there is room for from six to eight boys to work. They have turned out some very creditable work, many of the boys showing considerable mechanical ability. There has also been a shoe shop added, where five or six boys work. They have been making all the shoes required for the pupils, as well as the repairs. They had an excellent crop in their garden, though they are still short of water for irrigating, but the reverend principal hopes by another year to have a much larger ditch, which will give ample supply.

Lytton Hospital.—The Sisters in this hospital continue their good work amongst the Indians. A number of cases, which were admitted to the institution and successfully treated, would have been fatal without the good nursing thus procured, which, of course, they could not have obtained in their own homes.

I have, &c.,

WENTWORTH F. WOOD,
Indian Agent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
KOOTENAY AGENCY,
FORT STEELE, 22nd July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended the 30th June. I also inclose herewith my tabular statement as required by the department, an inventory of the Government property having already been forwarded.

Agency.—What is known as the Kootenay Indian Agency, comprises the following bands, viz.: the St. Mary's, the Columbia Lake, the Tobacco Plains and the Lower Kootenays or Flatbows, and the Shuswaps or Kinbaskets.

St. Mary's or principal band is located on the St. Mary's Reserve, between the Kootenay and St. Mary's River. The land lying along the Kootenay River is where the Indians have their little farms, and cut hay for their cattle. The bench or bunch grass lands is used for grazing. They cultivate about seventy acres and raise wheat,

oats and potatoes. The crops are very uncertain owing to want of a proper system of irrigation, and the soil being sandy, it dries out quickly.

Occupation.—A good many of the Indians of this reserve follow packing and herding and make a fairly good living, and in the fall and winter a few go hunting and trapping.

Improvements.—During the past year a good deal of work has been done on the reserve in the way of fencing and putting up some sheds for their cattle and breaking up new land.

Columbia Lake Band.—These Indians live on a reserve on the head-waters of the Columbia River. Their mode of living is principally by farming and stock-raising. This is one of the best reserves in the agency. The soil, although sandy, is very productive and is easily irrigated, which ensures good crops. They raise good grain and potatoes. Their farms are well fenced, and they are gradually extending them from time to time. During the past year their progress has been very satisfactory.

Tobacco Plains Band.—The Indians of this band live on the reserve near the Manitoba boundary.

Resources. The land on this reserve is grazing and farming, with scattered timber over it. There is no swamp or hay land, hence the Indians are obliged to cut most of their grain crop for hay for winter feeding.

Occupation.—They live mostly by trapping and fishing, and occasionally sell grain to buy food. They pack to the nearest market, Fort Steele, a distance of sixty-five miles. They live mostly at their little village on the reserve.

Religion. About two years ago they built themselves a little church out of logs, which they finished very neatly and where service is held every Sunday by the chief. During the past year new fencing was put up and some new houses and sheds erected.

Lower Kootenay Band.—These Indians live in West Kootenay on a reserve about six miles north of the Idaho boundary on the east side of the Kootenay River.

Resources.—The land is mostly swampy, with a little timber and bench land.

Occupation.—The Indians put in and cultivate some gardens along the high land on the river, and raise potatoes and vegetables. A few have some cattle, but they depend mostly for a living on hunting, trapping and fishing, packing to the mines, and during the summer they pick wild fruit and berries, in which the country abounds, and sell them in the mining towns around the Kootenay Lake. Just opposite the reserve extensive reclamation works are being carried on and many of the Indians are employed by the company, at fair wages, weeding, hoeing and haying.

The Shuswap Band is a branch or family of the Shuswap tribe from Kamloops who settled at the Columbia Lakes about forty years ago under "Kinbasket." The Shuswap Reserve is the most northerly in the agency and certainly the best for agricultural purposes. The Indians follow stock-raising, farming and trapping for a living. They are making good progress in farming. Their holdings are well fenced and their houses are neatly and cleanly kept. They have several good irrigating ditches running through their reserve. Recently they have improved their stock by getting in some good horses. They raise oats principally, which find a ready sale at Fort Steele or Golden, they have a frame church on the reserve, built by subscriptions amongst themselves. They are progressive and industrious and are self-supporting.

Vital Statistics.—I regret to say that the census return shows a decrease in three bands. A good many old Indians died during the past winter, and a number of the younger ones from consumption. The St. Mary's Band showed the largest decrease.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There has been a good deal of sickness during the past year, and medical relief had to be given to a greater number than heretofore. During the time that the Indians are in camp at St. Eugene Village every care is taken to see that the place is kept clean, the chiefs and headmen are instructed to have the dwellings swept out and the streets free from refuse, and to have it removed and burned. Vaccination is also attended to and every precaution taken to isolate a suspected case of any infectious disease.

Buildings, &c.—The Indians of this agency are gradually putting up better dwellings and very great care is taken of both their own farming implements and those given them by the department, which are housed or put under sheds for the winter.

Kootenay Industrial-school.—The past year has been one of progress and this very useful institution continues to do good work under the care of the Rev. Principal Cocola, and the Rev. Sisters of Charity. There are at present at the school fifty-five pupils, whose moral and religious training is carefully looked after. For the first time in the history of the school, there are now attending it children from all the bands in the agency. The pupils speak English and most of them very correctly. The girls have been instructed in house-work, cooking, baking, laundry and dairy-work, mending and making clothes ; and their school-work is carefully looked after.

Besides the ordinary school-work, the boys have been taught carpentry, shoe-making, farming, gardening and care of stock. All the boots and shoes used at the school were made by the pupils under the trades instructor.

The educational work is under the care of the Reverend Sisters Bertha and Jacob, both trained teachers who understand the modern methods of instruction. The school is well equipped with globes, maps, blackboards, &c., and a good supply of text books is always on hand. Discipline and order are well maintained, and such a thing as insubordination is unknown. The parents visit the school from time to time, and appear to take a great interest in the progress of their children.

Religion.—All the Indians of the agency belong to the Roman Catholic Church. They are very attentive to their religious duties and assemble regularly at St. Eugene's Mission for instruction.

Temperance and Morality.—I am pleased to be able to bear testimony to the temperate habits of the several bands. Intemperance and immorality are almost unknown, which is in a great measure due to admirable Christian work done amongst them by the Reverend Fathers of the Oblate Order.

General Remarks.—In conclusion I may say that excellent work has been done at the industrial-school by the Rev. Sisters of Mercy. One and all have been painstaking, zealous and efficient in the discharge of their several duties, and the work done by them will, I am sure, have an influence for good in helping to build up the character of the pupils and those with whom they may associate or live amongst after leaving this admirably-managed institution.

I have, &c.,

R. L. T. GALBRAITH,
Indian Agent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
KWAWKEWLTH AGENCY,
CAPE MUDGE, 3rd August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward my annual report, together with tabular statement and list of Government property in my charge to the 30th June, 1896.

Agency.—This agency is known as the Kwawkewlth Agency, and contains fourteen Indian bands, who occupy villages at different points between Cape Mudge and Smith's Sound, and also on the west coast of Vancouver Island. To reach all the villages a distance of quite one thousand miles has to be traversed by water, and to inspect each reserve some four hundred miles must be added to this.

Tribe or Nation.—All of these Indians belong to what is known as the Kwawkewlth nation, with the exception of three bands, one at Cape Mudge, one at Salmon River, and one at Green Point, Thurlow Island, who are known as Liewkwiltahs, who till recently had no intercourse at all with the other bands, though speaking the same language.

Area.—These bands of Indians have about seventeen thousand acres of land allotted to them, a great part of which is unfit for cultivation.

Vital Statistics.—There are about one thousand seven hundred Indians—men, women and children—in this agency, but it is almost impossible to obtain an accurate census unless one were intimately acquainted with each individual, which, under present circumstances, is impossible, as each Indian possesses several names, and often changes his place of abode in the village. None of these Indians emigrate, though some few remain in the towns for several years without returning to their homes, nor is there any immigration. There has been a steady decrease for the last ten years, owing to their immoral habits.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of these Indians generally has been good, there having been no epidemic amongst them. Scrofula is the disease they suffer most from, and is often the cause of death amongst them. It is a most difficult matter to induce them to keep their houses and premises clean, though a great number of the younger members, both young men and women, are very clean in their persons. The elder people are very averse to vaccination, as it so often produces serious ulcers on their arms, which are a long time in getting well; but almost all have been vaccinated during the last seven years.

Occupation.—The Indians depend chiefly on fishing for a living, but a good many are hunters. During the summer months they nearly all go to the canneries, where generally they earn good wages; but this depends entirely on the run of salmon. A small trade is done in basket-making and in weaving mats from the cedar bark, and some few act as guides and canoe-men to tourists and other men prospecting for timber or minerals. No farming is at present done by these Indians, though in two bands a few cattle are kept, which, however, have to seek their own living in winter as well as summer.

Buildings.—The buildings as a rule are very poor, though there are a few small houses of lumber in each village, fairly well built and often neatly kept. There are no farming implements among them of any kind.

Education.—There are about two hundred children of an age to attend school. There are three Indian day-schools, one industrial-school and one home for girls. There is only one teacher in each school, and these have all received a fairly good education, and in two or three cases a really good education. Reading, writing, geography and arithmetic are taught and religious instruction given, the books used being the same as those in the public schools. In the industrial-school carpentering is taught as well, and in the girls' home sewing and cooking. There are no girls at present in the industrial-school. Discipline is good in all the schools. The progress of the pupils in the industrial and day schools at Alert Bay has been very good, owing, no doubt, to the regular attendance, but in the other day-schools the progress is not so marked, and here the attendance is more irregular. The schools are all well equipped with desks, forms and school material. Very few of the parents, however, take any interest whatever in the education of their children, not nearly as much as the children do themselves.

Religion.—Most of the Indians in this agency belong nominally to the Church of England: a few are Methodists and a few Roman Catholics. There are five buildings used for divine service, but very little interest is shown in religious matters.

Characteristics and Progress.—Indians as a rule are indolent, though they will work well for a short time when they have a motive. They are generally law-abiding when liquor is kept from them. These Indians so far have never attempted to save anything except in one case, and this Indian has about \$400 in the Government savings bank. Their customs hitherto have obliged them to dispense their property when a certain amount has been accumulated, and they are hopelessly in debt one to the other.

Only three Indians have had the courage to give up the old customs and leave their people, and they have built neat cottages on the industrial-school reserve at Alert Bay, have married their wives, and work steadily in the saw-mill or at any employment they can get.

Temperance and Morality.—There is certainly not nearly as much intemperance among these Indians as formerly. No doubt the difficulty of obtaining liquor, owing to the strict enforcement of the law, has something to do with this, though many see the evils it has brought upon them in the way of sickness and death. I am also glad to say that undoubtedly not nearly as many women now visit the cities for immoral purposes.

General Remarks.—I may here mention that, owing to the great extent of the agency and the difficulty of visiting all the different bands, which are so scattered, many of them moving away altogether during the summer months from their permanent homes, and also to the fact that they have so little land fit for cultivation, much improvement cannot be looked for among these Indians until the children, who are being more or less educated, grow up and take the place of the present generation. These children, who have been in the industrial-school and girls' home, have undoubtedly already some influence for good, and it is in the education of the children in industrial and boarding-schools that greater effort should be made, which would bring about a more general improvement in the people; at the same time other industries should be encouraged as far as possible among the older members.

I have, &c.,

R. H. PIDCOCK,
Indian Agent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
NORTH-WEST COAST AGENCY,
METLAKANTLA, 3rd August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to present my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended the 30th June, 1896.

Vital Statistics.—In this agency there are five nations of Indians speaking different languages and forming twenty-four bands as follows: the Haida nation of three bands, numbering five hundred and ninety-eight; the Nishgar nation of seven bands, numbering seven hundred and eighty-two; the Tsimpsean nation of six bands, numbering one thousand three hundred and sixty-four; the Oweekayno nation of five bands, numbering nine hundred and ten; and the Tallion nation of three bands, numbering three hundred and forty, making a total population of three thousand nine hundred and ninety-four. I have this year ceased to count in this agency a small band of about forty-four Indians living at Smith's Inlet, upon understanding that they rightfully belong to and have been counted in the Kwawkewlth Agency.

During the year seven of the Haida Indians emigrated to Alaska to join their relatives settled in that country.

There has been during the year an increase of twenty births over deaths throughout the agency.

Area of Reserves.—The total area of land reserved for the Indians of this agency is approximately one hundred and forty-nine thousand, three hundred and forty-seven acres, which was selected from the best available land, but is generally of small value.

Occupation.—These Indians can never depend upon agricultural pursuits for a food supply. The principal source of supply must be fishing and hunting. Many of the

Indians, however, cultivate a small patch of land for raising potatoes, vegetables, berries, &c., for which they require only the lightest and cheapest agricultural implements. These people are not stock-raisers, as their lands are mostly unsuitable for stock-raising. Even at the Indian settlements up the large rivers where cattle and sheep might thrive they find stock-raising too much trouble and expense; hence they depend upon their natural sources of supply—fishing and hunting.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The general health of the Indian population is good. We have had no epidemic disease for a few years past, and the principal cause of deaths, other than that of old age, is consumption (which is prevalent) and the remains of scrofulous diseases inherited by many of the younger generations. Through the assistance of the Indian councils and chiefs, and the influence of missionaries and others, the Indians generally have learned to keep their houses and premises clean, and try to attend to sanitary requirements.

Buildings. Many new and improved dwelling-houses have been built by the Indians during the year to the value of eight thousand dollars, together with improvements to old houses to the value of seven hundred dollars.

Education. The education of these Indians is well attended to by the Government industrial and boarding-schools and the twenty day-schools taught by Episcopal and Methodist missionaries. Most of these schools are partly supported by the Indian Department, which also supplies text books and school material. The pupils are progressing very well, and are taught to speak, read and write in English. A potent source of Indian education here is their contact with white people at the missions, stores, mills and salmon canneries, where even the pagan Indians gain an education in general knowledge of men and things, and especially of trade and business principles. There are about six hundred Indian children of school age, who usually attend school for most of the year.

Religion.—There are eighteen well-built and commodious churches at the permanent Indian villages, and nine comfortable, smaller churches at salmon canneries for the use of the Indians working there during June, July and part of August of each year. A certain number of the missionaries are detailed every summer to the canneries for the purpose of teaching the children in day-school and keeping the Indians up to their religious duties.

Characteristics.—These Indians, as a rule, are industrious in respect to all of their old-time employments, and also at any new interesting kind of labour, such as steam-boat work, cannery work, saw-mill work or building, but if they are placed at agricultural labour or clearing land, they quickly become indolent and abandon the work. Fully thirty per cent of Indians are quite industrious, forty per cent fairly industrious in their own way, and about twenty per cent may be classed as indolent.

Progress.—There are many instances of Indians, in bands where the "potlatch" has been given up, increasing in wealth and substance, and quite a large number have made deposits of money with reliable people for safe-keeping and deposits in the savings bank.

Morality. The moral standing of some pagan bands is very low, but many Indians of the civilized bands will compare very well with the people of many European nations. Their sense of moral propriety has risen greatly within the last ten years.

Temperance. As a rule Indians are temperate in the use of everything excepting intoxicating drinks, of which the majority will make immoderate use whenever opportunity offers. However, there are large numbers who are now total abstainers and resolutely refuse to drink an intoxicant. There has been comparatively little drunkenness amongst our northern Indians this year.

General Remarks.—The Government industrial-school at Metlakahtla and other industrial and boarding-schools for Indian children are doing good work in training and educating both sexes. The department steamer "Vigilant" is kept in good order and has been very serviceable to me in travelling through this extensive agency.

I have, &c.,

C. TODD,
Indian Agent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
WEST COAST AGENCY,
ALBERNI, 20th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward my annual report to the 30th of June, with tabular statement and list of Government property.

Agency.—The West Coast Agency extends from Otter Point to Cape Cook, comprising two hundred miles of the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Reserves.—There are eighteen tribes in this agency. They have one hundred and fifty reserves and fishing stations, aggregating twelve thousand four hundred and twenty acres. There are two large reserves in Barclay Sound, one at Alberni, belonging to the Tseshahs, containing one thousand and thirty acres, and the other at Numakamis, belonging to the Oiahts, containing one thousand seven hundred acres. The acreage of the other reserves ranges from two hundred to two hundred and fifty acres. These tribes all speak the same language with dialectic differences, and have been called the Aht nation.

ALBERNI RESERVES.

Location and Area.—The main village of the Tseshah tribe is situated in the lower corner of No. 1 Reserve, on the west bank of the Somass River. This reserve contains one thousand and thirty acres, the greater part of which is good land, but with considerable timber on it. In the south-west corner is a lake about eighty acres in extent, round which wild hay is cut. The main village of the Opitchesah tribe, Ah-ahs-win-iss, is situated on the east bank of the Somass River, a quarter of a mile from the town of Alberni, the main road running along the bank of the river in front of the village, and consists of ninety-six acres.

Vital Statistics.—The Tseshah tribe numbers one hundred and fifty, consisting of forty men, forty-eight women and sixty-two children and young people. There have been thirteen deaths in this band during the last year, eight adults and five children, ten of which were from consumption. There were seven births. The Opitchesah tribe number sixty-one, consisting of eighteen men, twenty-four women and nineteen children, with five deaths and three births, making a decrease of six in one tribe and three in the other.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—In the month of September there was an epidemic of chicken-pox among these bands, which also attacked the pupils at the girls' home. I attended to the sick myself, and there were no deaths from this cause; of the eighteen for the past year at Alberni thirteen were from tubercular diseases. All the Alberni Indians have been vaccinated except the infants. Sanitary precautions are enforced as much as possible, the Indians being supplied with disinfectants when necessary, and houses and premises are generally kept clean.

Occupation.—The Alberni Indians, except a few old men, all seal, and were the first sealers on the coast, the best sealing grounds being formerly off Barclay Sound, and these Indians the most proficient with the spear. They move down to the islands in Barclay Sound early in the spring, where the men seal on fine days and fish, the women gathering in a plentiful harvest of shell fish, herrings and herring spawn. Since gold prospectors have been at work at Alberni, these Indians get some employment in carrying men by canoe up and down the canal and about Barclay Sound. They own twenty horses, which

are principally used for riding and driving, and six spring wagons; they get some work for horses in hiring them out, and packing goods to the mines. Four Nahwaik of the Tseshahit tribe own five of these horses and do some ploughing, raising feed for their horses, and vegetables and small fruits for themselves and families; but the women do most of the gardening work. There are several hundred fruit trees planted out, some eighty trees bearing fruit on the Opitchesahit Reserve. The men get occasional work at various sorts of labour from the settlers, and some of the women get employment at washing, and picking potatoes in the season. Some of the men hunt in the winter season, supplying themselves with deer meat, and trap and shoot a few fur-bearing animals.

RESERVES OF OTHER TRIBES.

Elh-la-teese Reserve, at the head of Howchuklesit Harbour, Alberni Canal, four hundred acres in extent, belongs to the Howchuklisahit tribe; population, forty-two, consisting of seventeen men, sixteen women, and nine children.

Ah-adyoas Reserve, Diana Island, Eastern Channel, Barclay Sound, eighty-five acres in extent; Oiaht tribe; population, one hundred and ninety-three: sixty-eight men, seventy-five women, and fifty children.

Mah-co-ah Reserve, Village Passage, Barclay Sound, one hundred and twenty-four acres in extent; Toquaht tribe; population, twenty-two: nine men, seventeen women, and six children.

It-tat-so Reserve, Ucluelet Arm, one hundred and sixty-two acres in extent; Ewlh-u-ilh-laht tribe; population, one hundred and seventy-six: sixty-one men, sixty-two women, and fifty-three children.

Opitsat Reserve, Clayoquot Sound, one hundred and eighty acres in extent; Clayoquaht tribe; population, two hundred and sixty-six: eighty-nine men, one hundred and four women, and seventy-three children.

Yahksis Reserve, Flores Island, Clayoquot Sound, one hundred and three acres in extent; Kelsmaht tribe; population, eighty-one: twenty-nine men, thirty-two women and twenty-two children.

Mahktosis Reserve, Matilda Creek, Clayoquot Sound, two hundred and fifty acres in extent; Ahousahit tribe; population, two hundred and seventy: eighty-eight men, one hundred and one women and eighty-one children.

Heshque Reserve, Heshquiaht Harbour, two hundred and twenty-two acres in extent; Heshquiaht tribe; population, one hundred and twenty-five: sixty-two men, sixty-three women and seventy children.

Yuquot Reserve, Friendly Cove, Nootka Sound, two hundred and ten acres in extent; Mo-a-chaht tribe; population, two hundred and four: eighty-three men, eighty-one women and forty children.

Cheshish Reserve, Back of Bligh Island, Nootka Sound, twenty-nine acres in extent; Matchetlaht tribe; population, sixty-five: twenty-six men, twenty-six women and thirteen children.

Nuchatl Reserve, Esperanza Inlet, sixteen acres in extent; Noochahtlaht tribe; population, ninety: thirty-six men, thirty-seven women and seventeen children.

Oke Reserve, Esperanza Inlet, thirty-two acres in extent; Ehattisaht tribe; population, one hundred and twenty-six: forty-four men, forty-six women and thirty-six children.

Acteese Reserve, Barrier Islands, Kyuquot Mission Island, seventy-five acres in extent and Village Island, one hundred and eighteen acres; Kyukaht tribe; population, four hundred and eighteen: one hundred and seventy-one men, one hundred and seventy-one women and seventy-six children.

A-co-us Reserve, Battle Bay, Ou-ou-kiush Inlet, one hundred acres in extent; Chaicclesahit tribe; population, one hundred and nineteen: forty-three men, forty-three women and thirty-three children.

Pacheena Reserve, Port San Juan, one hundred and fifty-three acres in extent; Pachemaht tribe; population, eighty: twenty-six men, thirty women and thirty-three children.

NITINAHT TRIBE.

These Indians live in four villages on the coast at the entrance of Juan de Fuca Strait, viz.:

Tsooquahua, two hundred and thirty-five acres in extent; population, thirty-two: twelve men, twelve women and eight children.

Wyah, one hundred and thirty-two acres in extent; population, sixty-nine: twenty-six men, twenty-seven women and sixteen children.

Cloo-oose, two hundred and forty-eight acres in extent; population, forty-one: fifteen men, fourteen women and twelve children.

Carmanah, one hundred and fifty-eight acres in extent; population, seventeen men, seventeen women and fourteen children.

Vital Statistics.—The Indians of this agency number two thousand seven hundred and fifty: nine hundred and eighty men, one thousand and thirty-two women and seven hundred and thirty-eight children, and are slowly decreasing in number. Except on the occasion of marriage with other tribes, these Indians almost invariably stay on their own land.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—A mild form of la grippe was the only epidemic along the coast; scrofula and consumption with some cases of syphilis are the most fatal diseases among them. There is an improvement with regard to the cleanliness of their houses and they are gradually getting into a better way of living. The practice of moving away from the reserves to the fishing stations at certain times of the year keeps the villages in fair sanitary condition.

Occupation.—The principal occupation of all the able-bodied men of these tribes is sealing. Some men make their living entirely by making canoes, which are chiefly sold at home, there being a great demand for sealing canoes since that industry became general, and canoes are double the value they were when I first came on the coast, as they soon wear out and are liable to be broken on board the schooners.

The dogfish-oil industry used to be of importance, but owing to the low price and limited market, very little is made at the present time. Some canoes of West Coast Indians go to the Fraser River salmon fisheries, but since the greater demand for Indian sealers, not nearly so many as formerly. There is a small cannery in operation in Clayoquot Sound which gives some employment to Indian women. A new cannery is also built in Nootka Sound which, if successful, will also give work to the Indians in that Sound. There are four sealing schooners owned by Nitinaht Indians: "The Patchealis," "Mountain Chief," "Amateur," and "Fisher Maid." Charlie Chipps, who owns the "Fisher Maid," has a small trading store at Port San Juan on the Pacheena Reserve; there is also a store on the Chaicclesaht Reserve managed by Indian Jim, who sells goods there for the store-keeper at Kyuquot, getting a percentage on the cash taken in. Several other small schooners used for sealing on the coast are owned by Indians. One, "The Qui-impta," was entirely built by Indian Jack at Ucluelet. The Indian catch of fur-seal for the months of May and June when the Indians alone have the privilege of sealing, amounted to fifteen hundred. These with the Behring Sea catch and schooner catch on the coast, with the furs got in all the tribes, such as bear, land-otter, beaver, marten, mink, racoon and an occasional sea-otter, average in value for the year one hundred dollars for each male over the age of sixteen. Deer are found on the islands and up the sounds, and a few elk at the heads of the inlets. The hair-seal is also hunted, being a favourite article of food; and a few small whales are harpooned or cast ashore during the year, whale blubber and oil being considered a great delicacy and being a marketable commodity among themselves. Halibut cut thin and dried in the sun is also an article for sale and barter. While fish is the staple article of food, the consumption of flour, sugar, canned goods and most other articles of food used by the white

man have largely increased among them of late years. There is no systematic farming, in fact, except at Alberni and in Barclay Sound they have little land suitable for it, and make so much easier a living in other ways. A few young fruit trees are planted out here and there, with small garden patches of potatoes and perhaps a few rows of carrots and turnips, generally on deserted village sites, the work being done by the women. The women employ their spare time in making cedar, rush and rag mats, many of the young women also make small baskets of various shapes and table mats which are very neatly worked in coloured grass on a cedar bark foundation. The women are all clever at making their own and their children's clothes, and many of them possess sewing machines, and knit socks.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—There is a steady improvement in the aspect of the villages. These Indians are naturally clever at carpenter work and are giving up the practice of many families living in one large house, and neat frame buildings are built every year. The improvement is most marked at Alberni, Clayoquot, Heshquiatic and Kyuquot, where they have fine villages. The Oiahts own a bull, two heifers and a horse; the Ucluelets a horse, two cows, three head of young stock; the Claoquahts two horses; the Ahousahts three horses, and the Heshquiahts three horses, five cows, one calf and three sheep. The Alberni Indians possess two ploughs.

Education.—There are about three hundred and forty children of school age in the agency in the eighteen tribes resident on twenty-one different reserves. There are seven schools in operation: four Presbyterian, one day and boarding-school connected with the Indian girls' home at Alberni, the school-room being a separate building adjacent to the Tseshaht Reserve. Miss Armstrong, formerly teaching at Fort Pelly Agency, holding a second-class New Brunswick certificate, has charge of the day-school.

The girls boarding at the home are taught all kinds of sewing and household work under the superintendence of Miss Johnston, the matron; and several of the boys have received some instruction in carpentry and music. The second school on Itatso Reserve at Ucluelet is taught by Mr. Swartout, who holds a second-class Ontario certificate, and is also superintendent of the Presbyterian missions on the coast. The school-building was put up at the expense of the mission, and is situated between the two villages. The third school at Oiaht is taught by Mr. Eastman in a house on the reserve on Diana Island rented from an Indian. This school is not yet sanctioned by the department.

The fourth school is on the Mahktosis Ahousaht Reserve, in a house lent by an Indian. This school is taught by Mr. Russell, who holds a second-class professional certificate. Mr. Russell hopes to build a school-house and residence this summer.

The Methodist Church has a mission at Nitinaht on the Clo-oose Reserve, under the supervision of the Rev. W. Stone, who teaches school himself and holds an Ontario teacher's certificate. The school-house is a commodious building, erected at the expense of the department.

There are two Roman Catholic schools: one on the Opitsat Reserve, Clayoquot, taught by the Rev. Father Van Nevel, and the other on Mission Island, Kyuquot, taught by the Rev. Father Mulieman. These schools have not been regularly taught during the past year, but the teachers hope to have a good attendance for the coming year. All these schools are taught according to instructions received from the department. The schools at Aberni and Nitinaht are most thoroughly furnished, being supplied with patent desks and seats, &c. The others are sufficiently supplied with home-made desks and forms for the comfort of the pupils. Discipline and order are fairly maintained, and those pupils who attend regularly make rapid progress in the rudiments of education.

The children are docile and much may be done with them by kindness. Many of the parents are interested in the education of their children, and pay visits to the school-house when work is in progress, but the attendance of the children depends mainly on the personal influence of the teacher, and there is always this idea with the older Indians that the obligation is on their side for allowing their children to be taught as white men.

Religion.—Till within the last few years, all the missionary work and teaching on this coast had been done by the Roman Catholic priests, who have a church at Alberni, and churches and school-houses at Oiaht, Clayoquot, Ahousaht, Heshquiatt, Nootka and Kyuquot. Nearly all the children and young men and women have been baptized by the priests, and all the tribes were visited periodically by them and received religious instruction. At the present time there are three missions in operation, with resident priests, at Heshquiatt, Clayoquot and Kyuquot.

The Rev. Father Brabant, who has devoted his life to the Indians, and speaks the language like a native, was shot at Heshquiatt, some twenty years ago, by the then young chief Mataquor, having his hand shattered and a charge of shot in the body. It was done out of revenge to the white man, during an epidemic of small-pox in that tribe, when the reverend father had been most active in looking after them, preventing the spread of the disease and burying the dead. Mataquor wandered away into the bush and perished miserably by himself; his bones were only found a few years ago at the back of the mission, identified by his gun and knife. His son Antoninus, an infant at that time, grew to be a lad of promise, whom Father Brabant took a great interest in, but he died of consumption a few years ago; a marble stone marks his resting place in the Heshquiatt burying ground. The Heshquiatt tribe are almost all Roman Catholics, and many of them show great faith in their religion. Father Brabant also spends some months in the year at Nootka, with the Mo-utch-aht tribe. The Clayoquot mission was without a resident priest for several years, but Father Van Nevel was well received on his arrival this year, and hopes to do a good work among the tribe.

At Kyuquot mission, which has never been without a resident priest, though school has not been successful, many attend church regularly, and many of the tribe are Christians. The Roman Catholic clergy have done much good among these tribes during the last twenty years in helping the agent and Government to maintain order and make them law-abiding, attending to the sick and destitute, inculcating morality, and fighting against their superstitions and vices, such as drinking and gambling, and teaching them to be independent and self-supporting. The churches and buildings also have all been put up without the aid of the department or help of the Indians.

In Barclay Sound missionary work is now carried on by the Presbyterians.

At Alberni, Indian services and Sunday-school are held in the school-house and at the Opitchesaht village, the pupils at the home and some of the Indians also attending service at the Presbyterian church. Services are also held on Sundays at the school-houses at Ucluelet, Oiaht and Ahousaht, Mr. Swartout also occasionally visiting the fishing stations in Barclay Sound when the Indians are away from the village.

The Rev. W. Stone, of the Methodist mission, uses the Nitinaht school-house for church on Sundays and also holds prayer meetings among the Indians. At the sealing season, when the whole tribe congregate at the Pacheena Reserve, Port San Juan, he follows them and teaches school and holds services at that place. While many of these Indians are indifferent to the teachings of religion and think their own way and belief the best, there is enough interest manifested to encourage missionary work among them, and they have no regular form of pagan worship and acknowledge the existence of a supreme being who dwells above.

Characteristics and Progress.—While these Indians are naturally industrious, I must say that many of the young men are careless and indolent, and if there are any old men attached to the family they do most of the work, such as cutting wood, fishing. Since the demand for Indian seal-hunters in Behring Sea, these Indians have earned much more money and have accumulated personal property, but they are not provident, and the majority of them spend all they earn, and many of them are in debt at the beginning of the sealing season. At the same time, if the sealing industry came to an end, though it would cause some hardship, there would be no fear of starvation while they had their canoes and the salt water.

Temperance and Morality.—I cannot report that the Indians in my agency are altogether temperate. Many of them, especially the young men, will drink liquor to excess when they can get it, and it is a source of immorality and waste of money, and the temptations are greatest in Victoria when they return from the sealing season and

are paid off. Neshquiaht is the only reserve where no drunkenness occurs. Liquor brought there is seized by the Indians themselves. At the same time I can report an improvement in respect to the consumption of liquor along the coast. Since the Rev. Mr. Stone has been stationed at Clo-oose very little liquor has been taken to Nitinaht. I may say the same at Ucluelet since Mr. Swartout has been there, and for the last year constables have been stationed at Clayoquot and Kyuquot by the Provincial Government, who have been of great use in breaking up the liquor traffic. At Alberni also, at the request of the young Chief Shewish and others of the tribe, I appointed two Indian special constables, one of whom, Seymour Gaelic, did good work in suppressing this evil, arresting a white man engaged in the business on the islands in Barclay Sound and bringing him to Alberni for trial.

While there are cases of immorality, especially where the reserves are in close proximity to the white settlements, the greater number of these Indians marry early, keep to their wives and are very fond of their children, and I think compare favourably with the other agencies on the island.

I have, &c.,

HARRY GUILLOD,
Indian Agent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
WILLIAMS LAKE AGENCY,
CLINTON, 10th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

This agency embraces twenty-five different bands, situated on as many reserves.

Alexandra Reserve.—This reserve is situated on the Fraser River, about four hundred miles from its mouth. These Indians make a living by farming, fishing, hunting, trapping, and are also employed by white men as farm hands.

Alkali Lake Reserve.—This reserve is situated on the east side of the Fraser River, three hundred miles from its mouth, and the band in point of numbers is the third largest in the agency. These Indians farm, raise cattle, hunt, fish, trap; and some of the men are employed as packers with white men. They are well supplied with hay meadows.

Aneham Reserve.—This reserve is situated at the extreme west of the agency, and the band is the largest. These Indians have a splendid reserve. They farm, raise cattle, hunt, fish and trap; and a number of the young men are employed as herders with the white men.

Anderson Lake Reserve.—This reserve is the limit of my agency to the south. The agricultural land of this reserve is not extensive, but of good quality, and the climate is excellent, so that everything in the way of fruit and vegetables grows in abundance. These Indians raise cattle; fish, farm, and also do considerable gold-mining, and last season they cut and sold \$1,500 worth of saw-logs.

Bridge River Reserve.—This reserve is situated on the Fraser River, about five miles from the village of Lillooet. These Indians are very industrious and comfortably off. They farm, gold-mine, raise stock, and are also employed in various ways by white men.

Canoe Creek Reserve.—The land fit for cultivation on this reserve is small, and water for irrigating the same is very limited. The members of this band make a good living by stock-raising and other pursuits, and no help is ever asked for destitute members.

Cayoosh Reserve, No. 1.—The land on this reserve is poor, but on account of the excellent climate and plenty of water for irrigation, these Indians raise fair crops and are very seldom in need of assistance.

Cayoosh Reserve, No. 2.—This is about two miles from the last-mentioned reserve. The farming land is limited, and scarcity of water for irrigation purposes is the great drawback. However, these Indians manage to get along, as they gold-mine and some are employed as farm hands with white men.

Clinton Reserve.—These Indians are industrious and well-behaved. They cultivate all the available land, and are comfortably well off. In the winter season they supply the greater portion of the fuel used in the village of Clinton.

Dog Creek Reserve.—This reserve is well provided with land for the few Indians occupying it, viz., eleven. They cultivate the soil and raise sufficient for their wants.

Fountain Reserve.—In point of numbers the band occupying this reserve is the second largest in the agency. These Indians are very industrious and raise good crops of grain and vegetables.

High Bar Reserve.—This reserve contains some good land for cultivation, but owing to the scarcity of water for irrigating purposes it is almost useless, and the band can scarcely find enough water to irrigate the dozen acres cultivated. These Indians depend chiefly on the vegetables they raise, and, as they live on the banks of the Fraser River, they generally find plenty of salmon for winter consumption.

Kenim Lake Reserve.—This reserve is one of the most prosperous in my charge. The Indians raise good crops and have a number of cattle, and in winter and spring fish and trap very successfully.

Lillooet Reserve, No. 1.—The band occupying this reserve is industrious and well-behaved, and the men can find employment all the summer on farms and in gold mines.

Lillooet Reserve, No. 2.—This is only a small band—ten. These Indians have plenty of good land and raise enough for their wants.

Pavilion Reserve.—This reserve is situated in the centre of the farming district, and Indians find employment as farm hands. They cultivate a number of acres and raise good crops.

Quesnelle Reserve.—The Indians occupying this reserve do not take kindly to farming and would rather be employed at anything else than cultivating the soil. They make a living by hunting and fishing.

Seaton Lake or Mission Reserve, No. 1.—Very little farming is done by the Indians on this reserve owing to the poverty of the soil and the scarcity of water for irrigation. During the summer the men are employed as packers for miners.

Seaton Lake or Enias Reserve, No. 2.—This, I may say, is almost abandoned; only two people remain and they do not cultivate the soil; they live by hunting and fishing.

Schloss Reserve, No. 5.—The Indians on this reserve have some good land and raise sufficient for their wants. Some of the men are employed as guides to hunters and tourists.

Neciat Reserve, No. 6.—There is very little land fit for cultivation on this reserve. These Indians raise a few potatoes and pease, and make a living by trapping and fishing.

Soda Creek Reserve.—The Indians on this reserve farm and have a few cattle. They are industrious and manage to live without much assistance for their destitute.

Stone Reserve.—The land on this reserve is of good quality, and as a rule good crops are raised by these Indians. They also devote a good portion of their time to hunting and fishing.

Toosey Reserve.—This reserve is well supplied with good land, but water for irrigating purposes is scarce. At my last visit there a Chinaman was employed in constructing a ditch for carrying water which, when completed, will be sufficient for the wants of this band.

WILLIAMS LAKE RESERVE.

Resources.—The Indians on this reserve are in good circumstances, and besides raising good crops have quite a number of cattle.

Area.—This reserve contains seventy-four thousand and sixty-five acres.

Occupation.—These Indians engage in farming, stock-raising, hunting, fishing, gold-mining, and are employed as farm hands, packers, guides, &c.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indians on the various reserves in this agency belong either to the Shuswap or Chilcote tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this agency is one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, consisting of nine hundred and twenty-seven men and nine hundred and seventy-two women, being an increase of twenty-one compared with last year. During the year there were ninety-three births and seventy-two deaths.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The majority of the causes of death were from pneumonia, la grippe, and a couple of cases from whooping cough. This disease did not extend beyond the Fountain and Pavilion Reserves.

Buildings.—The buildings at most of the reserves are of a substantial nature, made of hewn timber.

Farming Implements.—Each reserve is well supplied with farming implements.

Education.—The only school in this agency is the Williams Lake Industrial-school, at which fifty scholars attend, who are making rapid progress. There are about one hundred and fifty children of an age to attend school. The discipline and order are good. The parents of the children attending school take great interest in their progress.

Religion.—With the exception of thirty-seven, who are of the Church of England faith, the remainder are Roman Catholics. There is a church on nearly all the reserves, and the Indians manifest great interest in religion. At four of the reserves they have churches which cost about two thousand dollars each.

Characteristics and Progress.—As a rule these Indians are industrious and law-abiding.

Temperance and Morality.—The younger generation are more inclined to intemperance, but, on the whole, I think this is decreasing, owing to the strict enforcement of the Indian Act for such offences.

General Remarks.—I regret to state that at a dozen of the reserves early frost destroyed the greater portion of the grain and root crops, which necessitated relief being given to quite a number of destitute Indians.

I have, &c.,

E. BELL,

Indian Agent.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR,

WINNIPEG, 21st October, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—In submitting to the department my nineteenth annual report of inspection of the different Indian agencies within this superintendency, I would respectfully state for your information that their condition is reasonably satisfactory, considering the numerous complications which are frequently involved in their management.

General Observations.—The Indian agents, medical officers and other officials are generally discharging in a commendable manner the various responsible duties incumbent upon them in connection with their respective positions. The payments of annuities are accurately made to those entitled thereto, in accordance with the stipulations of the several treaties, and so carefully is this important matter attended to that seldom is any irregularity ever discovered in the pay-sheets.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The sanitary regulations in reference to cleanliness on the different reserves are strenuously enforced, and in many instances, especially around dwelling-houses, scrupulously observed. Liberal supplies of medicines are kept at dispensaries established in central localities for the convenience of those afflicted with various diseases, of which consumption, scrofula and syphilis are the most prevalent and fatal. Measles, scarlatina, variola and other eruptive fevers are invariably attended with considerable mortality, but under the judicious treatment of those experienced physicians appointed to prescribe for them the malignity of these diseases is greatly diminished, and the condition of patients frequently ameliorated.

Destitute Indians.—On each reserve a limited quantity of provisions is regularly distributed, as occasion may require, to the old, infirm and destitute, who are incapable of providing for themselves, and consequently, under ordinary circumstances, no serious destitution of these unfortunate classes of Indians is to be apprehended.

Occupation.—The different occupations by which the Indians of this superintendency obtain their livelihood are farming, hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering berries, digging seneca, working on steamboats, in saw-mills, at the fisheries, as voyageurs, making railway ties, cutting saw-logs and cordwood.

Farming Operations.—In consequence of the unusually cold, wet weather experienced last season, sowing and planting were unavoidably late, and therefore the quantity of cereals harvested was below the average of previous years; but this deficiency was somewhat compensated by the increased quantity of roots and vegetables grown.

Stock.—Owing to the luxuriant pasturage abounding on the reserves, and the comparative absence of flies last summer, the cattle everywhere are in excellent condition, and their numbers are gradually increasing.

Buildings and Farm Implements.—Great improvement in buildings is noticeable. Better and more commodious dwelling-houses and stables are constructed, and greater care is taken of stock. Although the Indians have repeatedly been requested to gather all their farming implements, and have them properly stored away in winter, yet it often happens that these articles are left scattered about their premises. The attention of the agents has, however, been called to this gross negligence, and they have been instructed to have this matter strictly attended to hereafter.

Education.—There are fifty-one day-schools, three boarding-schools and two industrial-schools in operation within this superintendency, having an attendance of one thousand six hundred and ninety-one children. Of these day-schools thirty-two are

under the patronage of the Episcopalians, thirteen are under the Roman Catholics and six under the Methodists. These schools are conducted by fifty-one teachers, of whom several are graduates of universities, a number hold provincial certificates, and the majority of the others are missionary licentiates. The course of studies taught is similar to the instruction given in the provincial schools. All the Indian schools have been furnished with either patent seats and desks, or hand-made ones, stoves, blackboards, maps, globes, reading and other books.

The order and discipline of pupils depend altogether upon the controlling influence of the teachers in charge. It is easy to govern children if an interest in their studies is awakened within them, but this cannot be accomplished without making their lessons attractive and intelligible to them by practical illustrations, and wherever the teachers adopt this method of imparting instruction their schools are orderly and progressive, and the parents are usually interested in the education of their children, and knowledge is disseminated among them; whereas, on the contrary, when their understanding is not enlightened by copious illustrations, corporal punishment is resorted to invariably to enforce obedience, and the children and their parents are neither edified nor interested in school matters.

The boarding-school at Portage la Prairie, under the auspices of the Presbyterian mission, is a model one, and is deserving of every encouragement from the department. Miss Fraser, the principal, and Miss Laidlaw, the teacher, are eminently qualified by natural and acquired ability for the positions they occupy. Those at Pine Creek and Water Hen River are admirably conducted by the teachers in charge. The industrial-school at St. Paul's under the management of Mr. Principal Fairlie, recently appointed, and of Instructor McDougall, promises to be a wonderful success; and that at St. Boniface is second to none in Canada in artistical accomplishment, musical attainments, literary acquirements, industrial achievements and agricultural performances.

Vital Statistics.--This superintendency embraces eight agencies and sixty-seven bands of Swampy-Cree and Ojibbewa Indians, and has a population of nine thousand five hundred and six, namely: two thousand and ninety men, two thousand four hundred and twelve women and five thousand and four children, an increase of one hundred and twenty-five over that of the preceding year. The number of births during the year was four hundred and six and of deaths three hundred and forty, an increase of sixty-six, besides fifty-nine absentees who have returned to their reserves.

Religion. There are twenty chapels erected by the different denominations for missionary purposes, namely, nine by the Episcopalians, six by the Roman Catholics, four by the Methodists and one by the Baptists. Two-thirds of the Indians are nominal Christians, and the remainder are pagans.

Characteristics and Progress. - Indians are generally improvident and lack application, self-reliance and perseverance, so indispensable in acquiring a competence, or in accumulating the necessaries of life beyond their immediate requirements, but some individuals are most industrious and progressive in cultivating their lands and in improving their dwelling-houses.

Temperance and Morality.--They are remarkably law-abiding, excepting when under the influence of intoxicating liquor, which occasionally is supplied those frequenting towns or cities by vile and disreputable characters, for immoral purposes, but on account of the vigilance of officials and of policemen this demoralizing traffic is diminishing.

I have, &c.,

E. McCOLL,

Superintending Inspector for Manitoba.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,

BERENS RIVER AGENCY,

BERENS RIVER, 9th September, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report, together with tabular statement for the year 1896.

Vital Statistics.—There are twelve reserves in this agency, with a population of two thousand one hundred and thirty-eight Indians, divided as follows, viz. :—Black River Reserve, sixty-three; Hollow-water River, one hundred and thirteen; Loon Straits, fourteen; Blood-vein River, ninety; Fisher River, three hundred and thirty-seven; Jack-head River, eighty; Berens River, two hundred and sixty; Peekangekum, seventy-one; Grand Rapids (Berens River), one hundred and sixty-eight; Poplar River, one hundred and forty-seven; Norway House, five hundred and sixty-one; Cross Lake, two hundred and thirty-four.

Education.—There are nine day-schools in operation, out of which one or two are making noticeable progress this year, some are barely holding their own, while others are perceptibly losing ground. I must, however, state that the department is not to blame for the backward condition of these schools. In some cases the missionaries themselves take no interest nor the least trouble to induce the children to attend, or to influence the parents to send them to the day-schools, and they even interfere with the children being sent to industrial-schools. With one exception, the school-houses are inferior with common class furniture. With time no doubt, these disadvantages will be overcome.

Dwellings.—On some of the reserves a better class of houses are being built, but the Indians who still follow the chase make but little improvement in building.

Gardens.—The rocky, marshy and bushy nature of the country along the eastern and northern borders of Lake Winnipeg is not suitable for farming purposes. Vegetables, however, when properly planted and well attended to, grow to perfection on most of the reserves, but of late, especially since the department has wisely given up supplying seed yearly, the Indians have not made any progress in gardening. They do not seem to make an effort to procure seed for themselves, consequently very little is planted.

Hunt.—The fur-hunt during the past year was good, but prices paid by traders for some classes of skins was lower than that of last season. Moose and caribou were fairly plentiful, and rabbits very numerous. Fishing in the vicinity of the reserves was generally good from the agency northward. The Indians are self-sustaining in this agency, and do not cost the Government anything in that respect, and do not suffer for want of food.

Health.—La grippe and a severe form of influenza has been prevalent throughout the agency during the past fall, winter and spring. Scrofula and consumption, the most potent and fell diseases among the Indians, have also been the cause of considerable loss of life. The annual visits through this agency of Dr. G. T. Orton, medical superintendent of this district, has, however, ameliorated to a very great extent the sufferings of many of the Indians who have been troubled by these and other diseases.

Occupation.—The Indians on reserves north of Berens River get little, if any, employment whatever, excepting in the capacity of voyageurs for the Hudson's Bay Company and other traders, while transporting their merchandise from one place to another, purchasing furs, &c., from outlying districts; but south of this they are able to command fair wages at lumber camps, mills, fisheries, farm work, &c.

Stock.—The Fisher River, Black River, and Jack Head Bands are slowly but steadily increasing the numbers of their stock, while other bands do not exert themselves in that direction. The cattle at the above-mentioned reserves were well taken care of during the past winter and looking very fine in the spring.

Characteristics.—The Indians in this agency are in general submissive to the law and obedient to the authorities.

I have, &c.,

A. MACKAY,
Indian Agent.

MANITOBA,

CLANDEBOYE AGENCY,

SELKIRK, 30th August, 1896.

Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit for your information the following report and statement, showing the state of the Indians under my charge, for the year ended June, 1896.

ST. PETER'S RESERVE.

Location, Area and Resources.—The St. Peter's Indian Reserve is situated on the banks of the Red River, beginning some eight miles south of the southerly end of Winnipeg, and is about eight miles square, comprising about thirty-four thousand acres of what might be called fairly good land for general farming; some nine thousand acres of this is under wood, some fifteen thousand is swamp and bush, which is of little value except for pasture; the remainder of the reserve is good farming and hay land, the whole of which is all good farming land. Where there is prairie it is much cut up with hay stacks and swamp land, so that it is difficult to find more than ten acres of good farming land in one piece; but on the whole it is a splendid piece of property and eminently suited to the Indian population. The Red River, Devil's Creek, Muckle's and Wavy Creeks, which flow through it are alive with all kinds of fish; wild-fowl are plentiful, thousands of muskrats are caught annually. Any one who wishes to farm can have all the land he wants; if he wants to keep cattle or horses, they have one of the finest grazing and sections in the province.

Tribe.—The St. Peter's Band is composed of Swampy-Crees and Ojibways, about equally divided,

Vital Statistics.—There are in this band two hundred and eighty men and three hundred and two women and five hundred and sixty-eight children. During the year there were forty-nine births and fifty-three deaths—thirty-seven children and sixteen adults. The latter died principally from consumption and old age; most of the children died from whooping cough. Thus there were four more deaths than births. There was an increase of thirteen in the population compared with the last payment, that number of Indians having returned to the reserve.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians of this band has been about the average. Last fall whooping cough caused a number of deaths among the children. Every member of the band has been vaccinated, except some of the very young children, by Dr. Orton. All refuse matter around the houses has been burnt; and many of the houses are as clean and tidy as any in the province.

Occupation.—A great number of this band work at the fisheries ; a number at the Hudson's Bay Company's service ; some work for farmers and others throughout the province and the North-west Territories. Only about fifteen families can be classed as wanderers. They live at Winnipeg, Stonewall, and other parts of the province ; do little work of any kind, but tell me that they make a good living. Sometimes they come for their annuity and sometimes they do not.

The women are beginning to stay at home and attend to the cows, &c., when their husbands are away at work. The men work at the fisheries, in the lumber camps in the harvest fields ; that is the labouring class. The farmers, such as Chief A. Councillor Sinclair, Philip Thomas, Abraham Thomas, Charles Sinclair and many others, make a living at home by their farms, and by working with their teams in winter. Chief Asham only began to farm last year. This year he has about twelve acres of crop ; he sowed wheat, barley, pease, potatoes and garden vegetables, which all grew well. Philip Thomas expects about eight hundred bushels of grain ; his wheat was the first cut in this section of country. The largest grain crop for one individual is not more than twenty-five acres. Besides this they make from one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars of hay for sale.

Basket-work and mat-making is now almost a thing of the past. Very little is done by them as guides to tourists or work for traders in sending supplies to the north for Indian trade ; this business has moved some three hundred miles north. Colin and Malcolm Johnstone, of this band, live near Prince Albert, and trade with the Indians to the north. They also do a lot of freighting with their oxen. I am told that their business amounts to several thousand dollars a year. There are only a few families belonging to this band who make a living exclusively by hunting and fishing. All the rest, with the exception of the wanderers, do some farming, or have game farms. Every one who lives on the reserve owns cattle or horses, and many of them have chickens and fowls.

Buildings, &c.—Every year there are old houses pulled down and improved ones being built in their places, with kitchens, bed-rooms, &c. Many of the Indians have stoves, furniture, curtains and pictures, mats of different kinds on the floors ; three have sewing-machines and they own over thirty sewing-machines, also wagons, buggies, mowers, bob-sleds and everything that is required on a farm ; these are their own personal property.

Education.—There are three hundred and thirty-five children of school age belonging to this band ; one hundred and sixty-four attend the day-schools and over seventy are pupils at the industrial-schools. There are four what are called Protestant schools, but which are really departmental, as no assistance is given and apparently little is taken by any mission or church in their welfare. During the year one hundred and sixty children have attended the schools. There is one Roman Catholic school where about eleven children attend, some of whom are Protestants. The attendance at the Protestant school would be better, but the Roman Catholics are scattered all over the reserve in some cases at too great a distance to send their children. No assistance is given to the teacher of the mission, but the parish priest often calls in and examines the children and advises the teacher, thus evincing great interest in the school.

Mr. McDougall, teacher of South St. Peter's, is a well qualified teacher. He has a great interest, and has done wonders with the children ; he has been a professional teacher for years. Mr. J. McClure Muckle is an up-to-date teacher ; he gained his experience at the Winnipeg schools, and no school has improved so much as his during the last year. Mr. J. Arran Wilson was educated in Edinburgh, and has done a great deal of work at the East St. Peter's school, especially in recitations, singing and pronunciation. Miss McLean, at North St. Peter's, has a good school ; more than half her children are non-treaty. She receives twenty-five cents a month for each from the Provincial Government for their tuition. I notice that where non-treaty children attend our schools it does good, it acts as a stimulus to the treaty children, they do not want to be behind and in fact this feeling is carried to extremes by the mothers, who in many cases do their children far too well, and as many people would think far above their position.

The course of study at all the schools is the same as at the provincial schools. Three of the schools are furnished with globe desks, one with old-fashioned benches

long desks, and one with desks made by a local carpenter after the style of the globe. On the whole, the Indian children are easily managed after they get over their first wild shyness, and it is seldom they require to be punished. They are particularly good at spelling, geography and writing, or any manual art. In St. Peter's they are all now able to speak English, in fact it is now hard to find a child of ten years of age who cannot.

The Swampy-Crees have always evinced a great desire to be educated, and their children attend school well. Amongst the Ojibways, I believe, most of them in their hearts would as soon their children never went, but the fear that their children would be taken to industrial-schools, and the Compulsory Act makes them send them to school, that is those on the reserve.

Religion.—Some nine hundred of this band belong to the Episcopal church under the care of the Rev. Mr. Anderson. They have a fine stone church, two chapels, and the Muckle's Creek school is used once every Sunday for church purposes. The Rev. Mr. Anderson has five or six good Sunday-schools, which are well attended and are doing good work. There are over one hundred Roman Catholics, who have a fine church on the east side of the Red River, presided over by the Rev. Father Allard, V.G. The Baptists also have a church, presided over by the Rev. W. H. Prince, son of ex-Chief Prince, a pure Indian, with a fluctuating congregation of from ten to forty. Then there are about forty pagans. The Indians are very devout; they are all good church-goers; they delight in religious meetings of all sorts. Nine men out of ten can get up and lead at prayer meetings, offer a good *extempore* prayer or preach a sermon, and will be listened to with great attention, and I believe that in most cases their convictions are from the heart and will be lasting. But at the same time, there are some who perhaps have only lately been pagans or who nominally belonged to some church, whose interest in religion seems to me to consist of trying how many different denominations they could belong to in the shortest time: they become Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Baptists, Plymouth Brethren or perhaps pagans again in such a wonderful way that it is bewildering. I have to ask what denomination they belong to every year. This lamentable state of affairs is caused, no doubt, by the opposition among the churches and by these same people having no fixed convictions in regard to religion.

Swampy-Crees.—The fathers of the Swampy-Crees came from the shores of Hudson's Bay, and were a peaceable people, and I do not doubt that, on account of the hard fight they had in order to make a living there and the necessity of thinking of to-morrow, they have transmitted to their descendants an amount of industry that makes them a fairly industrious people. The Swampy-Crees all farm, own cattle, horses, pigs, &c. Most of them live at home, and although none of them are rich, still most of them are comfortable and self-supporting.

Ojibways.—These Indians were hunters and warriors, were never accustomed to manual labour, and they find it hard to settle down to farming (none of them grow wheat or oats) but all on the reserve have gardens, where they raise potatoes, corn and garden vegetables. They nearly all have some cattle and horses, and with hunting, fishing and cutting cordwood in the winter, make what might be called a good hand-to-mouth living. They used to be the pony-and-gun class of Indians; now they are in advance of that. A number have buggies, buckboards and wagons. Making hay is a favourite occupation, and they always make enough for their stock and some for sale.

Miskoopenais has over one hundred dollars in the bank and owns four animals; Wa-pi-kis-e-wi-nine owns five horses and some cattle; and both these men stay at home. In personal appearance they have all changed; only one man belonging to the band wears the blanket, and he now often leaves it at home. It is impossible to tell the difference between them and the other natives of the province, and I have impressed the fact on all the children that they are Canadians.

Temperance and Morality. Their temperance and moral qualities have improved; there have not been more illegitimate children born during the last year than among other nationalities, that is, taking a community of over eleven hundred souls. A great many of this band are temperance people, and comparatively little drinking goes on amongst them on the reserve or in the province. I am sorry to say that the law as per the Indian Act has a great deal to do with this; however, they know that if they come

on the reserve under the influence of intoxicants they will be punished. Then, Mr. Dagg is a most efficient police magistrate at Selkirk, and drunken Indians are at once arrested in the town, and the man who sells to them or who buys the liquor for them is punished. The hotel men of Selkirk do not sell liquor to Indians.

BROKEN HEAD RESERVE.

Location and Area.—This reserve is situated on both sides of the Broken Head River, which runs into Lake Winnipeg about eight miles from the Red River. It begins about a mile from the river's mouth, and comprises thirteen thousand acres, about seven thousand in wood, the remainder hay land, swamp and muskeg. There is a small amount of prairie that would do to farm, but the Indians prefer to cultivate small inclosures along the banks of the river where it is generally heavily wooded with poplar, spruce, brush and oak.

Tribe.—All the Indians here are Ojibways.

Vital Statistics.—There are seventy-two men, sixty-six women and ninety-two children.

During the year there were ten births; eight children and four adults died, making a decrease of two. One family of three persons was transferred to the Rosseau River Band, and one girl married a St. Peter's Indian, making a decrease in the band of six since last year. The deaths were caused by whooping cough and consumption.

Indians on Reserve.—Only forty families make their home on this reserve. Most of the others live at St. Boniface, Point du Chêne, Poplar Point, Rosseau River, and other parts of the province, and I only see them at treaty payment.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—With the exception of whooping cough there was no epidemic on the reserve. Every year there is an improvement made in the houses; some are clean and tidy, others are only used in the cold weather, the people camping out all summer.

Occupation.—These Indians fish, hunt, dig senega root and pick berries, only about half a dozen families remaining at times on the reserve and attending to their cows, &c. This summer a Mr. Ewing, an expert at the making of caviare, has given a great deal of work to the Indians of this band; he gives them nets to catch sturgeon, visits them every few days with his steamboat, buys the fish taken, also oil, or anything else they may have, and I have never seen the people here better off or better clothed. Their principal means of making a living is hunting and fishing, at which they make a fairly good one. It seemed strange this summer to see one of the women, Mrs. David Flett, with a sewing-machine, hard at work in her tent, making clothing, tents and sails for boats, working not only for Indians but for settlers.

Gardens.—All who live on this reserve have gardens, raise potatoes, corn and vegetables, but I am sorry to say not enough for their own use, and they have had to buy their seed in almost every case for the last two years.

Stock.—They have also a fine herd of cattle and some ponies, for which they always put up enough hay, and have some to sell, but they are rather far from market.

Education.—There are only twenty-two children of school age whose homes are on the reserve, and when not absent from the reserve they attend school, but their parents are off half the time, so that Mr. Edwards, the teacher, is almost discouraged at times, but the children are progressing, and most of them can now speak English. There are six children of the wanderers of this band who attend the St. Boniface Industrial-school; I saw them this summer, and what a contrast they are to their parents—tidy, clean, well dressed and intelligent. The school-house on the reserve is a neat, well finished building with tables and benches and everything that is required at a school. Mr. Edwards is a well educated gentleman who takes the utmost interest and care in his work. The parents take very little interest in the school and it is difficult to get them to supply enough wood to keep the building warm in winter; when they go away from home, they have to take their families with them; they seem not to be able to lose sight of their wives and children.

Religion.—Of this band one hundred and fourteen are Episcopalians, forty-five are Roman Catholics, and seventy-one are heathens. There is only one church on this reserve presided over by Rev. Mr. Coates, who has done well; his people are devout and much interested in the affairs of their church. Only two Roman Catholic families live on the reserve, and there is no bickering over religion as at St. Peter's.

Temperance and Morality.—Such a case as a drunken Indian on this reserve I have not heard of for five years. Their morals are not up to our standard, but they are improving year by year.

FORT ALEXANDER.

Location, Area and Resources.—This reserve is situated at the mouth of the Winnipeg River. It comprises some twenty-five thousand acres of wood land and muskeg with small hay meadows; where dry it is composed of a heavy sandy loam in which everything grows most luxuriantly.

Tribe.—The Indians of this band are about one-half pure Ojibway and the others are Ojibway-French half-breeds.

Vital Statistics.—The population is four hundred and ninety-eight, consisting of two hundred and forty-two males and two hundred and fifty-six females, of whom two hundred and forty-two are children; there were twenty-seven births; fourteen children and six adults died, making an increase of births over deaths of seven. Some of the children died from whooping cough and other diseases peculiar to children, two of the adults died near Rat Portage, and the others from old age on the reserve.

Occupation.—A number of this band go off working at the saw-mills; others live at or near White Dog and a few work at Rat Portage. They do not always come for their annuities; it pays them to let it accumulate, but they seldom stay more than a year at a time.

Alexander Kashaway lives near St. Boniface; his children are adopted by persons who live in that neighbourhood, and are paid through the Winnipeg office. I have never seen them.

The people of this band depend for a living almost entirely on fishing and hunting, but they supplement this by cultivating a small amount of grain, with potatoes, beans, pease, and all kinds of vegetables, of which there is always a surplus on the reserve, but this is accounted for by there being no market.

Buildings, Stock, &c.—Their buildings are improving, and they have quite a herd of cattle, but on account of poor bulls, rather an inferior lot. They have a few horses and a number of pigs. They try to keep fowls, but with so many train dogs they are hard to keep.

Education.—There are two fine schools—one a Roman Catholic and the other a Protestant, with fifty-two children on the roll, while over forty are at the industrial-schools. There are one hundred and thirty-nine children of school age. All who live on the reserve attend school at times, that is while their parents are at home, and weather permits. Miss Chevretils and Mr. Donald Flett have done good work here, but there is a marked difference in the two schools in regard to speaking English. At the Roman Catholic school, the children almost all speak Indian and French, and do not seem to take to English; at the other schools they do not speak French, and are all beginning to speak English well. This is accounted for, I think, by the different class of books used; there is no doubt that the books of the metropolitan series are behind the age. I remember when the Rev. Father Madore was alive and taught this school, he asked for and received Gage's educational series of books, and there was a marked improvement, but it only lasted a short time, as they went back to the old books. The parents are not very demonstrative in regard to their children's education, and send them more as a matter of custom or duty, and it is hard to get them to take wood or look after the buildings.

Religion.—There are two fine churches—one Roman Catholic, one Episcopal—and the people are very devout. Nothing can be more interesting on a fine Sunday in

summer than to hear the music of the church bells and to see the people wending their way in their boats and canoes over the far-famed Winnipeg River to their churches, men, women and children dressed in their finest ; a more orderly and respectable people could not be seen anywhere. Many of them take their dinner with them and remain until the afternoon service. There are two hundred and forty-seven Roman Catholics, two hundred and forty-one Episcopalians and ten pagans belonging to this band.

These people some years ago were like one family, they were brothers, but of late the hostile churches have caused dissensions that have broken up many old friendships, which ought not to be.

Characteristics.—The Indians here who have French blood in their veins are to a great extent an industrious people. They are much like the habitants of Quebec, not only in character, but in appearance, habits and manners. They nearly all cultivate enough to eat and have some over.

Individual Progress.—Joseph Briere has now about fifteen acres of heavy bush land cleared on which he not only raises wheat, oats and barley, pease, corn, potatoes, beans, onions and other vegetables, but also will this year have enough timothy to keep his cattle. Augustin Guimond, St. Jean Mainville and Maxime Couchene have as fine gardens as one could wish. These people seldom hunt, but during the winter fish in the bay, and sell what they catch to traders. Councillor Joseph Kent, a pure Indian, has a fine farm of about ten acres, raises all kinds of vegetables, with some wheat, barley and oats. He has ten head of cattle, two horses, and some pigs and chickens. He also fishes and hunts a little. Many of his people here have fine gardens.

John Robert Bunn and Duncan Two Hearts are the kings amongst the hunters ; they some winters get from three hundred to six hundred dollars' worth of fur. Bunn put thirty dollars and Duncan ten dollars in the post office savings bank last year as a beginning.

Robert Henderson has cattle, a good little farm, a fine schooner of twelve tons burden with which he freights all over the lake and brings in railroad ties or cordwood. He is a busy man, never idle : fishing in winter, boating in summer, and, as he states, has three good meals a day, but I know that he always has a little over.

Temperance and Morality.—There has been no case of intemperance on the reserve for some years. The morals of the people have improved ; where cases of immorality have occurred they are spoken of with aversion. The chief, council, and ministers of religion have done their best in this respect, and a case of this kind is an exception.

General Remarks.—The Indians of my agency are a law-abiding people. No strangers from a foreign land need be afraid to come among them. Many of them subscribe to newspapers, and are sure to read all matters pertaining to their race. They no doubt sigh for the good old days, and many of the pagans and ignorant, who are a minority among them, still talk of the Stone Fort Treaty, and desire to be spoon-fed ; but there is no doubt that they are far better off, more civilized, better clothed, better housed and educated. In fact they are new Indians since they have been wards of the Government.

Hospital for Indians.—During the last year the Church of England has, under the Ven. Archdeacon Phair, established an hospital for sick Indians within the St. Peter's Indian Reserve. The house of the Ven. Archdeacon Cowley was purchased for that purpose, and although the work is only beginning, it promises to be of great benefit to the Indians. Dr. and Mrs. Robertson, who are in charge, are great enthusiasts, and the only drawback is want of money to carry on the good work.

I have, &c.,

A. M. MUCKLE,
Indian Agent.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,
COUTCHEECHING AGENCY,

FORT FRANCES, ONT., 12th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Names of Reserves.—Hungry Hall, Nos. 1 and 2, Long Sault, Nos. 1 and 2, Manitou, Nos. 1 and 2, Little Forks, Coutcheeching, Stangecoming, Niacatchewenin, Nickickonseemenecaning, Seine River, Lac la Croix.

Location.—The first four are situated on Rainy River, the next four on Rainy Lake, and the last two on Seine River and Lac la Croix respectively.

Area. The total area of all the reserves under my charge is sixty-six thousand one hundred and twenty-six acres.

Resources.—This agency contains the following resources: timber, including pine; mineral on some of the reserves, but as yet not fully prospected; first-class farming land on all the river reserves. Some reserves on the lake, especially the first three, are very rocky, and as yet I have not heard of any specimens of any kind of mineral being brought from them.

Tribe.—The Indians in this agency belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population is eight hundred and seventy-two, made up of one hundred and seventy-nine men, two hundred and forty-seven women and four hundred and forty-six children. This year there were thirty three births and twenty-nine deaths; thirty were absent at treaty time, whereas forty had returned, making a total increase in the population of fourteen, as compared with that of the previous year. All the deaths were due to natural causes, with the exception of one man on Rainy Lake, who is supposed either to have lost himself in the woods last winter and starved to death or shot himself accidentally. No particular reason can be given for the immigrations and emigrations other than that it is often inconvenient for some of the Indians to attend the payments, and so what is shown one year as an emigration, will appear the following year as just the opposite.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians is attended to by Dr. W. W. Birdsall, and he has been of great service to them in cases of accidents, such as gun-shot wounds. The general health of the Indians is good, and nothing in the shape of an epidemic has given them any trouble. Their sanitary condition is improving.

Occupation.—These Indians engage in the following occupations: working at saw-mills, fisheries, for settlers, making canoes, ties, telegraph poles, cordwood, acting as guides for tourists and prospectors, and general farming.

Buildings.—Dwelling-houses are being vastly improved upon, especially by those Indians on the river. Some of the houses, on the Manitou Reserve, for instance, are equal to almost any on Rainy River. The Indians are nowadays making them much larger and finishing them with good windows, doors and other comforts. Their stables are also being improved, but as yet are rather on the small side.

Stock.—All the Indians have good stock, but have not done as well with them as they should have. There are reasons for this. Firstly, the animals belong to the band and each Indian waits for the other to look after them in the winter, and as a consequence they are sometimes neglected; secondly, the flies in the summer are very hard on the cattle in this district, and it is often necessary to keep them, especially the calves, in a cool, dark stable, in the day time, and this is not attended to as a rule by

them at all. The total number of stock, exclusive of horses owned by these Indians, is ninety-four, which shows an increase of seven over last year, a small increase, but a better showing than in the past.

Farming Implements.—The implements are being better looked after now than formerly. Most of them are housed when not in use.

Education.—There are in this agency one hundred and ninety-five children of an age to attend school, five day-schools and four teachers. The standard course of study is adhered to as closely as possible. All the schools are well equipped, especially those at the Long Sault and Little Forks, both of which are handsome buildings and handsomely furnished inside. The discipline in these schools I always find very good. I may say that at the present time all the teachers under my charge are doing their best to improve the children under them, and though progress on the whole is slow, there are bright exceptions, and I am convinced that if only regular attendance could be secured, the results would be very different indeed. The parents of the children have no control over them, and many of them, for the very slightest excuse, will endeavour to stand in the way of a teacher. A teacher's life is often a very hard one and his position on the reserve delicate. The Indian knows this, and sometimes takes advantage of it. However, there is no doubt that the majority of the Indians fully realize now the advantages to be gained by education, and some of the young able-bodied men can now be seen with their pocket-books as they go to the store to do business, and with their very excellent memory to back them the store-keeper and others who do business with them, have to see that their accounts are correctly rendered.

Religion.—There are only fourteen Christian Indians on Rainy River. These belong to the Church of England. On the Lake also the majority are pagans. The exception is the Coutcheeching Reserve, where out of a population of one hundred and thirty-one, ninety-eight are Roman Catholics, five Church of England and twenty-eight pagans. There is the Church of England missionary on the river, lately arrived, and stationed at the Long Sault, and the Roman Catholic missionary stationed on the Coutcheeching Reserve. There are also ten Christians at Lac la Croix, members of the Roman Catholic Church. Church services are held in the schools, teachers' residences and Indian houses, there being no churches at any of the reserves yet. The Indians are very apathetic in regard to religion, and missionaries find them very hard to deal with. This is a matter hard to explain. The younger members of the band, I fancy, would soon give up paganism, if only the obstinacy and superstition of the older ones could be dispensed with.

Characteristics and Progress.—An Indian is naturally indolent, except when he is hungry. The majority of the Indians under my charge are less indolent than they were, otherwise they would have starved to death, because their hunting and fishing is almost a thing of the past (I refer now especially to the River Indians); and if they had not gone to work on their farms and found other work outside their reserve, they could not possibly be as well off as they are to-day. There is no doubt that some are industrious. Take a young half-breed like Joseph Guimond, of the Coutcheeching Reserve, and you will find that he is not only very comfortably off, but hardly ever without his day's work. Then for an Indian take "Kay-bay-gah-bo," of the Manitou Reserve, who lives in a large two-storied house, and has always plenty to eat, and who had potatoes to ship to Rat Portage this spring, when prices were good. Surely this is an indication of industry and progress.

Temperance and Morality.—Personally, I should say that, taking all things into consideration, these Indians are both temperate and moral. They stand to be tempted in both ways continually by the lower class of white people, and I consider they do well to withstand the temptation as well as they do. Leave them alone and I think they would not bother the whisky-seller at all; neither do I think they are immoral amongst themselves; of course there are exceptions in all the reserves.

General Remarks.—By way of conclusion I would state that these Indians are self-supporting and deserve some credit for it, inasmuch as they have had to find a living to

make up for the loss of the fish and fur. Only the very destitute and sick get any help from the Government. They furnish themselves with seed and often purchase it out of their earnings, when they are not able to save it from the previous year's crop. Their farms are of course small, but it takes hard work to clear the bush, and I think a little well done, is very much better than the reverse.

Unless anything unforeseen happens to mar the prosperity of these Indians, I see no reason why they should not continue to improve their condition, and become more and more independent as the years pass by.

I have, &c.,

F. C. CORNISH,
Indian Agent.

MANITOBA,
MANITOWAPAH AGENCY,
THE NARROWS, LAKE MANITOBA, 15th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR, I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1896.

SANDY BAY RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the south-west shore of Lake Manitoba. The land is high, a ridge of considerable height running the entire length of the reserve, and with a sufficient quantity of timber near, and the lake affording plenty of good water, it has a pleasant, healthy location.

Area. The reserve has an area of twelve thousand one hundred and two acres.

Resources. Hunting, fishing, digging seneca root, and cattle-raising are the principal resources.

Tribe or Nation.—The pure-blooded Indians of this band belong to the Ojibway tribe, the remainder being English, French and Scotch half-breeds.

Vital Statistics.—The population consists of forty-two men, fifty-two women, and one hundred and sixty-three children. There have been eight births and seven deaths, making an increase of one in the population, since the previous year. In the majority of cases the deaths were caused by consumption or scarlet fever. No emigration or immigration has occurred on this reserve since the previous year.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—As a rule the health of the Indian is good, the diseases most prevalent being scarlet fever, whooping cough and consumption. Sanitary precautions are taken as far as possible by having the houses and surroundings kept in a fair state of cleanliness, and enforcing the liberal use of whitewash on the buildings, also by having the Indians vaccinated by Dr. George T. Orton during his visit to the reserve. During an epidemic of scarlet fever the school was closed, the patients were isolated, and medicines were freely administered by medical officers.

Occupation. A large variety of occupations are open to the members of this band, among the principal ones being hunting, fishing, digging seneca root, acting as guides to tourists, working during harvest time for farmers, and the manufacture of flat sleighs, double and single sleighs, carts and cart-wheels, harness, snow-shoes, &c. Among the women butter-making is also developing into an occupation.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—There are in all about eighty-eight buildings on this reserve. Many of the older ones are not so good as we could wish, but the houses built in later years are a great improvement on the old ones, having more rooms, better ventilation, and being better constructed generally. Of the ninety-three head of cattle, seventeen belong to the Government, the remaining seventy-six being personal property. These Indians have sixty-two horses and also a number of pigs, poultry, &c. They have nine double and six single sets of horse harness, and four double and twenty-five single sets of ox harness. Their farming implements consist of three ploughs, one set of harrows, nine wagons, twenty-five carts, thirty-six grub-hoes, thirty-five spades, and twenty-two axes. These, with six mowing-machines, four hay-rakes and forty scythes, complete their outfit of implements. They have also ten buckboards.

Education.—There are in all about ninety-two children of an age to attend school, and although twenty-six seems a small average attendance, there are numerous circumstances, such as illness, absence of families during rat-hunting, root-digging, and harvesting seasons, insufficiency of clothing during severe winter weather, which make a larger attendance almost impossible. There is only one school, under the management of one competent teacher, and it is of the Roman Catholic denomination. The following is the course of studies taught in this school:—English, writing, arithmetic, geography, reading, recitation, history, vocal music, calisthenics, religious instruction, ethics (the practice of cleanliness, obedience, order, neatness, right and wrong, truth, independence, self-respect, reasons for proper appearance and behaviour, industry, honesty, thrift), and general knowledge. This last head embraces facts concerning things in school, day of the week, months, seasons, measures of length and weight in common use, colours, animal and vegetable kingdoms, their parts and uses, cultivation, growth, &c., money, the useful metals, uses of railways and ships, manufacture of articles in common use, the races of man. All the above mentioned studies are taught as far as standard IV. in this school. The school-house is a frame building; it is located in the centre of the reserve on the main road. It is properly lighted and heated, and the hygienic conditions are all that could be desired. It is provided with the requisite number of school desks, table, chairs, blackboard, &c., and also with a sufficient quantity of school materials, books and biscuit. It will easily accommodate sixty pupils. The discipline maintained is very good, as is manifested by the good order always apparent when visitors inspect the school. The progress of the pupils is, on the whole, satisfactory, and the number of parents who were indifferent to the education of their children seems to be decreasing year by year, so that now as a rule the parents are desirous of having their children educated.

Religion.—Of the fifty-five families on this reserve forty-two are Roman Catholic, six are Protestant and seven pagan. The school-house is used for divine service.

LAKE MANITOBA RESERVE—TREATY No. 2.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the east shore of Lake Manitoba.

Area.—It has an area of eleven thousand eight hundred and eighty-one acres.

Resources.—Hunting, trapping, fishing and cattle-raising are the chief resources.

Tribe or Nation.—The members of this band belong to the Ojibway tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population is composed of twenty-six men, twenty-seven women and fifty-five children. During the year three births and two deaths occurred, making an increase of one since the previous year. The deaths were caused by old age, and cold and fever. No emigration or immigration has taken place this year.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The Indians are in good health and free from diseases. The houses and premises have been kept clean, and the Indians have been vaccinated.

Occupation.—These Indians are generally occupied in hunting, trapping, fishing, manufacturing wooden and flat sleighs, single and double sleighs, also butter-making.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—There are in all fifty-five buildings. Of the cattle on this reserve one hundred and sixty-eight are Government cattle, the

remaining fifty-five being personal property. There are three Government horses and twenty-eight belonging to the Indians. They have two wagons, twenty-two carts, three buckboards, four ploughs, two and a half sets of harrows, three mowing-machines, two hay-rakes, two double and seventeen single sets of horse harness, four double and fifteen single sets of ox harness, twenty grub-hoes, twenty-five spades, twenty-one scythes and thirty axes.

Education. There are thirty-five children of an age to attend school. The average attendance is only ten, owing to the peculiar geographical shape of the reserve, which extends lengthwise eleven miles by only two miles wide, thus making it exceedingly difficult, and in some cases impossible, for the children to attend school more regularly. Some of the children live four and six miles distant from the school-house, so that in severe winter weather it is impossible for them to attend, although the school-house is situated in the best part of the reserve. As a rule the clothing is good enough. Here the holidays are taken to suit the absence of the Indians, thus filling the number of school days (two hundred and sixteen) as required by the department. The teacher is competent and energetic. The programme of studies furnished by the department is followed, and the pupils are advanced to standard IV. There is only one school on the reserve, under the Roman Catholic denomination. The school-house proper had to be abandoned last spring, it being too old, and, part of the roof suddenly giving in, it was considered dangerous, and a house was rented for the time being until a new one is built, which will be in the course of the fall. The materials and equipment of the school are for the present sufficient. The progress is good, discipline and order satisfactory. The parents in general take an interest in the education of their children, so much so that some of them, being too far away from the school, have removed their buildings or built anew in the immediate vicinity of the school, so that around its location a village is gradually springing up.

Religion.—About two-thirds of the Indians are Roman Catholics, five belong to the Church of England denomination, and the rest are pagans. Those professing Christianity seem to be devoted to their creed.

EBB AND FLOW LAKE—TREATY No. 2.

Location. This reserve is situated on the east shore of Ebb and Flow Lake.

Area. It has an area of ten thousand eight hundred and sixty-five acres.

Resources.—The principal resources are hunting, trapping and cattle-raising.

Tribe or Nation.—The pure Indians of this band belong to the Ojibway tribe, while the remainder are French and Scotch half-breeds.

Vital Statistics.—The population consists of nineteen men, twenty-one women and thirty-nine children. There were four births and five deaths during the year, and one member emigrated to another band, through marriage, making a decrease of two in the population since the previous year. No immigration has occurred on this reserve. The deaths were caused by cold, fever and consumption.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians is good and no diseases or epidemics occurred last year. The houses and premises are clean.

Occupation.—The members of this band are hunters, trappers, guides to tourists and boatmen. They also work in the lumber camps in the winter.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—There are thirty buildings on this reserve. Of the cattle, forty-six are Government and fourteen are personal property of the Indians. They have also twenty-two horses. There are three wagons, four buckboards, eleven carts, two mowers, one hay-rake, fifteen grub-hoes, twelve spades, twelve scythes and twenty-five axes.

Education. There are thirty-nine children of an age to attend school. The average attendance is ten. This poor attendance is due to the insufficient clothing of some of the children, slight illness, absence, &c. The school is situated in the centre of the reserve, and the children have only a short distance to go, the longest distance being

one mile. The teacher is competent. There is only one school, under the Roman Catholic denomination. The general course of studies prescribed by the department is followed as far as standard IV. The school-house is a log building with a shingled roof. It is located on high land and is well heated and comfortable; it will seat forty pupils and has a sufficient equipment of desks, tables, chairs, blackboards, &c., also the necessary amount of books, school materials and biscuit. The progress is satisfactory, discipline and order good.

Religion.—On this reserve sixteen families are Roman Catholic, two Protestant and five pagan; making a total of twenty-three families or seventy-nine souls.

FAIRFORD RESERVE—TREATY NO. 2.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the banks of the Fairford River and on the south-west shore of Lake St. Martin.

Area.—It has an area of eleven thousand seven hundred and twenty-three acres.

Resources.—Besides hunting, fishing and raising cattle, the members of this band work in the lumber camps and mill near Fairford, in winter, and act as guides to tourists and boatmen in summer and fall.

Tribe or Nation.—This band is composed of Indians of the Ojibway tribe and Scotch and French half-breeds.

Vital Statistics.—The population is one hundred and seventy-three, consisting of thirty-nine men, forty-two women and ninety-two children. There have been nine births and eight deaths, making an increase of one since last year. The deaths of two women were caused by childbirth. The six other deaths were those of children who died of cold, fever, &c. No emigration or immigration took place this year.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of this band is generally good, with the exception of a few colds, the prevailing disease being consumption. The houses of the half-breeds at Upper Fairford are neat and clean, and those of the Indians at Lower Fairford, though small, are generally clean. Lime is liberally used, the whole population being in the habit of burning limekilns every year. At every yearly visit of the medical officer, vaccination is properly attended to.

Occupation.—The principal occupations of these Indians are hunting, fishing, trapping, boat and canoe-building, making wooden and flat sleighs, single and double sleighs, harness, &c.; some of them are carpenters also. Among the women butter-making is quite an occupation.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—There are in all one hundred buildings. Under Government control there are one hundred and thirty-seven head of cattle and three sheep. The personal property of the Indians consists of two hundred and twenty-nine head of cattle, thirty-four horses and thirty pigs. They have six wagons, ten ploughs, six harrows, seven mowing-machines, seven rakes, fifteen carts, one grist mill and one spinning-wheel, fifteen double and eighteen single sets of horse harness, ten double and fifteen single sets of ox harness. They have twenty-five grub-hoes, fifty axes, twenty scythes, thirty spades, twenty five hay-forks, and five cradle-scythes.

Education.—There are forty-six children of an age to attend school. There are two schools on this reserve, one at the upper with an average attendance of ten, and one at the lower with an average of twelve. The attendance is regular at the upper school, while at the lower it is rather irregular on account of the river. As a rule the clothing is good, owing to the free distribution of clothes to the children by the Church Missionary Society. The teachers are competent and discharge their duties satisfactorily. The programme of studies furnished by the department is followed as far as standard V. at Upper Fairford, and standard IV. at the lower school. Progress is good. The schools are under the Church of England denomination. The school-house at Upper Fairford is similar to that on Sandy Bay Reserve, on Lake Manitoba, and that at Lower Fairford is a log building. They are provided with the requisite number of desks, tables, chairs, blackboards, &c., and also with a sufficient quantity of school materials,

books, and biscuit, and have ample room to accommodate all the children of an age to attend school. The discipline in both schools is very good. The parents, having in the majority of cases themselves received the benefit of a primary school established about forty years ago by the Church of England, take a great interest in the education of their children.

Religion.—There are one hundred and thirty-nine of the inhabitants belonging to the Church of England denomination, thirty-two are Baptists, and two are Roman Catholics. At Upper Fairford there is a fine church and parsonage with a cemetery attached, under the charge of the Rev. George Bruce and Henry Cochrane. The mission which has, and is still, accomplishing much good, was established over thirty years ago, and in a great measure accounts for the marked civilization of this band.

SANDY BAY RESERVE—TREATY NO. 2.

Location. This reserve is located on the west shore of Lake St. Martin.

Area. It has an area of three thousand two hundred acres.

Resources. Hunting, fishing, cattle-raising, digging seneca root, building boats and birch canoes, making snow-shoes, wooden flat sleighs, &c., are the principal resources.

Tribe or Nation.—This band is mostly composed of the Ojibway tribe.

Vital Statistics. The population is as follows: twenty-eight men, twenty-eight women and forty-six children. During the year four births and four deaths occurred, thus leaving the population the same as before. No emigration or immigration took place.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of this band is fair, the prevailing diseases being whooping cough, cold and fever and consumption. The houses are in a fair state of cleanliness and the premises are kept clean. The Indians were vaccinated by the medical officer, Dr. G. T. Orton, during his annual visit.

Occupation. The members of this band are chiefly occupied in hunting, fishing, digging seneca root, boat and canoe-building, making sleighs, snow-shoes, &c. They also hire out as shantymen and millmen.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements. There are in all about forty-five buildings. The Government cattle number forty-five head, while as personal property the Indians have forty-three head of cattle and five horses. They have one wagon, five carts, two double sleighs, twelve single sleighs, three ploughs, three harrows, one mower and rake, thirty axes, fifteen grub-hoes, ten spades, five single sets and one double set of horse harness, twelve sets of ox harness and fifteen scythes.

Education. There are thirty-one children of an age to attend school. The yearly average attendance is about fifteen, which is pretty good, considering the poor clothing and the prevailing diseases, before mentioned. The village is built on a ridge about three miles long, the school-house being at the head of the ridge, thus making a considerable distance for some of the pupils to walk. The school is under the Church of England denomination, and the same course of studies is taught as in the other reserves. The teacher is very competent. The school-house, which is a log building, was re-thatched and duly repaired last spring. It has a capacity of about thirty children, and has a sufficient number of desks, chairs, tables, blackboards, &c., also a proper quantity of books, school material and biscuit. The progress is fair, discipline and order the same. About the same interest is maintained here by parents in the education of their children as elsewhere. The school was opened in 1877, before the site was chosen for the reserve, the teacher following the migration of the Indians while hunting and fishing, and teaching under a large wigwam tent, until the present site was chosen for the reserve and a school-house was built.

Religion.—Of this band seventy belong to the Church of England denomination and thirty belong to the Baptist persuasion.

LAKE ST. MARTIN RESERVE—TREATY NO. 2.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the north shore of Lake St. Martin, and east of the narrows of the same lake.

Area.—It comprises an area of four thousand acres.

Resources.—Hunting, fishing, trapping and cattle-raising are among the chief resources. The making of birch canoes is also a lucrative industry, as the Indians on this reserve supply Indians of other reserves with them.

Tribe or Nation.—This band also is mainly composed of the Ojibway tribe.

Vital Statistics.—There are twenty-six men, thirty-one women, and forty-five children. There was one birth and four deaths. This should make a decrease of three, but owing to the immigration of three, by a widow with two children marrying a member of this band, the population remains the same. No emigration has taken place. The deaths were caused by cold and fever, and consumption.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—In general the health of this band is good, though in June last the whooping cough was very prevalent, although medicine was freely administered by the medical officer. The houses and premises were clean at the time of my inspection. The medical officer in his yearly visit, vaccinated those who had not had that advantage previously.

Occupation.—The time of these Indians is chiefly occupied in hunting, fishing, building birch canoes, making flat sleighs, &c.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—There are on this reserve fifty-four buildings. The Indians have under their care fifty head of Government cattle, besides seventy-two head of cattle and seven horses as personal property. They have three carts, one double and fifteen single sleighs, one double and fifteen single sets of ox harness, three single sets of horse harness, two ploughs, two harrows, twelve grub-hoes, ten scythes, twenty-five axes and ten spades.

Education.—There are twenty-three children of an age to attend school, giving a yearly average attendance of seven. The children were kept from attending more regularly by insufficient clothing, and whooping cough before mentioned. The school-house, which has room for thirty children, is a log building with shingled roof, and is kept in very good order and condition by the energetic and competent teacher, Mr. John Moar. The course of studies is the same as taught in the other reserves. There is only one school, under the denomination of the Church of England. It was opened in 1877. The equipment and school materials are sufficient. Order and discipline are very good. Some of the parents on this reserve are indifferent, while others take an interest in the education of their children.

Religion.—There are sixty-eight belonging to the Church of England denomination, twenty-five Baptists and nine pagans, making a total of one hundred and two souls.

CRANE RIVER RESERVE—TREATY NO. 2.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the north-east side of the mouth of Crane River, and on the north-west side of Lake Manitoba.

Area.—Its area comprises eight thousand seven hundred and sixty acres.

Resources.—Hunting, fishing and cattle-raising are almost the only resources.

Tribe.—This band is composed of Indians belonging to the Ojibway tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population consists of eleven men, thirteen women and twenty-six children; two births and two deaths occurred during the year. The deaths were caused by old age, cold and fever. There were no immigrations or emigrations, thus leaving the population the same.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of these Indians, with a few exceptions of colds and coughs, is fairly good. The houses and surroundings are kept in fair order. The Indians have all been vaccinated.

Occupation.—The principal occupations are hunting, fishing and cattle-raising on a very small scale.

Buildings, Stock, and Farming Implements.—There are in all twenty-seven buildings. Of the cattle thirty belong to the Government, while as personal property, they have thirty cattle, one horse and four pigs. They have three carts, one grist-mill, one mower, two ploughs, two harrows, one double set and four single sets of ox harness, one set of horse harness, four single sleighs, twelve grub-hoes, ten scythes, fifteen axes and ten spades.

Education.—There are twelve children of an age to attend school. The average attendance is ten yearly, which is very regular. The school-house is a log building with thatched roof, and is kept in good order. The school is under the Church of England denomination. It was opened in 1883. The programme of studies furnished by the department is followed. The equipment and school materials are sufficient, the teacher is competent, the order and discipline maintained are very good. The parents take a great interest in their children's education as shown by the regular attendance.

Religion.—The majority of the members of this band, forty-three, are pagans; the remainder, seven, belong to the Church of England.

WATER HEN RIVER RESERVE.—TREATY NO. 2.

Location.—This reserve is situated south of Water Hen Lake, between the two Water Hen Rivers.

Area.—It comprises an area of four thousand six hundred and sixteen acres.

Resources.—Its resources are principally trapping, hunting, fishing and cattle-raising.

Tribe or Nation.—This band forms part of the Ojibway nation.

Vital Statistics.—The population is composed of thirty-two men, twenty-nine women and fifty-eight children. Seven births and five deaths took place during the year. One death was caused by old age; the rest by cold and fever.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—In this reserve there are no diseases, and the health of the band is good. The houses and premises are kept clean, and the Indians were vaccinated by Dr. G. T. Orton during his annual visit to the reserve.

Occupation.—Hunting, fishing, trapping and cattle-raising are the chief occupations.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—There are fifty-five buildings. The Indians have charge of sixty head of cattle and two horses, Government property, while as personal property they have thirty-six head of cattle and three horses. They have two carts, twenty single sleighs, five flat sleighs, one mower and rake, four ploughs and four harrows, one double and five single sets of horse harness, one double and fifteen single sets of ox harness, twenty grub-hoes, fifteen scythes, thirty-five axes and ten spades.

Education.—There are thirty children of an age to attend school, giving a yearly average attendance of fifteen for the day-school and ten for the boarding-school. The former was opened in 1883 and the latter in 1889. The new school-house, built by tender three years ago by the department, is 32x25 feet, is two stories high, and has the latest improvements. The equipment and materials are sufficient, and in accordance with the standard of the house, making it, in respect of accommodation, a first-class school-house. Both schools, under the able management of Mr. and Mrs. Adam, are a credit to the department and to the teachers and pupils. The English and French languages are fluently spoken by the scholars, and the girls at the same time receive instruction in the arts of house-keeping, sewing, knitting, cooking, making dresses, &c. The programme of studies furnished by the department is scrupulously followed; consequently the progress made by the children is very good. There is only one school-house on this reserve, and it is under the Roman Catholic denomination. Order and discipline are very good. The parents manifest a great interest in the education of their children.

Religion.—There is one church on this reserve, built by the Reverend Oblate Fathers in 1891. It is a log building with shingle roof, large and commodious. The whole of this band, one hundred and nineteen souls, profess the Roman Catholic religion.

PINE CREEK RESERVE—TREATY No. 4.

Location.—This reserve is situated at the mouth of the Pine Creek River, on the west shore of Lake Winnipegosis.

Area.—It has an area of one thousand one hundred and forty-five acres.

Resources.—Hunting, fishing, trapping and stock-raising constitute the principal resources.

Tribe or Nation.—The members of this band belong to the Ojibway tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population is composed of ten men, eighteen women and thirty children. Two births and two deaths occurred this year. The deaths were caused by cold and fever. There were no immigrations or emigrations.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of this band is good, no diseases or epidemics existing among them. The houses and premises are kept clean, and vaccination was performed by the doctor during his last visit to the reserve.

Occupation.—Hunting, fishing, trapping and cattle-raising are the chief occupations.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—There are twenty-six buildings in the reserve. The stock under Government control consists of twenty-three head of cattle and as personal property they have fifteen head of cattle and fifteen horses. They have two ploughs and two harrows, one mower and rake, two wagons, two buckboards, six carts, one set of double ox harness, two double and single sets of horse harness, fifteen grub-hoes, ten scythes, eighteen axes and ten spades.

Education.—There are fifteen children of an age to attend school. The yearly average of the day-school being thirteen and that of the boarding-school ten, that being the number of pupils attending that institution. The day-school was opened in 1883 and the boarding-school in 1889. The new school-house was built in 1893, by the department by tender, and is therefore a first-class one. It is under the patronage and guidance of the Reverend Oblate Fathers, with a very competent staff of teachers. The course of studies followed at this school is the same as at Water Hen River, with the addition of the pupils being taught the useful art of husbandry, a farm of one hundred and sixty acres being attached to it. The course of studies furnished by the department is exactly followed, and the progress made by the children is very good. Order and discipline are also very good. The school is under the Roman Catholic denomination. The parents manifest great interest in the education of their children.

Religion.—There is one church near the reserve built by the Reverend Oblate Fathers in the year 1886. It is large and comfortable, with a parsonage attached. With the exception of two Protestants, the members of this band, numbering forty-seven, are Roman Catholics.

Characteristics and Progress.—As a rule the Indians are a very law-abiding people, and in the pursuit of their occupations industrious. Some of them having nothing a few years ago, have acquired by their industry a considerable number of cattle, horses, farming implements and other personal property, thus indicating the fact that they are growing richer. They show great forethought in providing large quantities of hay for winter use, working in this case as well as white men.

Temperance and Morality.—Owing to the enforcement of the "Indian Act" they have of course very little opportunity of procuring intoxicants, and are, therefore, sufficiently temperate, while in other respects, their morality is not below the average standard.

General Remarks.—It may be said that the Indians are steadily becoming more settled in their mode of life. They take a greater interest in improving their homes and acquiring as much personal property as possible, instead of being contented with the

proverbial "frying-pan and tea-pail" which not very many years ago constituted the amount of their household possessions. The houses now built are much improved by having more rooms, being larger, better ventilated and better furnished. In many of the houses neat sets of furniture may be found, and in nearly all tables, chairs and stoves have a place, whereas formerly the Indians were quite satisfied with the traditional chimneys, by which to prepare their meals, which were then eaten off the floor. Also, their manner of dress is remarkably improved. Tattooing, long hair, blankets, &c., no longer have a place amongst them: instead, they all endeavour to dress more like and copy the customs of white people. Likewise, their manner of travelling is much improved, as they now use horses and sleighs, wagons, buckboards, &c., instead of "dog trains" and "trains" as formerly. One marked evidence of civilization lies in the fact that the "medicine men" were unable to hold their customary "long tent" this year for want of followers, showing that the rising generation is beginning to relegate such things to the past.

It will be observed that I have put my remarks on the characteristics and progress, temperance, morality, &c., under one heading for all the reserves. To explain this, I may say the same remarks on those subjects apply to all the Indians in my district, so it was useless repeating them at the end of each reserve.

In conclusion, I may remark that the present generation is a decided improvement on the preceding one, and everything indicates that my fervent hope will be fulfilled: that the rising generation will make a still further and more decided step towards civilization.

I have, &c.,

H. MARTINEAU,
Indian Agent.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,
MEDICAL REPORT,

FORT FRANCES, ONT., 13th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR, —The year ended 30th June, 1896, has been remarkably free from epidemic disease.

Medical Visits.—We made the annual trip with the agent on the upper lakes and visited all the reserves on Rainy River the week following.

Operations.—During the year I have made several special trips to Sturgeon Falls Band, more especially for the chief's family, which had been considerably afflicted with sickness, but no fatalities. I have visited the river reserves very frequently and find them greatly improved. At Stangecoming I reduced and dressed a fractured and dislocated arm and at Redgut's Reserve found a girl suffering from Monson's disease, a somewhat rare form of nerve lesion. The first recovered, and the latter has improved under treatment.

Dwellings.—At the Manitou Reserve especially, the Indians have erected several good substantial and capacious houses. There appears to have begun a healthy rivalry among them, and this should be encouraged.

School-buildings.—The sanitary condition of the various schools is good, the two new school-houses being models of neatness. Under the very careful management of the several teachers there has been a marked and wholesome improvement in the speech, manners, morals, appearance and cleanliness of the Indian children on the various reserves.

Food Supplies.--During the winter, moose, cariboo and fowl were plentiful, and in the spring sturgeon swarmed in the rivers, so that our Indians have been bountifully supplied.

Accidents.--During the year there have been numerous accidents, especially axe wounds. While none of these have been fatal, yet it proves that our Indians are in constant demand as woodsmen, and lumber and tie-manufacturers. There have been several gun-shot accidents. One boy, Adams, discharged a gun through his left hand, necessitating amputation of the index finger and other parts. He was only nicely recovered from this wound when he returned, having discharged another shot through his right hand. This hand has been saved, but its usefulness is greatly impaired. Another boy, at Sturgeon Falls, received a charge, consisting of one ball and several buckshots, with small-sized birdshot, into his legs. At last dressing all the conditions were most favourable for saving the injured parts.

Diseases.--Phthisis, as usual, has filled a great part of the monthly report, but with improved sanitary precautions and regulations, I am hopeful of wonderful results as to final partial eradication of this most dread disease from among our Indians. Venereal disease, though somewhat prevalent, has not increased, and though there are several cases of old-standing disease, I am happy to report that I have found no recent cases of syphilis. A few cases of hip-joint disease have been reported and an effort made to procure hospital accommodation for them. Our far-removed and isolated position has heretofore precluded such facilities.

Hospital.--The ladies of Fort Frances have been most active and have now collected considerable money for the erection and equipment of a local hospital at Fort Frances. The lots have been procured from the Crown Lands Department, cleared, and the foundations laid for a convenient hospital building. When this building is completed we hope to be able to accommodate the most deserving cases of our Indians, and we fully trust that your generous department will appreciate the laudable effort.

I have, &c.,

W. W. BIRDSALL, M.D.,
Medical Officer.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,
MEDICAL REPORT,
RAT PORTAGE, ONT., 30th June, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,--I have the honour to submit for the information of the department my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Medical Visits and Medicines.--During the year I have visited all the reserves under my charge, and paid especial attention to their sanitary conditions, taking great care in instructing the several bands as to the same, and leaving a supply of medicine with the school teachers and Hudson Bay Company's officers for cases of emergency, and until I could be sent for; and while absent from my office here, my son, Thomas Hanson, jr., who understands the uses of medicine, attended to all office calls.

Health and Diseases.--I am pleased to report that the health of the Indians under my charge has been better than usual during the past year, the only epidemic I have to report being at Lac Seul, where tonsillitis (sore throat) required a second visit to eradicate, and with but one fatal case, that of a child.

Operations.—During the year I performed a number of minor surgical operations successfully, and when not absent visiting the various reserves, I have attended to all office calls personally.

General Remarks.—I have also to report that the Indians of my district are in a more prosperous condition, a better class of houses being erected by them; they are also adopting the ways of the white man more and more; large numbers of them are being employed at the mines, in the lumber camps, and at the fisheries, for which they receive good wages, thus enabling them to purchase food and clothing sufficient for their wants: the hunting has also been very good, rabbits especially being very plentiful.

I have, &c.,

THOS. HANSON, M.D.,
Medical Officer.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,
MEDICAL REPORT,

WINNIPEG, 21st August, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that the general health of the Indians under my medical superintendency, consisting of the reserves in the Indian agencies of Messrs. Muckle, Mackay, Martineau, Reader and Ogletree, during the last year, has been fairly good; no general epidemics or contagious diseases except phthisis and various scrofulous affections so common to the Indian having occurred, and even with regard to these diseases I notice a marked decrease in their prevalence since I first inspected these reserves, especially where the agents, teachers and missionaries have taken pains to inculcate in season and out of season the now known character of these diseases and the sanitary regulations necessary for their prevention. I notice this especially in the agency of Angus Mackay, at Berens River, where his estimable wife, who, as medical dispenser, is indefatigable in her care of the health of the Indians of that reserve, and aided by the agent, whose general kindness and regard for the sick and afflicted cannot be exceeded, does excellent work in continually urging the observance of cleanliness and other health-preserving regulations. The missionary, Mr. McLachlin, and the teachers have also assisted in drawing attention to the printed sanitary regulations I had circulated. Also at Fisher's River I noticed an improvement, and at Norway House Reserve, where scrofula and consumption were very prevalent, a marked change for the better has taken place, which I ascribe not a little to the exertions of Mr. Strath, teacher and dispenser. Though not a qualified medical man, he has gone through a course of studies in Dublin, and under the practical tuition of his late father, a medical man, possesses a really good general knowledge of medicine and surgery. Also, his mechanical genius and love of gardening, as well as the tidiness and industry both of himself and his estimable wife, are a daily lesson in themselves to the Indian population around them.

Deaths.—The deaths that occurred during last year were from general causes, such as consumption and scrofula, the careless management of children by parents, especially during the teething of infancy, and in young men and others by exposure to wet and cold in the spring of the year, when trapping and muskrat-hunting, many dying from bronchitis, pneumonia and other inflammatory diseases.

Calisthenics.—The teaching of calisthenics so beneficial in developing the chest and guarding against consumption and other diseases, should form part of the duties of all the teachers, as I have found it carried out only by two or three.

Operations.—During the year I have performed numerous operations, especially for the removal of scrofulous glands, which have all been successful and vastly improved the health of those afflicted. Upon one Peter Smith, who was in a horrible condition with running sores, I successfully performed the difficult operation for the removal of the whole of the hip joint and diseased portions of bone from the pelvis. The operation was a success and a good union resulted, but after six months' suffering from consumption and disease of spinal bones, doubtless the result of his long suffering from hip joint disease, he finally succumbed at St. Boniface Hospital, where he received the most faithful and kind attention, as do all I have sent to that excellently equipped institution.

Industrial-schools.—I regret to have to report sickness at the St. Paul Industrial-school. During the past winter and spring an epidemic of typhoid fever broke out, and though all passed through the various stages of the fever, no less than six succumbed to consumption, induced, doubtless, by the depletion of the fever and in some by a complication of pneumonia and bronchitis. One girl died from meningitis, doubtless of a tubercular character. In the summer time, when windows are open and the children out of doors during the day, or in the school-room, little sickness prevails. The St. Boniface Industrial-schools, I am glad to say, have been comparatively free from fever, though some deaths have occurred from consumption.

In the summer season a large number of Indians are employed at Selkirk and Pony Island, where I have observed a good deal of diarrhoea, sore throat, neuralgia and other derangements, due, I have no doubt, to the fact that the useless fish are allowed to rot on the shore, creating a most horrible stench. This should be at once stopped, and all refuse burned, as was already ordered at one time. This fact and some cases of sickness amongst the non-treaty Indians from Oxford and York Factory I have reported to His Honour Lieutenant-Governor Patterson, as I deem they require immediate action. I may in conclusion state that I have always received every assistance in the care of the sick from Mr. Inspector McColl, whose energy and vigilance are ever alive to the requirements of the Indian wards of the Government.

I have, &c.,

GEO. T. ORTON, M.D.,
Medical Officer.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,

THE PAS AGENCY,

OONIKUP, SASK., 3rd July, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your instructions dated the 15th April last, calling for my annual report for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1896, and in accordance therewith now submit the same.

General Progress.—In taking a retrospective view of the past year, I am thankful to be able to report that, with the assistance of the school teachers in bringing before the Indians the various things necessary for their advancement, much has been accomplished in the direction desired by the department. I have requested the teachers to furnish me with a monthly journal, so as to be in a position to know what is being done and the condition of the Indians generally. There can be no question that the Indians are advancing.

In July and August last the annuity payments took place, and the schools and reserves generally were examined. It was during that time that Mr. Inspector McColl

and Dr. Orton visited the agency, when both had an opportunity of judging of the condition of the Indians. The visits of these gentlemen are always anticipated with interest, and would be more so if happening more than once a year. Later on, in September and October, I again visited the bands at Cumberland, Moose Lake and Chemawawin, while that at The Pas in the immediate neighbourhood has been frequently called upon.

Clothing Supplied.—At the time I went round in the fall, the generous supply of clothing was partly distributed; but most of it was reserved till winter. And here I would respectfully state that but for these useful articles of clothing, both the aged and destitute would have suffered keenly in the cold weather.

During the winter I visited all the bands, settling disputes, examining the schools, and inspecting the reserves generally.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—I again went round some of them in June, and am pleased to report that generally the houses and premises were in a better condition than on any previous occasion. I regret to report that from last fall until the spring the whooping cough attacked every band in the agency but Grand Rapids. On that account it was necessary to purchase more provisions for the sick and destitute, and the dispensers of medicines were busy indeed. Owing, therefore, to this severe epidemic among the children, the census at the next payment of annuities will be materially affected, especially at Moose Lake.

Office Work.—In the office I have been extra busy, and the work here has increased since the school teachers have been requested to assist in the supervision of the bands. A considerable amount of office work has been done by members of my own family, and by an Indian youth from the Big Eddy school, whom I have taken in hand with a view to training him for future usefulness. He is doing very well, and I have great hopes of him, as he writes a good hand, is fairly advanced in arithmetic, and speaks English.

I will now briefly review the reserves in detail.

The Grand Rapids Indians are not doing as well as they were some time ago, owing to the influx of Icelanders to work for the fishing companies, and removal to the island from the mouth of the river of the Robinson Company. These Indians do not farm to much extent. It is, however, a good place for fish, but not for furs. The Indians, therefore, miss the employment which they used to have, and suffer in consequence. The school on this reserve is still closed.

Chemawawin.—At this place the Indians do well in hunting and fishing, but are much away from the reserve, so that the school is carried on under difficult circumstances. The teacher, Mr. Walter Charles Lundie, has done good service, not only in the school, but also in going about the reserve instructing the Indians at home and in the gardens. At my visit there in June I was pleased to find things generally well.

Moose Lake.—Here the reserve is divided, some of the band living on the mainland and the rest at Big Island. Those at the former place are generally slow and indifferent, while at the latter settlement they are thrifty and prospering. I called at both places in June, and was pleased to see at the island gardens well cultivated and houses kept clean. These Indians have made a good start on their new reserve. The teacher also reports that it is a pleasure to visit them. Mr. Taylor is now leaving the school, so that it will be closed for a time. While the children could attend, fair progress was made, but during the whooping-cough epidemic nothing could be done.

The Pas Reserve.—We now come to The Pas, which is the largest reserve, and the band the most intelligent in this agency. There are two schools here, conducted by Mr. Thomas Lamb and Mr. Robert Bear, respectively. The attendance at the school at The Pas proper is excellent. At my last examination, in May, there were over fifty pupils. The order of the school and the progress of the pupils show that Mr. Lamb's labours are telling. It is hoped that some smart scholars will be turned out from this school.

There was not much difficulty with these Indians last winter, as many of them made a good fall fishing, and furs were numerous. But when the whooping-cough attacked the band in February, we were kept extra busy attending to the sick, while a number of the men were much hindered in their usual pursuits. For a time both

schools were closed, and not a few children were cut off by death. I am, however, thankful to say that the epidemic has now passed away.

The spring hunt of muskrats was poor; but when the Indians returned from their winter and spring quarters, gardening operations were carried on, both among adults and children, as far as seed would go. Premises were also cleaned up; so that when I left there in the early part of June the reserve presented a nice appearance.

Pas Mountain Reserve.—The next reserve is at the Pas Mountain, where the band is settled in two parts, one at Shoal Lake, and the other at Red Earth. At the former place there is a school doing well under the tuition of Mr. Thomas Bear. The Shoal Lake Indians are thriving better than formerly, as is shown by some new houses which are, I think, the best in the agency, and by their attention to sanitary measures.

Hunting is not very good at this place; so that when fish fail (as is often the case), they find it hard to live. It is, however, a good place for cattle, only they are not numerous.

The other portion of the band, residing at Red Earth, are progressing in whatever they put their hands to; but they find it hard at times, owing to the lack of fish which, as a rule, are very scarce up there. The Red Earth Indians are, perhaps, at the head of all the bands in this agency for keeping their premises clean and tidy, and in supplying their houses with firewood. They are good gardeners, and live largely upon potatoes and milk, having a goodly number of private animals. This year, as it was obvious they should cultivate the land to a greater extent than heretofore, they have received some assistance, and this has been an encouragement to them.

Cumberland.—This is the western terminus of this agency. Here the Indians reside but little, as their hunting grounds lie far north. The school is carried on under Mr. James Settee, jr., but the attendance is small.

It has been difficult to get these Indians to adopt habits of cleanliness, but the school teacher is energetic in carrying out my instructions. At my visit there last winter I considered it necessary to instruct one of my travellers then and there in the presence of the inmates of the house to take a spade, collect and throw away an accumulation of rubbish from the corner, at the same time I gave the occupants a good talking to.

I am pleased to be able to report that not only at Cumberland, but on all the reserves where there is a school teacher, the houses and premises generally present a better appearance than in times past. It is not now an uncommon sight to notice spittoons in the houses, whereas formerly, the Indians, as a rule, used no such article.

In conclusion I beg to report that with a view to encourage the Indians in the cultivation of the soil, I have promised them prizes for the three best gardens. And in order to get the school children interested in this industry, I have promised them also prizes for the three best gardens of small seeds. It is hoped, therefore, that thus more interest will be taken, not only in putting down seed, but in keeping down weeds.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have, &c.,

J. READER,
Indian Agent.

MANITOBA,
 PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE AGENCY,
 PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, 22nd July, 1896.

The Honourable
 The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
 Ottawa.

SIR,--I have the honour to submit for the information of the department my annual report with tabular statement showing the state of the Indians under my charge, with inventory of all Government property and the approximate value of the same for the year ended the 30th June, 1896.

This agency comprises five reserves as follows:--

ROSSEAU RIVER RESERVE PROPER.

This reserve is situate at the confluence of the Red and Rosseau Rivers. It has an area of some thirteen thousand five hundred and fifty-four acres. This reserve is well adapted for farming and stock-raising, as there is an abundance of hay and the Rosseau River runs through a portion of it, and the soil cannot be surpassed in any part of the North-west.

ROSSEAU RIVER RAPIDS RESERVE.

This reserve is situate on the Rosseau River eighteen miles from its mouth; it has an area of only eight hundred acres. This reserve is well adapted for farming, as it is high and dry. There is no hay on it and the soil is much lighter than at the mouth of the river, but grain does well on it as also potatoes and other roots.

Tribe. These bands belong to the Chippewas and speak their language.

Vital Statistics. They have a population of about two hundred and fifty-one: men, sixty-eight; women, seventy-seven, and one hundred and six children. There were thirteen births and seventeen deaths. There was an immigration of seven, and an emigration of two, making an increase of one over last year, but reducing the band by four, the deaths exceeding the births by that number.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians in general, was pretty good. The deaths were from natural causes. There were no infectious diseases among them.

Occupation. Some fifteen of these Indians farm and the majority of them make a great deal out of digging snake root; they get from seventeen to twenty-five cents a pound for it. They had a very good crop of wheat and got a good price for it.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—Their stock looks very well. Only a few of these Indians have good buildings. Their farming implements are in pretty good condition, but they are not careful of them.

Education. These bands have no schools and only a few of them attend the industrial-school at St. Boniface. The parents are generally opposed to sending their children away from home. There are about thirty children of school age in these bands. There are no schools on the reserves and the parents are not interested in education, especially the band at the rapids.

Religion. There are quite a number of the bands located at the mouth of the river who are members of the Roman Catholic Church. They are building a small church which they expect to have completed this fall. In general, they are not much interested in religion.

Progress.—The Indians are not naturally industrious; they are rather indolent, but generally law-abiding, and I cannot say that they are becoming richer, with the exception of Adam Martin, of the Reserve Proper, and Mam chekah Pow, at the Rapids, and their sons, who are doing well.

Temperance and Morality.—Many of these bands are addicted to the use of intoxicants, and a number of them are immoral in other respects.

THE LONG PLAIN RESERVE.

This reserve is situated on the north side of the Assiniboine River, fifteen miles west of the town of Portage la Prairie. It has an area of ten thousand eight hundred and seventy acres. This reserve is not very well adapted for farming; there is not much clean prairie on it—not more than a section or a section and one-half in all—and some of this has brush on it, and the soil is of a light sand, with the exception of one hundred or more acres in the River Valley. The rest of the reserve is wood and hay meadow alternating. These Indians have very good stock, but the flies are generally very bad on this reserve.

Tribe.—This band also belongs to the Chippewas and speaks their language.

Vital Statistics.—There are about thirty-one men, thirty-eight women and forty-eight children. There were six births and eight deaths. There was an immigration of two and an emigration of ten, making a decrease of ten from last year, but reducing the band by only two, as the deaths exceeded the births by that number.

The Health and Sanitary Condition of this band have been pretty good. There were no infectious diseases among them, and they generally keep their premises very clean.

Occupation.—A number of this band farm. They cultivate some one hundred and twelve acres. The crops were pretty good last season. Some of these Indians work for the farmers when harvesting and threshing and receive good wages for their labour.

Buildings, Stock and Implements.—The members of this band have very good stock, which are generally in fine condition. Only a few of them have anything like good buildings; only two or three of them have thatched roofs on their houses, the others having nothing but flat mud roofs. Their implements are getting pretty well used up, as they have had them for a number of years and are not very careful of them.

Education.—This band has no school on its reserve. The Indians are very much opposed to the education of their children. There are about twenty children of school age, but I never could prevail on any of the Indians to let their children go to an industrial-school.

Religion.—With the exception of three or four Indians that belong to the Roman Catholic Church, they are all pagans and are very much opposed to clergymen going among them.

Progress.—The large majority of this band are rather indolent, but very law-abiding. I cannot say that they are becoming much richer. They are too much given to having horses instead of oxen to work with, and consequently lose money by purchasing horses, as horses will not stand the work with the care given them by Indians as oxen will.

Temperance and Morality.—A number, in fact a large majority of this band, are given to the use of intoxicating liquor, and many of them are immoral in other respects, but not to the same extent as formerly.

SWAN LAKE AND GARDEN RESERVES.

This band is nearly evenly divided, one-half residing at the Swan Lake, and the other at the Indian Gardens.

The Swan Lake Reserve.—This reserve is situated on the north side of the Swan Lake, in township five, range eleven, west of the first principal meridian, in the province of Manitoba, and contains eleven thousand eight hundred and three acres. This reserve

is well adapted for farming and stock-raising, as there is plenty of hay, and a fine spring creek running through it and a large amount of good clean prairie with a gravelly sub-soil well adapted for grain-raising. The only drawback is that the country in the neighbourhood of the Swan Lake is subject to early frosts.

Indian Gardens.—This reserve is situate near the south bank of the Assiniboine River, it comprises section eleven in township nine, range nine west of the first principal meridian, in the province of Manitoba, and contains six hundred and forty acres. This small reserve is well adapted to farming; the soil is of the very best quality and the crops come in early, but it is not suitable for stock, as there is no hay on it, and cattle are not allowed to run at large, as the herd law is in force.

Tribe. This band also belongs to the Chippewas and speaks their language.

Vital Statistics.—There are twenty-eight men, thirty-seven women and fifty-eight children. There were four births and two deaths, one immigration and two emigrations, making an increase of one over last year, but an increase of two to the band, as the births exceeded the deaths by that number.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of this band has been pretty good on the whole. There was no infectious disease among them during the year. They keep their premises pretty clean and the only two deaths that occurred were from natural causes.

Occupation.—Some five of the band residing at the Indian gardens and seven or eight of those residing at Swan Lake farm each from five to twenty-six acres and had a heavy crop; but that at Swan Lake was impaired by frost. When not engaged at their own crop some of them dig snake root and others work for the farmers in time of harvest and threshing.

Buildings, Stock and Implements.—This band has not as many cattle as the other bands; at the gardens where the chief was given the cows, they have not increased as fast as on the other reserves, as they lose some of them every winter from the fact that they are not properly fed on account of no hay being on their reserve. They have no good buildings on those reserves; they are all log shanties with flat mud roofs. Their implements are in fairly good condition as the chief, Yellow Quill, is pretty careful of them.

Education.—This band has no school. These Indians are as much opposed to having their children educated as the Long Plain Band are, and will not allow any denomination to come on their reserves to open a school.

Religion.—The members of this band are all pagans and are very much opposed to having clergymen come among them. They say that they want to follow up the tradition of their forefathers and will not depart from them.

Progress.—Those Indians in general are indolent, although a few of them show signs of improvement, viz., Yellow Quill and his two sons at the gardens, and Keecher Makah, Kay-pay-kese-quop, and Wak-em-ah-way-we-tung at Swan Lake.

Temperance and Morality.—The majority of this band are not given to the use of intoxicants as much as some of the other bands; but as to their moral status they are all alike.

General Remarks.—I may say that on the whole I consider that the Indians under my charge have advanced considerably within the past few years in the way of farming, many of them being able to handle a plough and drive a binding-machine and build stacks of grain as well as most white men. They also build very good fences on some of the reserves, and inclose large areas of land to keep their cattle and ponies from roaming about; and many of them have cooking and box-stoves in houses in which they spend the winter. This I do not consider to add to the state of their health, as they keep their houses too warm.

In reference to drunkenness, I must say that there is a very great improvement, as when I first went amongst them during the annuity payments, I would see them by the

dozen lying in the grass "dead drunk," whereas I did not see the sign of liquor on a single Indian during the time that I was making the payments this year.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS OGLETREE,
Indian Agent.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,
RAT PORTAGE AGENCY,
RAT PORTAGE, ONT., 27th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

Reserves.—There are forty-three separate reserves in this agency; the Indians reside on twenty; the others are wild lands, not cultivated. There are also several islands, which they cultivate.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this agency is made up of two hundred and forty-five men, two hundred and seventy-nine women, two hundred and seventy-six boys, and two hundred and eighty-four girls. During the year there were forty births and thirty-three deaths: twelve adults, thirteen boys and eight girls. The cause of death in the case of the adults was mostly consumption. The children died from the usual infant complaints.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The general health of the Indians has been good. There have been no epidemics. Sanitary precautions were taken, and all refuse burnt in the spring around their dwellings. Dr. Hanson visited the several bands during the winter and spring.

Occupation.—These Indians find employment during the winter hunting and cutting cordwood for steamers, and working in the lumber camps; in the summer acting as guides and on steamers.

Stock.—All the animals are in good condition; but, owing to the high water, I fear very little hay can be procured.

Education.—There are seventy children of school age on the four reserves on which schools are established: one Government school, one under the supervision of the Roman Catholics, and two under the Episcopalians. The children who attend school are all young, as after the age of fourteen the boys commence to hunt and the girls marry. The highest grade taught is standard IV., in the Dalles school; the others are in standard III. The attendance is very irregular, owing to the parents having to leave the reserves to hunt and fish. The discipline of the schools is good and the progress of the pupils where they attend regularly is good.

Religion.—There is a mission at Islington under the supervision of the Episcopalians, and a very good church. There are a hundred and forty-nine Episcopalians and twelve pagans on this reserve. The teacher on the Dalles Reserve is a catechist and holds service in the school-house. There are thirty Episcopalians, fifteen Roman Catholics and seventeen pagans. The members of the Assabasca Band are all pagans. At White Fish Bay there are six Roman Catholics and fifty-two pagans.

Temperance and Morality.—The Indians in the vicinity of the towns are more addicted to intoxicants than those on the other reserves, but several arrests have been made lately, and intemperance is being gradually stamped out.

Progress. The Indians, as a rule, are industrious and law-abiding. There are a hundred and forty-eight very good houses on the several reserves, and thirty-seven stables.

The Indians on the several reserves are in a fairly prosperous condition, and still self-supporting. Assistance is given during the winter to the old and destitute from the supplies left at the agency for that purpose.

Dr. Hanson visited the reserves during the winter.

I am sorry to have to report that owing to high water, the rice crop will be a total failure. The hay marshes are also flooded, and I fear that some of the cattle will suffer for want of hay.

I have, &c.,

R. J. N. PITHER,
Indian Agent.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,

SAVANNE AGENCY,

FORT WILLIAM, ONT., 27th August, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896. There are eight reserves in this agency: Lac des Mille Lacs, Kawawiagamok, Wabigoon, Frenchman's Head, Lac Seul, Wabuskang, Grassy Narrows and Eagle Lake.

LAC DES MILLE LACS RESERVE.

Location. This reserve is situated at Poplar Point on Lac des Mille Lacs.

Area. It contains an area of two thousand nine hundred and fifty acres.

Resources. The resources of this reserve are fishing and hunting.

Tribe. These Indians belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics. This band has a population of eighty-one, consisting of sixteen men, fourteen women, twenty-two boys and twenty-nine girls. There were two girls born during the year, one woman died and one woman was transferred to the Robinson Treaty, as she married an Indian belonging to the Fort William Band.

Health and Sanitary Condition. The health of the Indians is excellent. All have been vaccinated and there are no infectious diseases of any kind. Their premises are well kept.

Occupation. The Indians on this reserve live by hunting, fishing and the products of their gardens, one or two acting occasionally as guides to prospectors in the mining district.

Buildings, Stock and Implements. There are eight log houses, a stable and a barn on the reserve, all of which are in good sanitary condition. The band has only one cow, a fine animal. Their ploughs and harrows are never used and are stored away until such time as they will require them. These implements were given to the Indians under treaty stipulations in or before the year 1886. None have been given to them since that date.

Education. There is no school on this reserve and the Indians do not seem anxious to have one, although there are twenty-one children of school age.

Religion.—All the Indians are heathens and there is no church or missionary near them.

KAWAWIAGAMOK RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated on Kanninpininamkok Lake on the Kawawigamok River.

Area.—It contains an area of one thousand four hundred and fifty-eight acres.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are fishing and hunting.

Tribe.—These Indians belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of only twenty-four, consisting of eight men, six women, six boys and four girls. One woman and one girl died during the year and there were no births.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—All in the band are healthy, but they do not seem to thrive at all.

Occupation.—They do not cultivate the soil at all, depending entirely on hunting and fishing.

Education.—They have no desire to see their children educated, and there is no school on the reserve.

Religion.—All the members of this band are heathens, and missionaries have no communication with them whatever.

WABIGOON RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated on Little Wabigoon Lake.

Area.—It contains an area of twelve thousand eight hundred and seventy-two acres.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are hunting and fishing.

Tribe.—These Indians belong the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of eighty-five, consisting of thirteen men and twenty-five women, twenty-five boys and twenty-two girls. Two girls were born during the year. One woman was transferred to the Fort Frances Band and another to the Lac Seul Band, they having married men of those bands. One woman received the commutation of her annuity, having married a white man, and another died from old age.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There were no cases of sickness when the reserve was last visited during the treaty payment and the sanitary instructions from the department have been carried out.

Occupation.—When not hunting and fishing, which is their chief mode of living, these Indians attend to their gardens, which are in excellent condition and give promise of a plentiful crop.

Buildings, Stock and Implements.—The majority of the families on this reserve have good houses, which are all clean and in a proper sanitary condition and are first-rate winter quarters for them. This band has no farm stock. Their ploughs, harrows, &c., they do not utilize, and have therefore stored them away. These implements were given to the Indians under treaty stipulations between the years 1885 and 1889. None have been given to them since the latter date.

Education.—There are twenty-four children of an age to attend school on the reserve, but the attendance is very irregular. This, of course, makes it rather up-hill work for the teacher, Mrs. Johns, who is assisted by her daughter; but they deserve credit for the efficient manner in which they have taught the pupils. Their studies are elementary. A few of the Indians are anxious to see their children educated, and in order to assist in this direction they intend building a new school-house in a more central position on the reserve, when the children will be better able to attend during stormy weather.

Religion.—There is no church on the reserve and the Indians are all heathens. The English Church has a mission station about twelve miles from the reserve, and the Rev. Mr. Prewer, who is in charge, takes great interest in all that concerns the Indians, and I have no doubt he will have beneficial results from his labours in the future.

FRENCHMAN'S HEAD RESERVE.

Location. This reserve is situated near Lac Seul.

Area.—It contains an area of twenty-four thousand acres.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are fishing and hunting.

Tribe.—These Indians belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of two hundred and three, consisting of fifty men, fifty women, fifty-six boys and forty-seven girls. During the year eight children were born—four boys and four girls. One boy was killed on the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's track in February; one man, one woman and one boy died. One man was married to an Indian woman from Nepigon and she was admitted to the band. Three persons who were absent last year returned to the band and there were twelve others absent this year.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—All the Indians are healthy. Their sanitary condition is looked after and their premises kept clean.

Occupation.—The members of this band hunt and fish and several are in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company as carriers and canoe-men.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements. There are twenty-five log houses and two stables on the reserve, all of which are clean and tidy. Their stock is in first-class condition and well cared for. Ploughs, harrows, &c., they never use and have them stored carefully away. These implements were formerly given under treaty stipulations. None are now issued to these Indians.

Education. There are forty-six children of school age, one school and one teacher. The school is well equipped with a plentiful supply of all necessary books, &c. The pupils have made fair progress; but, as on the other reserves, the attendance is irregular, as the parents do not take a proper interest in the education of their children.

Religion. In this band there are seventy-four Roman Catholics, one hundred and three belong to the Church of England and four are heathens. The Church of England has a church on the reserve and a missionary. The attendance at all the services is usually very good.

LAC SEUL RESERVE.

Location. This reserve is situated at Lac Seul.

Area. It contains an area of twenty-five thousand acres.

Resources. The resources of this reserve are hunting and fishing.

Tribe. These Indians belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of three hundred and thirty-one, consisting of seventy-two men, seventy-one women, one hundred boys and eighty-eight girls. During the year there were fifteen births—five boys and ten girls; five women, one girl and three boys died. One woman married a white man and received her commutation, another left the band and married an Indian at White Dog Reserve. One woman from Cat Lake, another from Osaburg and a third from Wabigoon were married into the band.

Health and Sanitary Condition. The health of the Indians is very good and due care is taken as to their sanitary condition.

Occupation.—The principal occupations of these Indians are hunting and fishing, and several are employed by the Hudson's Bay Company as carriers, &c. The chief

who was elected at the treaty payment, Wm. Ackiewence, is an excellent carpenter and is instructing a number of the younger Indians in his trade.

Buildings, Stock and Implements.—There are fifty-three substantial well-built houses on this reserve and the Indians are taking considerably more interest in the erection of good, comfortable dwellings. Their farm stock is increasing and well cared for. Their ploughs and harrows, never being used, are stored away; they were given under treaty stipulations in 1875. None have since been issued to these Indians.

Education.—The Indians on this reserve take more interest in the education of their children, and the results are better accordingly. There are seventy-one children of school age and this season a second school has been opened on the reserve. One school is situated on Canoe River and the other on Treaty Point; one teacher in each school. Elementary studies are taught and the children are smart and went through their examinations very creditably.

Religion.—Of the Indians of this band three hundred and twenty-one belong to the Church of England, eight are heathens and two Roman Catholics. The Church of England has a mission station and church close to the reserve and the services are well attended. Under the able guidance of the Rev. Mr. Pritchard these Indians are making good headway in Christianity.

WABUSKANG RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated at Wabus kang Lake.

Area.—It contains an area of eight thousand and forty-two acres.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are hunting and fishing.

Tribe.—These Indians belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of seventy-seven, consisting of seventeen men, nineteen women, sixteen boys and twenty-five girls. During the year there were three births,—two girls and one boy; and one man died.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—All the Indians are healthy and free from epidemic. Their premises are kept clean and sanitary regulations are carried out.

Occupation.—These Indians hunt and fish.

Buildings, Stock and Implements.—The fifteen houses on this reserve are well kept and are clean and tidy. These Indians have no stock and their ploughs and harrows are never used. These implements were formerly given under treaty stipulations. None are now issued to these Indians.

Education.—There are seventeen children of school age, one school and one teacher, on this reserve. Elementary studies are taught in the school and some of the children are very proficient in their knowledge of the English language, writing, arithmetic, &c., but, as on the other reserves, the attendance is irregular.

Religion.—Of the Indians of this band twenty-four belong to the Church of England, forty-four are heathens and nine are Roman Catholics. Service is held in the school-house by the school teacher, who is also Church of England missionary, and the attendance at worship is fairly regular.

GRASSY NARROWS RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the English River.

Area.—It contains an area of ten thousand two hundred and forty-four acres.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are hunting and fishing.

Tribe.—These Indians belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of ninety-six, consisting of twenty-one men, twenty-two women, twenty-eight boys and twenty-five girls. During the year there were three deaths,—one boy, one girl and one woman. There was one birth, a girl, and one woman from Big Island Band married into the Grassy Narrows Band.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—All the Indians are healthy and their premises are clean.

Occupation. They hunt, fish and pick berries.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—All the houses are well looked after and are fairly good buildings. These Indians have only one cow, but it is a splendid animal, and their cow-house is clean and tidy. Ploughs and harrows they do not use at all.

Education. There are twenty-two children of school age on the reserve. A school was built by the Roman Catholics, but there is no teacher in charge at present and the parents have no great desire to see their children educated.

Religion. Of the Indians of this band thirty-two belong to the Church of England, thirty are heathens and thirty-four are Roman Catholics. There is no missionary at this point.

EAGLE LAKE RESERVE.

Location. This reserve is situated at the lake of the same name.

Area. It contains an area of eight thousand eight hundred and eighty-two acres.

Resources. The resources of this reserve are hunting and fishing.

Tribe. These Indians belong to the Ojibbewa tribe.

Vital Statistics. This band has a population of fifty-eight, consisting of eighteen men, fourteen women, fifteen boys and eleven girls. One woman died in April and one man died from exposure while out hunting in February. Two girls were born during the year.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There was only one case of illness on the reserve. One man had his leg hurt and was being attended to by Dr. Hanson. Their premises are kept clean and all have been vaccinated.

Occupation. These Indians hunt, fish and pick berries.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—There are several very comfortable houses on this reserve, and the Indians take some little pride in keeping them neat and clean. Their cattle are in excellent condition and are properly housed and cared for. Ploughs and harrows are not used at all.

Education. There are fourteen children of school age on the reserve, but so far there has been no school or teacher. The Indians are building a school-house now, which is nearing completion, and when finished will be a very comfortable building. They seem anxious to have their children educated.

Religion. All in this band are heathen and there is no church on or near the reserve.

General Remarks.—The Indians on the various reserves in this agency are in a fairly prosperous condition and all are self-supporting, maintaining themselves by hunting, fishing, &c., the year round; but during the present season the water in the lakes has been so high that they have not been able to obtain their usual abundant supply of fish. Their crops in general last fall—potatoes and other garden stuffs—were a thorough success, and owing to there being a plentiful supply of rice and wild fruits of all descriptions, the Indians are contented. The hay crop also has been first-class, and consequently the cattle are increasing, and in as fine condition as could be wished for.

The progress made at the various schools is satisfactory, although the attendance was not very regular, owing to the Indians leaving the reserves for their hunting grounds, when those who have children usually take them along, thus leaving but a small number to attend school.

The houses and outbuildings continue to have a more improved and sanitary appearance, the Indians taking more interest in sanitary matters, and all through the reserves the houses have a substantial and comfortable appearance.

The Indians as a whole do not indulge in liquor, and the headmen and others endeavour, as much as possible, to prevent those in the bands from obtaining liquor.

At all the reserves during the annual treaty payments there was strong competition amongst the traders, with the result that the Indians were enabled to buy a first-class quality of goods at reasonable prices.

The Indians are law-abiding on all the reserves.

I have, &c.,

JOHN McINTYRE,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
ASSINIBOINE AGENCY,
INDIAN HEAD, 21st July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896, with tabular statement and inventory of all Government property under my charge.

Location.—The Assiniboine Reserve is situated eighteen miles south-east of Indian Head and twelve miles south-west of Wolseley Station, Canadian Pacific Railway.

Area.—There are forty-six thousand seven hundred and twenty acres in this reserve or seventy-three square miles.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are very limited, only consisting of dead wood and wild hay, and the supply of dry wood is very nearly exhausted. The market for both hay and wood is very small.

Tribe or Nation.—These Indians are Assiniboines or Stonies, a branch of the Sioux nation, speaking very nearly the same language as the Sioux, and have a great number of their old customs. They try hard to continue them.

Vital Statistics.—The population on this reserve is two hundred and ten, of which number twenty are in the United States, leaving a total on the reserve, this date, of one hundred and ninety souls,—fifty-four men, seventy-eight women, and fifty-eight children. The above is according to the census taken on the 16th October, 1895. Since that date there have been six births and two deaths, which gives an increase of four. The principal causes of death among the adults are consumption and scrofula, and with children colds. One man and one woman left for the United States. Nine men who formerly belonged to this agency have returned from the United States. As all Indians are of roving and careless disposition, and like to be travelling from one place to another, I can give no particular reason for this habit unless it is their love of change.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of these Indians has been good since my last annual report, there being no contagious diseases or epidemics amongst them. Every sanitary precaution has been taken, such as cleaning up all rubbish and burning the same, the whitewashing of houses and cleaning out of wells, and the vaccination of Indians who were absent from the reserve last fall.

Occupation.—The principal means that these Indians have of making a living is by the sale of dead wood and wild hay, and the market for both these articles is very limited, so that they have to depend for the greater part of their food supply on farming, there being neither fish nor large game of any kind in the vicinity of this reserve. I have encouraged them to adopt mixed farming. They are raising wheat,

oats, potatoes, turnips and other garden vegetables. They are also raising cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—Their buildings are all of log, well plastered with mud, whitewashed with lime and made comfortable for winter; the greater number of them have lumber floors. Their houses are heated by open fire-places and stoves. All their houses are well-built and properly ventilated. The farming implements consist of ploughs, harrows, mowers, reapers and hay-rakes. A number of mowers and rakes were purchased through the sale of cattle of their own raising. The stock are: oxen, used in working the land, making hay, hauling wood and hay to the market; cows, from which beef steers are raised, and the milk is also used by the Indians and their children. They also make butter. Sheep are raised for mutton and wool.

The ponies raised by these Indians are too small for farm work, being only used for riding and drawing light loads; some are used for raking hay.

Education. There are thirty children of school age in this agency, but a great number of them are delicate, and are affected with scrofula, and are unable to attend school. There being no day-school on this reserve, all the children are sent to the Qu'Appelle and Regina Industrial-schools. Sixteen children are attending these schools, four at Qu'Appelle and twelve at Regina. All the children are making good progress in reading and writing English, and in the different trades taught in the above institutions. The parents of these children are taking more interest in the progress made by them each year, and are very proud of the efficiency displayed by them.

Religion. There are fifteen Roman Catholics and twelve Presbyterians on this reserve, the remainder, one hundred and sixty-three, are all pagans.

The Presbyterian Church authorities placed Mr. Neil Gilmour on this reserve last fall as a missionary and are now putting up a large stone building to be used as a church and dwelling-house for the missionary. They have also engaged an interpreter to assist Mr. Gilmour.

This reserve is also often visited by a priest who holds meetings with the Roman Catholic Indians.

I am sorry to say that so far these Indians have not manifested much interest in religion, but I now look for a better result, since a missionary has been placed amongst them.

Characteristics and Progress.—The greater number of these Indians are industrious and work hard at their farming and stock-raising to make a living for themselves and families, but the uncertainty of the crops sometimes causes the Indians to become discouraged for a time, but when spring comes again they work as hard as ever to secure a crop.

These Indians have been very law-abiding, there having been no arrests made among them for five or six years and there have been no complaints made against them by the white settlers.

They are gradually becoming better off each year and are making steady progress in farming by increasing their fields and herds of stock; some of the more industrious have been purchasing implements, such as mowers, hay-rakes, wagons, and bob-sleighs. They are building better houses and furnishing them each year more like the white people, with bedsteads, tables, chairs and cooking-stoves, dishes, coal-oil lamps, &c.

Individual Progress.—Gee-Gus has fifteen acres of wheat, potatoes, turnips, carrots, onions, corn and other small garden stuff. He has eleven head of cattle, two stables and a good house, well furnished, with kitchen and stove. He has also a wagon of his own.

Big Darkness has fifteen acres of wheat, potatoes, turnips, onions and carrots. He has also ten head of cattle, two stables, house and kitchen, well furnished, bob-sleigh, wagon and mower.

Pretty Bear has twelve acres of wheat, potatoes, turnips, onions and carrots. He has also eleven head of cattle, three stables and house, with shingled roof, a mower, cooking-stove and furnished kitchen.

Dry Walker has eight acres of wheat, potatoes, turnips, onions, carrots and corn. He has also twelve head of cattle, two stables, good house, bob-sleigh, mower and wagon.

Wes-e-can has ten acres of wheat, potatoes, turnips, onions, carrots and corn. He has also seven head of cattle, ten sheep, a good house and stable, bob-sleigh, mower and a new hay-rack.

A great many more instances could be given, but would take up too much space.

Temperance and Morality.—These Indians are very temperate, there being no case of intoxication either on or off this reserve that has come to my knowledge. The women on this reserve are fairly moral. I know of no cases of immorality or prostitution amongst them. They are kept out of the small towns as much as possible.

General Remarks.—The advancement made by these Indians during the past year in the different branches of farming is most encouraging. They were well off last winter for food and were comfortably housed.

The Indian women are more industrious than they formerly were and take more pride in keeping their children and houses neat and clean, and a general improvement may be observed around their dwellings.

The annuity payments took place on the 16th October last and passed off very quietly, there being no complaints.

The individual earnings of these Indians during the past year were \$1,139.06, made from sale of hay, dry wood, tanning hides, freighting and working out for farmers.

I have, &c.,

W. S. GRANT,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

BATTLEFORD AGENCY,

BATTLEFORD, 22nd July, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report together with tabular statement and inventory of all Government property under my charge for year ended 30th June, 1896.

Area and Location of Reserves.—No. 108, Red Pheasant's, twenty-four thousand three hundred and twenty acres; No. 109, Stony, forty-six thousand two hundred and eight acres; situated in the Eagle Hills, South of Battleford. No. 113, Sweet Grass, forty-two thousand five hundred and twenty-eight acres; No. 114, Poundmaker's, nineteen thousand two hundred acres; No. 116, Little Pine's, sixteen thousand acres; situated on the south side of the Battle River and west of Battleford. No. 112, Moosomin's, sixteen thousand acres; No. 115, Thunderchild's, twenty thousand eight hundred and twenty; situated between the Battle River and the North Saskatchewan and west of Battleford.

Resources.—The resources of this agency are mixed farming, cattle-raising, selling hay, wood, lime and charcoal.

Tribe.—All are Crees with the exception of the Stony Reserve Band.

Vital Statistics.—This agency contains a population of eight hundred and sixty men, women and children. During the year there were thirty-two births and fifty deaths, making a decrease of eighteen. The principal causes of death were scrofula and consumption.

Health and Sanitary Condition. The health of the various bands has been fairly good considering the number of scrofula cases and consumption. No epidemics have occurred. Children who had not been vaccinated were inoculated at treaty payments as well as a number of adults who had been operated on before. Premises have been kept clean, all rubbish and refuse being regularly removed from the dwellings, which are whitewashed at least once a year. During the summer months the Indians live in tents and teepees, which is much better for their health than living in their houses, as they can move their tents from one place to another.

Occupation. The Indians earn quite a sum of money selling wood, hay, lime, charcoal and occasionally a little fur, which, however, is getting very scarce in this district. They also engage in general farming and cattle-raising. The total earnings from all sources amount to \$7,036.43.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements. Buildings, agricultural implements, &c., are in a fair state of repair. Stock is in splendid condition, the numbers on the different reserves being one thousand four hundred and ninety-one head, consisting of two hundred and fifty-four oxen, four hundred and twenty-one cows, seven hundred and ninety-one young cattle and twenty-five thoroughbred bulls, of the Shorthorn, Durham, Galloway and Polled Angus breeds, as well as one hundred and ninety-four sheep and two pigs, all of which are doing well.

Education. There are one hundred and thirty children of school age: five schools—three Protestant and two Roman Catholic—five teachers. The children are principally in standards I, II and III. Equipment, discipline and order are good; progress very fair. The schools have been fairly well attended, but I must say the parents do not take much interest in the education of their children.

Religion. There are seven churches and buildings used for divine service (three Roman Catholic and four Protestant) with four missionaries, and some of them are fairly well attended by the Indians.

Characteristics and Progress. The Indians of this agency, as a whole, are industrious, and law-abiding: many are becoming better off every year as they see the fruits of their industry.

Temperance and Morality. The Indians, with very few exceptions, are temperate; very few cases of immorality come to my notice.

General Remarks. I have much pleasure in being able to report a steady improvement in the manner and customs of these Indians, as well as a growing disposition to imitate and carry out the methods adopted by the white people to gain a livelihood. Their principal industry in the future will be cattle-raising, and, only having the purest pedigreed bulls now, the beef cattle are getting to be of good size and quality. For instance, a four-year-old steer dressed one thousand four hundred and seventy-one pounds of beef, whilst several three-year-olds dressed on an average one thousand pounds. For this year alone six thousand tons of hay will be required, which means an enormous amount of work, besides building and putting in order houses and stables at the different reserves and hay camps, the latter being at Round Hill and Buffalo Lake, distances from the reserve of twenty-five and ninety miles respectively. There will, I expect, be a good crop of potatoes and turnips, also some grain, which has hitherto almost proved a failure, and in consequence a much smaller acreage is under cultivation this year. The industrial-school is now under the management of the Church of England, worked on the *per capita* system, and at the present time has one hundred and eight pupils; some of the older ones are placed out at service and are giving good satisfaction.

I have, &c.,

P. J. WILLIAMS,

Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST SUPERINTENDENCY,

BIRTLE AGENCY,

BIRTLE, MAN., 30th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report,* tabular statement and inventory of Government property for the fiscal year ended the 30th June last.

Reserves.—There are nine reserves under my supervision, four of which are inhabited by branches of what was in the early part of the present century the great "Sioux Nation," and the other five reserves are occupied by branches of the Ojibways, or now better known as the "Saulteaux" tribe. The Sioux, as the department is aware, do not receive annuities for the reason that they are American Indians, and have no claim on the Canadian Government, whereas the Saulteaux have received and are to receive, under treaty obligations, an annuity of \$5 each for all time to come.

For convenience in many ways, all the Indian reserves were numbered some years ago. The number, name of band and the population of each band within my agency are as follows: Reserve No. 57, Bird Tail Band, seventy-five; Reserve No. 58, Oak River Band, two hundred and seventy-five; Reserve No. 59, Oak Lake Band, thirty-seven; Reserve No. 60, Turtle Mountain Band, twenty-nine—Sioux. Reserve No. 61, Kee-see-koo-wenin's Band, one hundred and thirty-six; Reserve No. 62, Way-way-see-cappo's Band, one hundred and sixty three; Reserve No. 62½, Valley River Band, sixty-eight; Reserve No. 63, the Gamblers' Band, twenty; Reserve No. 67, Rolling River Band, one hundred and twenty-one—Saulteaux.

THE BIRD TAIL RESERVE, No. 57.

Location.—This reserve is located at the junction of the Bird Tail and Assiniboine Rivers, in township fifteen, range twenty-seven, west of the first principal meridian and about ten miles south-west of the town of Birtle.

Area and Resources.—It has an area of six thousand eight hundred and eighty acres, of which about two thousand five hundred acres are particularly well adapted for cultivation and the growing of almost all varieties of cereals. This portion of the reserve is fairly level, free from stone and scrub and is of a good loam, resting on a warm porous subsoil. The larger area lies in the valleys of the two rivers, whose banks connecting the up and the low lands, are more than two hundred feet high.

The bottom lands and hillsides are well adapted for pasturage, but neither of late years have grown a sufficient quantity of grass to provide an ample supply of good fodder for winter use, so that they have had to resort to the rationing of straw. The result has been that the cattle have not thriven as well as it was desired they should. It is evident that artificial means of irrigating these bottom lands will have to be resorted to if a good supply of grass is to be assured every season from them, and it is desirable that this should be, not only to enable these Indians to retain the present number of cattle, but to encourage them to increase the number, as the rearing of cattle is unquestionably a profitable industry wherever an ample supply of fodder can be depended upon.

Experiments have been made at this reserve the past few years at the growing of timothy and brome grass (*Bromus inermis*) with the result that the former did not do well; but I am glad to be able to report that the brome grass promises to be a suitable, hardy and prolific fodder plant. A small quantity was sown with grain in the spring of 1894, and it took root, but appeared to be sown too sparsely and last season it was

not cut, so that this season it has spread out, completely covering the ground, and it stands fully four feet high. It will yield several tons of hay, besides which I hope there will be several bags of seed, which it is the intention to use to increase the acreage.

Crops.—Every family of this band has this season put in a crop of grain or garden stuff, or of both. The most extensive farmer this season is Sunka Ho Nahon (Dog Yelping), who has over ninety acres under crop, consisting of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and corn. His garden contains onions, beets, radishes, lettuce, pumpkins, tomatoes, turnips, carrots and cucumbers, and a flower bed.

The Sioux take great pride in growing corn, and view it as one of their most profitable crops. This season there is approximately ten acres under corn on this reserve, and they say it never promised better at this date than it does this year.

Poultry.—Nearly every householder now owns domestic chickens, and two families acquired turkeys last spring with the view of trying their hand at rearing more, but the result has not been very encouraging to them, as the frequent rains this spring seemed to have chilled the young chicks, and all but four have died. By way of encouragement I have told them that many white men have been less fortunate than they in turkey-raising, and that the only way to succeed is to try again.

Education. Every child of school age and in good health, belonging to this band is either at the Birtle Boarding or the Regina Industrial-school.

Religion. There is a church on the reserve under the auspices of the Presbyterian denomination and under the direct supervision of the Rev. Mr. McArthur, who resides about four miles distant. Service is held every Sabbath morning and school every Sabbath afternoon, under the superintendency of Charley Hauska. A weekly prayer meeting is held in the church each Tuesday evening, conducted by the missionary, or, if he is absent, by Charley Hauska. A branch of the Young Men's Christian Association also has weekly meetings in the church. Isaac Thunder is president and John Bunn, treasurer of this association.

The women of this band have an organization known by them as the Wigan-oninieye. They meet at the home of one of its members every Thursday, and do sewing, knitting, beadwork, &c., and the articles there made are sold, and the proceeds sent to the Foreign Missionary Society. About twenty dollars each year has been gained in this way for several years past, and for the purpose stated. The officers now are Mrs. Hauska, president; Mrs. Silas Bokka, treasurer, and Mrs. John McLeod, secretary.

General Remarks.—There are many branches of the Sioux nation. Those of this band are principally the "Wah-pa-tou-wans" and the minority "Siyos." They allege that they were drawn into the Minnesota war in 1862 by the hasty action of the "Mdewakantansians" branch of the Sioux, who resided at a considerable distance to the south. The Indians of this band are unquestionably the most law-abiding, industrious, moral and temperate within my agency, and it is hard to believe that they or their forefathers were a party to the Minnesota massacre.

Intoxicants are not legally sold within twenty-five miles of this reserve, and these Indians therefore are not placed so close to temptation as other bands in this respect, and the fact that there is a strong temperance sentiment among the neighbouring white people may be the reason for their temperate habits.

OAK RIVER RESERVE, No. 58.

The reserve is occupied by three branches of the Sioux nation, namely, the Sisses tons, Wah-pa-tou-wans and the Mdewakantansians.

Area, Location, &c.—The area of this reserve is about nine thousand seven hundred acres, and it is located in township ten, range twenty-three, west of the first principal meridian, at the junction of the Oak and Assiboine rivers. Fully one-third of the area is bottom lands, the higher portion of which is fairly well adapted for grain-growing and all of these bottom lands would grow enormous crops of grass if irrigated, which would

not be a difficult undertaking, as the land is fairly level and there is an abundance of water procurable from the two streams that flow through and form the southern boundary of the reserve. A portion of the high land is a light sandy soil, and on the banks of some of the ravines that run through this high land, stones are plentiful, but the larger portion of this high land is of excellent quality and only requires good farming to ensure a heavy crop of all cereals adapted to the country.

General Remarks.--These Indians have one hundred and fifty head of cattle, which is about as large a herd as it is possible to provide hay for unless fodder is specially grown for them, as the native grass for the past few seasons has been a light crop owing to frequent mowings and the want of an adequate supply of rain or flooding of the meadows from the rivers. About one-quarter of an acre was seeded during the spring of 1894 with the brome grass, which has thriven well there also, and it is intended to collect the seed from this plot and increase the acreage as largely and rapidly as possible. Last season there were eleven thousand six hundred and seventy-four bushels of wheat, eighteen hundred and thirty-six bushels of oats, and over eleven hundred bushels of potatoes harvested on this reserve, besides a fair crop of corn and garden vegetables. This season there is approximately eight hundred and sixty-seven acres under wheat, two hundred and seventeen under oats, nineteen acres in potatoes and several acres under corn and garden stuff, all of which promises a good yield.

"Caska Hauska" is the largest individual farmer, having about eighty-seven acres under crop, consisting of wheat, oats, potatoes, corn and garden stuff.

Several members of this band have erected new and creditable stables for their stock, and all have paid better attention to their cattle during the winter months than they formerly did. A number have added articles of furniture to their dwellings and exhibit more of a disposition to keep them tidy and clean.

Religion.--There is a church within a few yards of the eastern boundary of their reserve, which was erected by the Episcopalians for the benefit of these Indians, and service is held every Sabbath by the Rev. Mr. Robertson, who was lately stationed there. I have been informed that the church has been filled with Indian hearers at every service.

Indian Marriages.--I know of only three couples of this band who have been married by clergymen, and who are living together in wedlock, which is evidence to me that all who attend church have not renounced their belief in the Indian's free and easy marriage contract, which admits of more than one wife at pleasure.

Education.--The day-school that was in operation on this reserve for the past few years was closed last December, chiefly for the reason that the attendance was both small and irregular. It remained closed until the 6th inst., when it was again reopened, with Miss Hooper, an experienced teacher, in charge, since which time there has been an attendance of about thirty pupils daily.

This band is now under the direct supervision of Mr. Richard Joynt, who is a practical farmer of long experience in this province.

Morality and Temperance. There have been no convictions during the year for infractions of the Indian Act with regard to the procuring of intoxicants by members of this band; but this is not cited as positive proof that these Indians are now a more strictly temperate lot, but as evidence that previous convictions and a close watch over them have had a very beneficial effect.

OAK LAKE RESERVE, No. 59.

Location.--This reserve is located in township seven, range eight, west of the first principal meridian, which is about four miles north of Pipestone, a station on a branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Area.--The area of this reserve is about two thousand five hundred acres.

Resources.--The Pipestone Creek, a sluggish stream, flows through this reserve, and between this creek and the eastern boundary there is a sufficient supply of timber for the use of these Indians for building and firewood purposes. About one thousand acres

of this reserve is suitable for cultivation; the remainder is fairly good pasture land and wood land, as previously recited. Of late years there has been an inadequate supply of hay procurable for the small number of cattle they have had, and a large ration of straw has had to be grown to meet this emergency. The brome grass was not tried at this reserve, but as it has proved so successful at other points, it is my intention to try it here with a view of overcoming the hay problem and providing for an increased number of cattle.

Occupation. This band, which only numbers thirty-seven souls, has about one hundred acres under crop this season. They grow sufficient potatoes and corn each season for their own food requirements, and this, with their wheat and their earnings obtained by working for the settlers, together with basket-making, tanning hides, and a little hunting, provides their livelihood without practically any assistance from the department.

Education. All the children of this band, of school age and in good health, are at the Regina Industrial-school.

Religion. John Thunder, from the Bird Tail Sioux Reserve, is located here as missionary, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church. A neat frame building has been erected on the reserve, the lower part of which is used as a church, and the missionary resides in the upper rooms. Mr. Thunder reports that a majority of this band attend service every Sabbath and exhibit evidence of interest in religious matters.

Temperance.—Two or three members of this band have the record of not being total abstainers, but they have so far been able to evade punishment, and also to shelter the parties who supplied the intoxicants.

Tribe or Nation.—With one or two exceptions, all the members of this band are of the "Walpe Kute" branch of the Sioux nation.

THE TURTLE MOUNTAIN RESERVE, No. 60.

Location. This reserve is located on the northern base of the mountain from which the reserve derived its name, and on section thirty-one, township one, range twenty-two, west of the first principal meridian.

Area and Vital Statistics.—The area of this reserve is six hundred and forty acres, and the number of Indians now belonging to this band is twenty-nine, increased by the return of one family and the marriage of a widower.

Occupation. They gain their livelihood from the produce grown in their gardens, together with fishing, hunting and the sale of berries and firewood, and also by odd jobs of work at the town of Deloraine, and from the settlers. If it were not for the proximity of this reserve to the international boundary, the location would be a good one for this small band; but it seems to be the meeting ground for a large number of scallawag Indians from both sides of the line, and I fear for this reason the Indians of this band will never progress.

Education.—The day-school that was in operation is now closed. The attendance during the last quarter that it was operated was less than three pupils, and with so few pupils there was little encouragement to keep it open. We hope that some of those who attended the day-school will be placed in one of the industrial-schools. There are now three children from this reserve in the Regina Industrial-school and one in the Birtle Boarding-school.

Tribe.—The members of this band are principally of the "Wah-pa-tou-wans" branch of Sioux.

Crops.—They have this season under crop approximately seven acres, nearly three of which are in potatoes, corn and garden stuff.

Sioux.—The Sioux in my agency are not a prolific race, few have large families, in fact, the majority have very few children.

TREATY BANDS,

All of which are of the "Saulteaux" Tribe.

THE KEE-SEE-KOO-WENIN RESERVE, No. 61.

Location.—This reserve is located at the southern base of the Riding Mountain, in township eighteen, range twenty-one, west of the first principal meridian, and comprises an area of five thousand six hundred acres.

The Little Saskatchewan River, which takes its rise about twelve miles to the northward and on the summit of the mountains, flows through this reserve from the northern to the southern boundary. It is a fairly rapid-flowing stream of clear fresh water.

Resources.—The valley of this river is about three-quarters of a mile in width, and that portion that is overflowed during the spring freshets has for several past seasons given a heavy growth of grass, which has been used for winter feed. This spring, however, the river has been much higher, and it is feared that these meadows will not be sufficiently dry to allow the luxuriant crop of grass to be cut. Several hundred acres of this bottom land could be artificially irrigated at comparatively small cost, and this would unquestionably be a profitable undertaking, as immense quantities of fodder could be grown there, so that a much larger number of cattle could be provided for, whereas these Indians have now to put forth every energy to provide for their herd of about one hundred and thirty cattle and their work horses. The uplands produce excellent pasturage, but the soil appears to be too rich for wheat. It produces a strong growth of straw, but the grain rarely ever ripens before the frosts come and either damage or destroy it. This season sixty-five acres were sown in oats, four and five-eighths acres planted with potatoes and about three-quarters of an acre in garden stuff, all of which was cut down during last month by two hailstorms, but it has since recovered considerably, and there is yet promise of a fair crop.

Cheese Factory.—Messrs. H. Roberts & Co. started a cheese factory this season within one mile of the reserve, and five Indians have become patrons, and have expressed their gratification at this prospective way of gaining an income during the summer months; and I trust that their expectations will be realized to such an extent that they will not be satisfied until the milk from a much larger number of cows will find its way in the same direction, with profit to these enterprising Indians.

Stock.—These Indians sold cattle during the fiscal year and realized over \$400 for them, and negotiations are now in progress, the outcome of which will, I trust, be the disposal of another lot for about a like sum. The money realized for the cattle sold was invested principally in procuring farming implements, building material for dwellings, and for food.

Education.—The day-school under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church is yet in operation, with Mr. R. C. McPherson as teacher. The average attendance during the fiscal year was eleven, besides which there are seven from this band enrolled at the Birtle Boarding and four at the Regina Industrial-school.

Religion.—The Presbyterian denomination has maintained a missionary at this reserve for a good many years, and has a neat church conveniently near the reserve. Every Sabbath the Indians turn out in respectable numbers to divine service. There is also a well attended Sabbath-school held in the church, and weekly prayer meetings in their own houses, in which service the Indians take an active interest. Mr. McPherson is missionary as well as teacher of the day-school, and during the nine months that he has been with them, he seems to have gained and retained the good-will of the Indians. This mission and school is known as "Okanase."

Temperance.—I am glad to be able to report that there is a stronger temperance sentiment within the limits of this reserve than there was a few years ago. I should

be glad if this sentiment would become contagious in the vicinity of the reserve and result like the leaven which the woman hid in the three measures of meal. One white man was convicted and fined for selling a member of this band an intoxicant during the year.

Occupation. About one-half of this band yet reside off the reserve set apart for their use and home. They reside on the Riding Mountain and in the vicinity of Lake Winnipegosis, where they gain a livelihood by fishing, hunting, gathering senega root, &c.

Progress. Those that live on the reserve are yearly adding to their wealth and have, with one or two exceptions, comfortable dwellings and stables. In their houses may be found ordinary beds, chairs, cooking and heating stoves; and nearly all take their meals from tables.

WAY-WAY-SEE-CAPPO'S RESERVE, No. 62.

Area and Location. This reserve has an area of thirty-nine square miles and is located on the Bird Tail Creek, in townships nineteen and twenty, ranges twenty-five and twenty-six, west of the first principal meridian, which is about eighteen miles north-east of Birtle.

Resources. It is a good location for Indians, having abundance of timber, pasture, and meadow-lands, interspersed with small lakes and plenty of arable land. It is within reasonable distance from market, and from lakes in which fish are fairly plentiful, and from the Riding Mountain, where many species of game abound. The soil, however, seems to be too fertile for successful wheat-growing, and almost every trial has resulted in the grain being frozen before it could be harvested, which has entirely discouraged the Indians from continuing their efforts in that branch of farming.

Stock. In the cattle industry, however, they have made better progress, and have sold during the fiscal year cattle for which they have realized upwards of \$500, and the sales this year will probably bring them as large a sum and still leave them with about one hundred and seventy head. They have for the past few years put up more hay than they required for their stock. They sold the surplus from time to time and with the proceeds purchased food and other necessary articles. Their cattle have also received more attention and care than previously.

Occupation. From this source of revenue, together with the sale of cattle, firewood baskets, berries and senega root, and the tanning of hides, they gain a fairly good livelihood. Last season they had an abundant yield of potatoes, and this season they have planted about thirteen acres.

Two members of this band have erected small buildings, specially to keep milk in, and they are making butter for their own use. Several others have expressed their determination to erect similar buildings.

Education. There are nineteen children from this reserve attending the Birtle Boarding and four the Regina Industrial-school, besides which two, whose parents reside near the western limits of the reserve, attend a settlers' day-school.

Little, if any, opposition is now manifested by these Indians to the education of their children. The only reason advanced by them against sending their children to school is the distance they are asked to send them, for the Birtle Boarding-school cannot take them, as it now has as many pupils as it can possibly accommodate.

Progress. These Indians year by year are unquestionably exhibiting more self dependence: they are exhibiting a disposition to live more comfortably by keeping their dwellings cleaner and providing articles of furniture. Several new and more commodious dwellings are now in course of erection.

Religion. The Presbyterian denomination has a native missionary stationed near the reserve and services are held on the reserve every Sabbath at which, I have been told, there is a fairly good attendance. I think, however, the majority of the adult Indians still cling to their old pagan beliefs.

Temperance.—There are in this band a few individuals who take liquor if it can be conveniently procured. One was convicted during the year for having been found in a state of intoxication and imprisoned for ten days for the offence. The jail for this district is at the city of Brandon, and can only be reached by railway after travelling a distance of two hundred and twenty-four miles. As the expense of sending the prisoner that distance in the charge of a constable would be considerable, I simply provided the prisoner with a railway transport and money sufficient to pay for his meals on the road and gave him the warrant of commitment, which he delivered over to the keeper of the jail. By return mail I received the jailer's receipt for the safe delivery of the Indian, who spent the time adjudged in jail and walked home when liberated; since which time, I have found him obedient and more willing to work than he previously was, and, I trust, convinced that it will be safer not to touch intoxicants again.

VALLEY RIVER RESERVE, No. 62½.

Area.—This reserve has an area of eighteen and one-quarter square miles, and is located at the junction of the Valley River and Short Creek in townships and ranges twenty-five and twenty-six, which is about fifty-five miles north from here. To reach this reserve, I am obliged to travel fully seventy miles, as there is no direct trail across the Riding Mountain, which lies between the reserve and my headquarters.

Resources.—This reserve is a fairly good one for stock, as there are numerous hay meadows on the Short Creek, from which several hundred tons of hay can be procured every season. Timber of a superior quality for building purposes is plentiful. The Valley River affords an abundant supply of good water, and the pasturage is most luxuriant and ample for a very large herd.

Occupation.—These Indians have been accustomed to hunting all their lives, and they have not yet seen the advantage to be gained by keeping cattle, for which they would undoubtedly have to put up a lot of hay and provide shelter during the winter months, particularly as game abounds in the vicinity, and they have always been able, whenever food was required, to procure it with very little exertion.

Game Laws.—The game laws of this province have of late years been remodelled and more rigidly enforced with a view of protecting the game, so that these Indians are now exhibiting more of a disposition to acquire and maintain more cattle and place less dependence on wild animals.

Buildings and Stock.—With very few exceptions all have superior dwelling-houses and fairly good stables. They now have twenty-two head of cattle in their possession.

Occupation.—They make a good deal by gathering senega root, bead-work, tanning hides and by fishing and hunting.

Education.—A day-school, with Mr. F. E. Miller in charge, has been opened on this reserve under the auspices of the Episcopalian Church by whom it is wholly maintained.

At first Mr. Miller accompanied the Indians when absent from the reserve on hunting expeditions or gathering senega root and taught their children in the open air or in the teepees as an opportunity offered.

Last October a building was erected on the reserve from funds voluntarily given by friends of the church in various parts of the Dominion, since which time a class has been regularly taught in this building, and the average attendance has been in the neighbourhood of one dozen. In the teacher's opinion satisfactory progress has been made. Five children between the ages of ten and fourteen years, are able to read in first reader, write fairly well, and do sums in addition. Seven others between the ages of eight and ten years read words containing three letters and are able to count up to one hundred, while others of younger age know the alphabet and the figures up to thirty.

Religion.—The Rev. Mr. Gill, of Russell, visits the reserve occasionally and holds service. When there, he informed me that he inspected the school and was pleased to observe that the children were making very satisfactory progress at their studies. He

hoped that the day was not far distant when the parents of some of these children would give their consent to the removal of their children to some of the larger educational institutions that have been provided for their benefit.

GAMBLER'S RESERVE, No. 63.

Area and Location.—This reserve has an area of about fifteen square miles and is located at the junction of Silver Creek and the Assiniboine River, and about two miles from Binscarth, a station on the Manitoba and North-western Railway, or in townships eighteen and nineteen and ranges twenty-eight and twenty-nine, west of the first principal meridian.

There were seventeen persons who received annuity at the last annual treaty payments, but only six of this number reside on the reserve. Five are now pupils at the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school, and one is a pupil at the Birtle Boarding-school, the others reside outside of the reserve.

The wife of Otterskin lately died, and he has recently expressed a wish to be allowed to remove to one of the reserves at File Hills, where he will be nearer to his two boys who are at the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school. If his wish is granted, only John Tanner and family will be left as actual residents on this reserve.

Otterskin is in fairly good circumstances. He owns about twelve head of horses and fifteen head of cattle, besides which he has five head of cattle controlled by the department. He also has a fair supply of implements and household effects.

Owing to the illness of his wife, and not being in good health himself, he did not put in any crop this spring, but John Tanner put in approximately fifteen acres, and has a fairly large herd of private cattle and several horses. He is rich in worldly goods from an Indian's point of view.

ROLLING RIVER RESERVE, No. 67.

Area and Location.—This reserve has an area of twenty square miles and is located about fifteen miles north-westerly from the town of Minnedosa, in township seventeen, range nineteen, west of the first principal meridian.

Resources.—The southern portion of the reserve is well adapted for grain-growing and the remainder for stock-raising, as there is a fair supply of hay available and an abundance of the best pasturage. These Indians have, however, been backward in taking up civilized life and only within the past few years have they exhibited any disposition towards this end.

Education. For years I tried to induce them to place their children in one of the industrial-schools, but I only succeeded in getting two parents to do so before this year. Now I am pleased to be able to report that there are five boys from this band at the Regina Industrial and nine pupils more are enrolled on the registry of the Birtle Boarding-school. There are only about five children in good health and of school age on this reserve and without the benefits that these schools afford, but I expect that most of these will soon be placed in some school.

Farming. They have put in this season five and one-half acres of wheat and about three acres of potatoes and garden stuff.

Occupation. They have been gaining their livelihood principally during the summer months by gathering senega root, tanning hides and working for the settlers adjacent to the reserve.

They provided an ample supply of hay and wintered their cattle much better than ever before.

Religion. The missionary, Mr. Wright, still resides on the reserve, and gladly instructs and advises the Indians in all their work. Religious services are held by him every Sabbath, and I have been told that there is a fairly good attendance at every

service. The women are now taking some interest in sewing and knitting, which has been taught them by Mrs. Wright.

Temperance.—I am under the conviction that the majority of Indians will take liquor when it is placed within their reach, and that much depends on the surroundings of the Indians as to whether they consume much or little of it. The members of this band do nearly all their trading at towns where intoxicants are sold, and I believe they can procure liquor whenever anxious to do so and have the funds to pay for it. I am satisfied that it is so procured and that it would require a detective at these trading points all the time to stop the traffic, and he then would have to be armed with authority to search every Indian who leaves these towns, as the Indians and those who supply them know the risks they are taking, and they do not openly expose themselves to such risks. Still, I believe the traffic is much less than it was a few years ago and that this was effected by the imprisonment of several of the Indians for drunkenness and the conviction of several white men a few years ago for supplying the liquor.

Buildings.—As evidence that these Indians are improving in the way of erecting more commodious dwellings and the keeping of them clean and tidy, I will recite for your information a portion of my report as made to the Indian Commissioner after a visit to this reserve last January, and after an inspection of the houses, stables and premises, &c.:

“‘Ka-ka-se-way-sing,’ or better known as ‘Hunting Hawk,’ erected a new house last year. It is of hewn logs, floored, shingle roof, whitewashed inside and outside and has an annex similarly constructed, which is used as a kitchen. In the kitchen I found a cook stove, table, lamp, chairs, tinware hanging on the walls, a box attached to the wall in which dishes were nicely placed, and their meals were taken from the table, over which was spread an oilcloth covering.

“The door leading to the main house is painted two colours and the door casings were also painted. In the main house I found three elevated beds, which were nicely made up, and chairs and a box stove. The floor was as clean as when the lumber left the planer, and the two windows had cotton shades with white linen curtains inside and lambrequins for covering the same. The window casings were painted a green shade. An inclosed stairway led from this room to the one above, or will so lead when finished. The stairway and the door had not yet been made and put in place. The upper room is used for a sleeping apartment for his brother-in-law, who lives with him.

“There were two log stables, both of which were clean and the manure was removed about twenty yards away, which was done with a flat sled made for the purpose. The horse stables and a field of about twenty-five acres are inclosed by a rail fence. In a corral near the stable there were a few tons of hay and he claimed to have fifty more tons in stack.”

Education.—The Birtle Boarding-school is under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church. It has now twenty male and twenty-seven female pupils enrolled, besides which six of the most advanced pupils were transferred to the Regina Industrial-school during the fiscal year. Of the forty-seven pupils now at this institution, twenty-five are grant earners of seventy-two dollars each per annum from the department, while the others are wholly supported by the church under whose auspices the school is conducted.

Mr. W. J. Small, B.A., is now the principal and class tutor; and Miss McLaren, who was appointed at the time this school was opened in December, 1888, is still matron.

The Presbyterian Church authorities still own the building and lands on which the school is placed. The building is of stone throughout, and is two stories high, with a basement and attic full size.

The area of the school lands is thirty acres, of this about four acres are under cultivation for the use of the institution, and at the same time as a ground for instructing the pupils in the art of gardening, besides which several of the larger boys have put in, and have kept in order, a patch of ground for their own individual benefit, in which I am pleased to be able to report they exhibit considerable pride.

The female pupils are taught general housekeeping, sewing, knitting, laundry work, dairying, &c

In the class-room the pupils have made fairly good progress, and I believe the children from this agency who are at the Qu'Appelle, Regina and Elkhorn Industrial schools and the Portage la Prairie Boarding-school are progressing favourably.

General Remarks.—During the early part of the fiscal year diphtheria broke out on the Valley River Reserve, No. 62½, and Dr. Wright, of Russell, was dispatched there with a supply of anti-toxine, and he soon had the epidemic under control. With this exception, there has been no epidemic of note amongst the Indians of this agency, and the health of the Indians has been fairly good.

Between the annuity payments of 1894 and 1895, sixteen treaty children and five adults died: and among the same bands and during the same period there were twenty-three births.

For the twelve months ended the 30th of June last, there were less than eighty-five sacks of flour and less than four hundred pounds of meat gratuitously issued to the Indians of this agency.

In conclusion I may say that although the Indians have not advanced as rapidly as I desired they should, yet there are many evidences of progress, and, all things considered, there is much cause for thankfulness for the results obtained.

I have, &c.,

J. A. MARKLE,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
ALBERTA—BLACKFOOT AGENCY,
GLEICHEN, 23rd July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended the 30th June, 1896.

Location and Area.—The Blackfoot Reserve is situated on both sides of the Bow River, adjacent to and south of the Canadian Pacific Railway line, including townships nineteen, twenty and twenty-two, west of the fourth meridian.

The reserve contains four hundred and seventy square miles, more or less.

Resources. There is a large coal mine on the southern part, or "South Reserve," as it is called, which has been worked for some years, the coal being of excellent quality. There are other coal seams on the reserve from which coal has been taken of a fair quality, but sufficient work has not yet been done on them to prove their value. The reserve contains an immense area of excellent grazing land, and the ditch now being constructed by Mr. Ponton, D.L.S., and very nearly finished, will increase the area of farming lands to upwards of one thousand five hundred acres. This ditch, of six miles in length, has been made entirely by Indian labour.

Tribe. These Indians are a branch of the Blackfoot nation, of which the Bloods and Piegiens are also offshoots.

Vital Statistics.—The present number is one thousand two hundred and twenty-six, consisting of six hundred and twelve males and six hundred and fourteen females, five hundred of whom are children. There have been seven immigrations and four

emigrations, four being transfers made at the request of the persons interested and by authority of the Indian Commissioner. Births during the year numbered forty-two and deaths eighty-six, making a decrease of forty-one. The deaths are due principally to scrofula and consumption, and the reason of the immigrations and emigrations is inter-marriage with Indians belonging to other reserves.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The general health of these Indians has been good. There was an epidemic of chicken-pox in July, 1895, but without any serious consequences. An excellent hospital has been completed at the north reserve, so that, when desired, any infectious or contagious cases can now be isolated. Attention has been given to the whitewashing of the houses and the cleaning up and burning of all rubbish around the dwellings. Ninety-nine Indians have been vaccinated, and any suggestions of the medical officer (Dr. Lindsay) as to sanitary improvements have been carried out.

Occupation.—A large number of Indians have been employed on the irrigation ditch, which, when completed, will create new industries, such as growing vegetables and cutting hay for market in excess of what will be required for home consumption. Thirteen car-loads of coal have been shipped to Calgary and other points during the winter, and the mining of the coal required for the schools, agency and farms, together with that supplied to neighbouring settlers, occupies quite a number of men in both mining and hauling. Others are engaged in farming and cattle-raising. The Indian, Crow Collar, has developed quite a talent for carving heads in stone, which he sells; and another, Sharp Voice, has been learning to make hair bridles and cruches. A good many women earn money by the sale of bead-work, tanning hides and making overcoats, shirts, moccasins and other articles of clothing.

Buildings.—Many of the old houses have been torn down and new ones built, some of which are improved by shingle roofs, partitions and floors. The number remains as last year—one hundred and seventy-one. Twenty-two new stables have been built, fifteen at the north and seven at the south reserve, making thirty-five. The root-houses now number thirteen, seven new ones having been built, besides an ice-house, pig-sty and poultry-house.

Stock.—Fifty heifers were given this year by the department for ponies. The cattle in the hands of the Indians now number one hundred and thirty-three, being an increase of eighty-five head over last year. The Indians are ready to take one hundred and twenty-five more on the same terms. The number of their ponies is two thousand one hundred and fifty-two.

Education.—There are four hundred and ninety-five children on the reserve, about two hundred of whom are of school age, the rest being either too old or too young to attend. At the north reserve there is a large boarding-school, attended by both boys and girls, which has been improved and added to during the year. The camp children are encouraged to attend the day-school by being given a meal, but the attendance is very small and irregular, and the day-school shows no progress. At the south reserve the large boarding-school opened two years ago is kept in excellent order. The grounds have been greatly improved and fenced; a large vegetable garden will be started next year. A number of trees have now been planted. There is no day-school in connection with this school, which is for boys only. It has been found that the influence of camp children is nearly equal to camp life on the children in the homes. There is no doubt that the discipline and order might be better, but I am satisfied there has been a decided improvement in these matters. Everything is being done to make these homes cheerful and attractive; the food is good and plentiful. There is a teacher at each boarding-school, one holds a second-class certificate, and the other is qualified for his post. The programme of studies is followed as closely as possible, and the progress of the pupils is satisfactory in both schools. Both these schools are under the auspices of the Church of England mission. The day-school, Crowfoot's, also at the south reserve, has improved greatly in both attendance and progress since the engagement of the present teacher, Mr. Race. This school is under the Roman Catholic denomination.

The interest of the parents in education is not very marked, but an improvement in this direction is noticed; everything is done to lead parents to take an interest in the school. A class is held at the north reserve mission twice a week by Mrs. Stocken and Miss Haynes. They have taught the mothers and sisters of the pupils, who now do all the knitting and mending for the children. Mrs. Wheatley has done the same for the children at Crowfoot's day-school.

A monthly supper is given by the principal of the boarding-schools, the Rev. H. W. G. Stocken, to the chiefs, which, it is hoped, may produce an increased friendliness towards the mission and schools.

Religion. There are two missionaries on the reserve, the Rev. H. W. G. Stocken, of the Church of England, and the Rev. Father Doucet, of the Roman Catholic Church. The school-rooms of both boarding-schools are used for holding divine service. There is very little interest in religion manifested by the Indians, but no doubt the younger generation under the influence of the missionaries will improve in that respect.

Characteristics and Progress.—The character of an Indian is much like that of a white man. An Indian is industrious when receiving a recompense for his labour, and as a rule is law-abiding. These Indians are improving in many ways, as for instance much of the money they earn is spent in the purchase of mowers and rakes, for, although the grazing land is good, the hay land is light, and a large area has to be cut over. Clothing, lumber and shingles are also purchased, and many articles which increase their household comforts. At the lower reserve, Calf Bull, Wolf Collar, Many Bears, Wolf Leg, Old Woman at War, Good Young Man and Standing at the Door, have taken cattle and have good houses, in most cases shingle roofed, with ordinary beds and well furnished. Running Rabbit, head chief, Eagle Rib, minor chief, Hind Bull, minor chief, Iron Shield, minor chief, and Bear Shield have made great improvements in their houses, but have not yet taken cattle. At the north reserve, Little Axe, who, I may say, has set an example to all the other Indians, has a band of forty head of cattle, a good house with shingle roof, well furnished, an ice-house, a milk-house and a pig-sty. He makes butter, and is in a fair way to become self-supporting in a very few years. Others on this reserve who have taken cattle are Jas. Appikokin, Red Old Man, Calf Child, Boss Rib Medicine and The Key. Others, although not owning cattle, are improving their dwellings and fields, viz.: White Pup, minor chief, Big Road, minor chief, and Yellow Horse, minor chief. All those mentioned give good promise of doing well in every way.

Temperance and Morality.—There has been very slight cause for complaint in the matter of intemperance, and it is only when visiting Calgary the Indians are able to indulge in liquor, and they are promptly punished when arrested and convicted. In most cases they are moral, but among so many there are of course some loose characters. The Indian police, lately established, will be of great assistance in controlling both intemperance and immorality.

Fire Protection.—With reference to protection against fires in the boarding-schools, the department has supplied fire-escapes (being outside stairways) and babcocks; Star fire-engines have also been given with the necessary chemicals; fire-grenades and buckets have also been provided and placed at convenient points, so that the Indians may know that, in putting their children into these schools, all precautions have been taken for their safety. Dr. Lindsay attends to the sick, and I understand with good results, and I know he is very attentive.

Treaty Payments. These passed off very quietly, the usual escort being found by the police. The decrease from last year was forty-one.

General Remarks.—During the year the chiefs and headmen had an opportunity to visit the first territorial exhibition at Regina, and were much impressed with what they saw, particularly the exhibits shown by the Indian children at the industrial-schools. We had the honour of visits from Their Excellencies the Governor General and the Countess of Aberdeen; Mr. Reed, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, and several from Mr. Forget, Indian Commissioner; which all tended to improve the good feeling on the part of the Indians towards the department.

In conclusion I may say that this has been a good year for the advancement of these Indians.

The staff of employees (the same as last year) has rendered me every assistance in performing the work of the agency and in carrying out the instructions of the department.

I have, &c.,

MAGNUS BEGG,

Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
ALBERTA—BLOOD AGENCY,
MACLEOD, 10th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896, together with tabular statement and inventory of Government property in my charge.

Reserve.—The Blood Agency comprises the one reserve only of the same name and of the one tribe of Indians.

Location.—The reserve consists of a tract of land lying between the Belly and St. Mary's Rivers, and extends from the junction of these at Whoop-up near Lethbridge to a point about fifty miles south-west, the western boundary being a line drawn from the Belly River, just above Fish Creek, to a point on the St. Mary's River about two miles above the mouth of Lees Creek, and running close to the town of Carlston, the new Mormon colony.

Area.—The reserve contains an area of about five hundred and forty-eight square miles, or an acreage of over three hundred and fifty-four thousand.

Resources.—The land is open prairie with rolling hills, broken here and there by large coulées running almost from one river to the other. At the lower or northern end of the reserve these coulées do not contain any water, and the only water to be had is in the rivers, which are, on an average, about eighteen miles apart. There are no lakes or sloughs in this part. At the upper part of the reserve the coulées, in many cases, contain water, but on no part is water to be found on the level. Along the Belly River there is some wood—mostly cotton wood and willow, but as a rule the embankments on the St. Mary's River are bare. The Indians have their houses and fields along the Belly River from near Whoop-up to a point about forty-miles up the river, and along this distance is to be found some very good bottom land. The farther south one goes, the richer the land becomes, but being near the mountains makes it subject to early frosts. The whole reserve is an excellent grazing piece of country and is undoubtedly one of the best stock districts of southern Alberta; but for cultivation the climate is too dry, and year after year the crop has failed us.

There are a number of different coal seams along the St. Mary's River, in one of which the Indian coal mine is situated, and lately coal has been found cropping out in the southern part of the Bull Horn (or Buffalo Fat) coulée.

Tribe or Nation.—The Blood Indians belong to the Blackfoot nation and were always the most numerous and warlike tribe of that family; and their proximity to the international boundary line made it much harder in former years to gain any control over them, because upon the least attempt at restraint they immediately crossed the line and lived with the South Piegans, who are a branch of the same people.

Vital Statistics. The population of the reserve at the end of the fiscal year was one thousand three hundred and thirty-eight, consisting of three hundred and twenty-six men, four hundred and sixty-seven women and five hundred and forty-five children, being a decrease of eighty-nine compared with the figures given in last report. The difference in population is accounted for by the fact that eighty-one Indians left this treaty between payments for other reserves, and while the figures given last year were those taken at the date of payments, these for this year are as on the 30th June. The larger proportion of those leaving went south to the South Piegan Agency, United States. During the year there were sixty-five births—thirty-six boys and twenty-nine girls; while the deaths for the same period numbered fifty-seven, of whom ten were men, fourteen were women and thirty-three children; which makes a natural increase of eight persons.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians upon the whole has been good, and with the exception of a few cases of erysipelas and whooping cough there have been no contagious or infectious diseases or epidemics. The chief causes of death have been consumption and the various forms of scrofula and syphilis. The Indians take every precaution during the spring months to see that the department's instructions regarding sanitary matters are carried out, and there is little, if any, trouble in getting them to clean up round their houses and premises. All refuse is either burnt up or carefully hauled away to some safe distance from their houses. The houses are as a rule all whitewashed with lime and kept clean. The medical officer has this season vaccinated all Indians and children—with the exception of a few upon whom the operation had been performed in recent years. The introduction of cows and the free use of milk has, in my opinion, a very good effect upon the health of the people, and I am often surprised to see an Indian, when another visiting Indian calls upon him, present him with a large dish of milk instead of the habitual cup of strong black tea; and what is more, seeing his friend enjoy it.

Occupation. The position of the reserve, situated as it is far from any large town, makes means of occupation more difficult, and the large majority of the Indians are therefore chiefly occupied in farming. Crops, however, in this section of the country cannot be depended upon, and the Indians are being encouraged in every way to go into stock-raising or mixed farming. The season under review was not very favourable for the crops. The spring of 1895 had been cold and backward, and the rains late in coming, consequently crops were late and in a good many cases frozen before they were thoroughly ripe, which made the yield small and grain poor. Potatoes were a very fair crop, and the Indians had a good supply for winter use and sufficient for seed this spring. The season of 1896 opened late, and, although growth was good for some time, the warm dry weather of June killed all our grain, and there will be a complete failure this season of all cereal crops and garden produce. Although the crops were a failure last season, the same cannot be said of the hay. This was a good crop and there was a very large amount cut and stacked. The Indians did excellent work at haying, and every wagon on the reserve was busily engaged while the season lasted. For the first time these Indians undertook some large hay contracts, and the results more than exceeded my most sanguine expectations. At the opening of the season I agreed with Mr. Cochrane, manager for the Cochrane Rancho Company (Limited), to cut and stack four hundred tons for the company at their two ranches, and afterwards agreed to cut his meadow and irrigate land for him as well as to put up an extra hundred tons at Fish Creek. The weather during the first part of the season was very unsettled and we lost one week with rain, but after that we had fine dry weather without wind, and work went on like clock-work. The result was that when haying was finished we found ourselves with a heavy hay account against the company, as the following statement will show: Cochrane Company's Fish Creek Rancho, three hundred and ninety-nine tons; Cochrane Company's Lower Rancho, two hundred and sixty-seven tons; Cochrane Company's meadow and irrigated land, seventy-four tons; Cochrane Company, for use of butchers at agency, twelve tons; total, seven hundred and fifty-two tons. This hay was built into large stacks which, after standing thirty days, measured fourteen feet walls and twenty-three feet to the apex. These stacks were well and neatly built, the largest one

containing over one hundred and twenty-five tons, while three gave a total of three hundred and fifty tons. The manager of the ranche expressed himself as well satisfied in every way with the manner in which the contract had been filled, and with the behaviour of the Indians while on the place. Besides the above, the same party also cut and stacked seventeen tons for the North-west Mounted Police at their Big Bend detachment; twelve tons to a party in Macleod; fifty tons for use of agency horses and cattle; forty-nine tons for use of farmers' horses and cattle, and ten tons for hospital cows. The last mentioned one hundred and nine tons was cut and hauled to the different places by the Indians free of charge to the department, as in the two previous years. The Indians also put up a large quantity of good hay for use of their own cattle and for sale to settlers in the district, and at nearly every village large quantities of hay could be seen at any time during the winter neatly stacked and securely fenced. The total quantity of hay put up was thirteen hundred and sixty-two tons.

Timber Limit.—The Indians visited the timber limit twice during the year, and on each occasion cut a large number of saw-logs, besides a very large number of dry logs for houses, stables, sheds and corrals. The river, when these were being run down, seemed full of timber for miles, and when they reached the saw-mill the village had quite a busy appearance, some fifty wagons being hard at work from morning till night, each Indian getting his logs piled up ready for sawing. The weather was cold, and the stream being a mountain one, the water also was very cold, but, notwithstanding these drawbacks, the Indians did very well and worked with a will to get the work finished. During their fall visit they merely cut the timber and left it at the edge of the river to be run down when the water was in proper condition.

Saw-mill.—The saw-mill was kept running until well on into fall, and succeeded in cutting a lot of lumber for the Indians, and this season it is again running and doing good work. The Indians are very pleased with the mill, and the lumber has been a great boon to them in repairing and improving their houses, &c.

Coal-mine.—The coal-mine was again running during the year, but it was found necessary to open out a new entrance, as the old one had a bad roof, and, being driven too wide, was allowing the rocks to scale off, and putting too much weight upon the supports, thereby making it dangerous to work in, as it might give way at any time. The new entrance is only five feet clear, and two rooms are already opened up on the north side, and should allow us to get out coal easier. Black Horse, an Indian, again managed the mine, assisted by Green Grass, and did some very good work. They put out some one hundred tons for the boarding-school, one hundred and forty tons for the agency, farmers and hospital, thirty tons to the day-school teachers and about twenty tons to outside settlers in Macleod and surrounding district. The freighting of the above was all done by Indian teams, and when it is kept in view that most of this had to be hauled over thirty miles one can see that this means a lot of hard and steady work. Besides the above mentioned coal and hay-hauling, these Indians also delivered two hundred tons of coal from the Galt Company's mine at Lethbridge to the North-west Mounted Police at Macleod and Stand Off, sixty tons to the Cochrane Ranch Company, besides all supplies, including flour, for the agency and boarding-school.

Indian Labour.—A number of Indians also work out with white settlers in the district, and usually earn good wages for themselves.

Work of Indian Women.—With regard to the occupation of the women on the reserve, matters do not stand so favourably as with the men, still a considerable amount of work is done in the way of making moccasins for themselves and families, and in tanning robes for white people in the district. A large number now make very good bread, while some of those having cows make butter. A few also do washing and house-work for the settlers in the immediate neighbourhood.

Buildings.—There have been about twenty-five new houses built during the year while a large number have been rebuilt and improved. The new houses are as a rule much larger than the old ones, are higher in the walls, have wooden floors, as a rule, and usually large windows instead of the old way of having a few small panes of glass.

The improvement in the way of windows alone will have a good sanitary effect upon the Indians, because there is nothing that tends more to keep the houses healthy than plenty of light. A few of the new houses are shingled, while a few have also ceilings. Some of the old ones have been improved by the addition of lumber porches and lumber round the eaves, which give them a neat look. Some of the more advanced Indians are going in for houses of two rooms, and I shall be pleased to encourage them in the movement. A much larger number of stables are being erected from time to time, while all Indians who have cattle or who are expecting them soon, have cattle sheds—some of logs and some of lumber, either built or in course of construction. These are usually in some well sheltered place in or near the brush, and the cattle are allowed to run out and in at any time during winter. Sheds I have found much better than stables for cattle, because they do not get too warm and the animals are better able to endure being out during the day. As a rule each shed is surrounded by a corral in which the hay is fed to the cattle. These buildings, situated as most of them are in the bottoms along the river side with a few head of cattle running round, have each the appearance of a fairly well-to-do white man's place.

Stock. The cattle industry upon this reserve is a new one—the first issue having taken place just two years ago—but it is fast becoming an important one, and the care which these Indians have bestowed upon their stock justifies a large increase and all that has been said in previous reports. In making a start, all depended upon the choice of men to whom the animals were issued, and that the choice was a wise one in every case there is no doubt. From the first the Indians recognized them as their own property, bought with their horses, and like most white people took better care of them than if they had been obtained for nothing. The first issue consisted of fifty head of heifers, and the following year one hundred more were purchased, and these have now increased to two hundred and ninety-one. The demand for cattle has been very great during the past season, and it is no easy matter now to divide them out, as each Indian is anxious to have a few—in fact the difficulty now is to know whom to refuse rather than to whom to issue—and, as the reserve is large and a splendid one for grazing purposes, I hope, within a few years, to see a very large herd of cattle in the hands of these Indians. There is plenty of good shelter, and water is plentiful. The Indians have taken great care of their stock and I made it a point to see these cattle regularly all last winter and always found them well cared for with a full supply of hay and plenty of good water close at hand. Out of the whole band only one yearling heifer has died during the two years and that was the result of accident. I have purchased six pure-bred short-horn bulls for use of the band, and trust by careful breeding to have the cattle all well graded in the course of a few years.

Farming Implements.—Better care is now being taken of all implements in the hands of the Indians. Lately so many have been acquiring private property of this kind that it makes them realize the value of these things, and, as they do this, they begin to be more careful. Sheds have been erected by some of the Indians for these things, while others are in course of construction. The list of private property in the hands of the Indians shows a considerable increase under this head. There are now twelve private mowers and rakes, nineteen wagons, eighty-five sets of harness, besides a large number of other implements and tools.

Education.—Educational matters at present are in a transition state. For the past three years these Indians have been sending their children willingly to the different schools, but lately they have shown a disinclination to let the children go. They all, however, recognize that their children must be educated, and no doubt their present feeling will soon pass away. There are four day-schools: two Episcopal and two Roman Catholic upon the reserve, which have been open all the year. They have an aggregate of sixty-one on the registers, with an average attendance of seven pupils each per day. There is also a boarding-school on the reserve under the supervision of the Episcopal Church, which has sixty-one pupils (thirty-seven boys and twenty-four girls) in it at present. There are also sixty-six pupils belonging to the reserve, in industrial-schools away from the district. Each day-school has a teacher, and the boarding-school has two. The course of studies taken up is in accordance with the department's programme of

studies as far as possible, but with children in day-schools, all in standard I. some changes are made to make it suit the different circumstances. The schools are all well equipped and suitable for the purpose, and the discipline and order maintained are as a rule fair. The progress made by the pupils in the boarding-school is very good, and the children all speak English; more or less, but in the day-schools little, if any, progress is made, and I shall be pleased when all these are replaced by boarding-schools.

Religion.—These Indians are almost entirely pagan, if we except the children in boarding and industrial-schools, although a few have gone through the marriage ceremony with the missionaries. There are two churches in which Indian services are held; one under the auspices of the Episcopalian and the other of the Roman Catholic. Some days there is a very fair attendance, but as a rule the Indians do not take much interest in the white man's religion.

Characteristics and Progress. That these Indians are industrious as a rule there is no doubt, but only within late years has this become apparent. The constant pressure brought to bear upon them for years back is only now beginning to bear fruit, and I look for more and more rapid progress in the near future. Of course in a large community there are always a number of drones and the Blood Indians are no exception in this respect. There are also a large number of middle-aged and old men that it is hard to move out of the old groove and these curtail our working contingent. In the beginning of this report I have tried to give a fair idea of how these men have worked during the year, and when we compare that with the amount of money earned during the same period, I think it shows in an unmistakable way that they have been very industrious. They have earned more money this year than in any previous season. For the year their individual earnings amount to over \$10,000, which is fifty per cent more than the previous year and double what it was two years ago. The money so earned has been well spent, the Indians as a rule purchasing mowers and rakes, wagons, harness, heavier working horses, cooking stoves and utensils, household goods and clothing, besides extra food. Another sign of progress is the manner in which the men now dress and the way in which their houses are kept and furnished compared with previous years. They as a rule all wear white men's clothes, and it is rare indeed to see any but an old man using the blanket. The women are slower, like their white sisters, in going in for dress reform, and although it is only in rare cases one finds them with a white woman's dress, still they are beginning to discard the blanket for shawls, and no doubt the other change will only be a matter of time. In housekeeping and furnishing there is also great improvement noticeable. Competition amongst the Indians was keen for the prize given by His Excellency the Governor General for the best-kept house, the first and second ones being really good. The walls were decorated with pretty pictures, while growing plants were standing here and there; both were well furnished with a sewing-machine, tables, chairs, lamp, bedstead, &c., and the beds had white sheets and pillow cases. Cotton as a rule is put on the walls or ceilings of houses, which gives them a clean and neat appearance, and in two cases carpets are laid. Individual efforts among the men are more numerous, and in a good many cases in different districts of the reserve may be found Indians with well-built houses, good stables and cattle sheds and the implements carefully housed, and in all their efforts following as well as they can the ways of white men. In five or six cases Indians made contracts with settlers with my consent to put up small quantities of hay, and these were all carried out in a satisfactory manner, and it is through efforts like these that we have succeeded in getting so many private wagons and mowers.

Temperance and Morality.—The conduct of the Indians during the year has been good, and little, if any, crime has been committed. A few cases of intemperance have been reported, and this failing of the Indians is hard to break off. In most cases semi-destitute white men make a practice of selling drink at a large profit to them, and the Indians have either not the courage or the desire to withstand them. There are still a few women who make a practice of going into town for immoral purposes, but through the support of the North-west Mounted Police at Macleod and Lethbridge in running them out of town, these cases are getting fewer each year.

General Remarks.—For the second year in succession we have not had any “sundance” upon the reserve, and this old pagan ceremony, I think, has died out for good. The workingmen who, as a rule, gave liberally towards its support, get nothing in return, and, interfering as it did, just at the busy season, it lessened their earnings and caused them to ignore it entirely; and now even the old men take it for granted that they have seen the last of it. This summer the Indians have not even gathered into large camps, as formerly. Some made the attempt, but they were told it would not be tolerated, and they afterwards quietly dispersed to their own places, and in this way I hope to stop, in part, at least, their migratory habits. The treaty payments took place on the 17th and 18th October, and, as usual, passed off in a very quiet and orderly manner. The Indians left for Macleod the following day, but only remained there for a few days and again returned to the reserve. While in town they behaved well and no trouble took place.

A few alterations and improvements have been made on the agency and farm buildings since last report. Farmer Jones's house has had an addition put on, and it is now very comfortable. Farmer McNeil's house was sheeted up on the outside, and all outbuildings at his place neatly painted. The hospital has also been painted throughout and has now a fine appearance.

My staff remains the same as at last report, and to its loyal support on all occasions I attribute the success which has been obtained.

I have, &c.,

JAS. WILSON,

Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

CARLTON AGENCY,

MISTAWASIS, 28th July, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my twelfth annual report, tabular statement and inventory of Government property under my charge for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

This agency comprises the country lying north of a portion of the North Saskatchewan River, between old Fort Carlton and Prince Albert. The headquarters of the agency are on Mistawasis Reserve, where there is a post office, named after the old chief Mistawasis, who recently died. The agency is named after the Hudson Bay Company's post, “Fort Carlton,” where our office was for some time: the old fort was burnt down during the rebellion of 1885.

WILLIAM TWATT'S RESERVE, No. 101.

Location.—This reserve is situated on Sturgeon Lake, about twenty-two miles north-west of Prince Albert.

Area and Resources.—The reserve has an area of thirty-four square miles. It has some good spruce timber within its limits. The supply of fish in the lakes is very good and of great value to the Indians. The grazing land on this reserve is very fine and the supply of hay sufficient for the demand.

Tribe and Vital Statistics.—These Indians belong to the Cree tribe and number one hundred and fifty-one souls.

Occupation.—Besides the above-mentioned advantages, these Indians earn something by freighting for lumbermen, the fishing companies and others. The land is good strong soil, of which they cultivate a little at present, as they have not long turned their attention to farming, but they have a fine herd of cattle.

PETEQUAKEY'S RESERVE, No. 102.

Area and Location.—This reserve comprises an area of forty-two square miles, and is situated twenty miles west of Fort Carlton, at Muskeg Lake, whence it derives its name.

Resources.—This is a good reserve for cattle-raising, grazing being good and hay plentiful. The soil is light but good; it is, however, generally overrun with gophers, and it has been judged prudent to confine the efforts of the Indians for the future to raising cattle. These Indians have not the advantages enjoyed by some of the others, as their neighbourhood does not produce either fur, fish or game.

Vital Statistics.—There are sixty-nine members of this band. They are altogether managed from the agency, having no farmer, chief or headman.

Religion.—A Roman Catholic mission is situated in the centre of the reserve, and to that denomination all the Indians belong.

MISTAWASIS RESERVE, No. 103.

Location and Area.—This reserve is situated at Snake Plain. Its area is seventy-seven square miles, and it contains the agency office, which is situated on the northern trail, twenty-five miles from Fort Carlton.

Vital Statistics.—The band numbers one hundred and forty-six persons.

Occupation.—The Indians are employed in mixed farming, and have a good band of cattle, for the raising of which their reserve is well adapted. As at Muskeg Lake, the hunting is very inferior. These Indians nearly always have a grain crop of some kind, but never a large one.

AH-TAH-KA-KOOP'S RESERVE, No. 104.

Location and Area.—This reserve is situated at Sandy Lake, on the Assissippi or Shell River, about thirty-four miles north of Carlton House, and has an area of sixty-seven square miles. The farm house is situated on the northern trail, twenty miles north of the agency office.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of two hundred and eighteen.

Occupation.—These people are employed in mixed farming. They have a good increasing herd of cattle, for which they have feed in plenty. They are much more successful in raising grain than any other of the bands. An absolute failure they have never experienced. The young men, during the intervals of their regular occupation, trap, hunt and fish with very fair success.

KA-PA-HA-WE-KEN-UM'S BAND, No. 105.

Location and Area.—The reserve is on the south side of the Beaver River, thirty miles west of the Hudson Bay Company's Green Lake post. It comprises eight thousand nine hundred and sixty acres.

Vital Statistics.—This band has a population of seventy-one.

Resources. The reserve is suitable only for grazing purposes, for which it is remarkably adapted. As yet these Indians have but few cattle, as it has not been deemed advisable to trust them with many, for they are still hunting Indians. Their wandering habits have caused them to neglect the few with which they have been supplied; but they live in a good hunting and fishing country, and are still able to support themselves in this way.

KEE-MEE-MOS-TAYO'S BAND AND THE PELICAN LAKE INDIANS.

These Indians number one hundred and forty-seven souls. They have not as yet located on a reserve, but have small villages at Stony, Whitefish and Pelican Lakes.

Occupation.—These people are hunters, at which occupation they still make a fair living, but their district has ceased to be a really good hunting country.

Tribe. These Indians, like all those before mentioned, belong to the Cree tribe.

WAH-SPA-TON SIOUX.

Area and Location.—The reserve of these Indians comprises two thousand four hundred acres, and is situated at the Round Plain, nine miles north-west of the town of Prince Albert.

Occupation.—These people are engaged in raising grain, of which their second crop is now in the ground.

Resources.—The locality seems to be a fairly good one for the purpose. This reserve, being so close to a town, these Indians should be able to raise vegetables and supply hay and firewood for the Prince Albert market.

Vital Statistics.—The number of treaty Indians in the district is eight hundred and two, namely, one hundred and seventy-five men, two hundred and twenty women, two hundred and six boys, and two hundred and one girls. The number of births during the past twelve months was thirty-seven, and of deaths twenty-four, an increase of thirteen, of which Ah-tah-ka-koop's Band is credited with seven. The emigrations, twelve, exceeded immigrations, eleven, by one. The net increase was therefore twelve. Of the deaths, eight were those of very old people, and eight little children died of infantile complaints; the remaining deaths were caused by pneumonia, scrofula and consumption. Of those who have left the agency, two were women who commuted their annuity. One woman was transferred by marriage to the Duck Lake Agency and three were children who are at the Battleford Industrial-school, and are now shown on the pay-roll of the Battleford Agency, from which they originally entered the school. The remainder are absentees. Of the immigrations, three arise from marriages of Indians with non-treaty women, four women transferred by marriage from other agencies, and the remainder from the return of absentees.

In addition to these treaty Crees, there is a Sioux band consisting of thirty-seven persons, namely, ten men, ten women, eight boys and nine girls, among whom there has been no change of number during the year, but accretions are expected before winter. The total population of Crees and Sioux under my charge is therefore eight hundred and thirty-nine persons.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The general health of the Indians has been good during the year, and there have been no epidemics. It is noticed that the Indians living on the reserves often succumb to attacks of disease from which a fairly healthy white person would easily recover. This weakness is believed to arise from scrofula, with which nearly every family is more or less tainted, and, besides, the sick persons do not take advantage of such assistance and comforts as are offered them.

On the other hand, the hunting Indians who are much more exposed to the effects of the weather, and cannot be assisted in this way, manage to rally, even from severe attacks of disease. On the five settled reserves under my charge, attention to the cleanliness of the houses and their surroundings is a duty that now gives the farmers

and myself but little trouble, for the people have now begun to look upon the work necessary for this purpose as a duty which they attend to regularly. I should except a few families at Sturgeon Lake, but the farmer there is giving the matter close attention.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—At Sturgeon Lake there are a few good buildings and several more in course of erection. Two years ago the best house on the reserve was a shanty. There is a very good farm house, with stables and warehouse, and on the eastern boundary of the reserve are comfortable mission buildings and school-house. These Indians have ninety-seven cattle and fifty horses, and the workers are fairly well supplied with agricultural implements and tools, of which they purchased a number for themselves last winter.

At Muskeg Lake, Petequakey's Band, I am glad to be able to report great improvement in the style of houses and stables. Nearly all the dwellings are shingled. The band has seventy-five head of cattle and twenty horses, besides some sheep, pigs and poultry. They are sufficiently well supplied with implements and tools, and one of them has been able to purchase a mowing-machine and wagon.

Mistawasis Band has some very good buildings and stables, finished off in good style and comfortable. Great attention has been given to the breaking up of the habit of promiscuously sleeping in one room; now nearly all have comfortable sleeping accommodation up-stairs. These Indians have two hundred and forty-one head of cattle and thirty-four horses. They have a plentiful supply of implements and tools to carry on their farming operations. Ten of the better workers have purchased mowing-machines and wagons by the sale of their cattle.

The houses on Ah-tah-ka-koop's Reserve are constantly improving, it can be noticed that there are always one or two houses in course of erection to take the place of old shanties, and these new houses are generally supplied with an upstairs, and in some cases partitioned off below. The stock is constantly increasing and always kept in capital condition. Their herd now consists of three hundred and seventy-four cattle and forty-three horses. With those supplied by the department and those purchased by the Indians themselves, they are fairly well supplied with implements and tools.

The remainder of the lands are still nomadic in their habits, but have a few small houses for winter use. They have received a few head of cattle, which have not increased in their hands. The beef for this agency is supplied by the Indians.

Education.—The children of school age (inclusive of nine Sioux) number one hundred and ninety-four; of these fifty are pupils of the various industrial-schools, and of Duck Lake Boarding-school; eighty-four are on the rolls of the day-schools within the agency, of which there are five. There are no boarding-schools in the agency, but that at Duck Lake contains a number of pupils from the Muskeg Lake Band, whose day-school has been closed. Of the remaining sixty children of school age, part are members of hunting bands, who are continually moving, and the rest are principally children who live at such a distance from their school that they are unable to attend it. In fact, on none of these reserves, except at Sturgeon Lake, are there any Indian children within reach of a school who do not attend. But to secure anything like regularity of attendance is not easy, and it has required constant attention to the matter to keep up a moderate attendance. Not included in the above are thirteen Indian children at Isle à la Crosse school, which, although outside treaty limits, are under my supervision. There are six teachers, one of whom is an Indian; none of these possess territorial certificates. Of the children on the rolls, most are in standards I. and II.; very few have gone beyond the third, for the reason that when they reach this stage the elder pupils are often drafted to industrial-schools. In the matter of equipment very little remains to be desired. Discipline and order are fairly well maintained, although the teachers are necessarily very cautious in the matter of punishment, about which the parents are very sensitive. I cannot report very favourably of the progress of the pupils, which is not encouraging, owing to the irregularity of the attendance and the slight interest which the parents as a rule take in the education of their children. It is true that some are better than others in this respect. Many are careful to supply their children with something to help out the Government ration of biscuits.

Religion. The Church of England has here two churches, served by two clergymen, one of whom also visits Keeneemootayo's Band at Stony Lake periodically. The Indians belonging to this church number three hundred and two. The Church of Rome has one church and one clergyman; in addition the spiritual needs of Kapahawekenum's Band of Meadow Lake are attended to by the clergyman stationed at Green Lake settlement. The Indian worshippers number one hundred and fifty-eight. The Presbyterian Church has one church and one clergyman, whose Indian hearers number ninety-one. The pagan Indians, who are, with few exceptions, confined to the hunting bands and that of Sturgeon Lake, number two hundred and fifty-one. A female Presbyterian missionary lives among the non-treaty Sioux of Round Plain. The Indians on the reserves of Petequakey, Mistawasis, and Ah-tah-ka-koop have been Christianized for a good many years and attend church with much regularity. A large part of Keeneemootayo's Band are Christians, and, although no missionary is stationed among them, appear to make the most of such opportunities of attending divine service as are open to them. The same may be said of Kapahawekenum's Band; but the Indians of Sturgeon Lake as a body strongly cling to their old belief. Yet some of them have lately begun to attend worship, and better things are hoped for.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians cannot be called industrious in the same sense as this word would be applied to a white man, at the same time they will compare on this point by no means unfavourably with the half-breeds. They are law-abiding, and in the matter of honesty are above the average. These Indians, as a whole, are steadily becoming better off. One whole band, Ah-tah-ka-koop's, has made a steady advance in this respect. Among the other Indians, the cases of Way-chau, Joseph Ledoux, Ayah-tiskayo and J. B. Lafond call for notice. Should these men continue as they have done and the seasons prove favourable, they will soon be comfortably off. Even if the crops fail, their cattle will bring them in an income.

Household Furniture.—A large number of these people are now enjoying the use of household furniture, the product of their own labour. Dressers, bedsteads, tables, and even some very creditable chairs are to be found in many houses.

Temperance and Morality.—Only on the rarest occasions have these people access to intoxicants, the law against such being strictly enforced; cases of immorality are much more common.

Mills. Although the crop was short, some five hundred sacks of flour were produced at the grist-mill from grain over and above what was required for seed. In August, 1895, and again this month, the saw-mill was in operation, and fifty-eight thousand four hundred and seventy-six feet of lumber were sawn for the Indians of Mistawasis and Petequakey's Bands, and eighty-five thousand shingles were made. It can be seen that the possession of a steam saw and grist-mill is a very great convenience to the Indians, and it gives them the further advantage of the use of the engine for the threshing.

General Remarks. The changes of employees during the year are: Mr. Hugh Richardson has replaced Mr. Coburn as farmer to the Sturgeon Lake Indians, and Mr. Louis Couture, farmer to Ah-tah-ka-koop's Band, has been transferred to Edmonton District, an exchange with Mr. O'Donnell of that agency. The employees have given satisfaction, and willingly assisted me at all times in the work of the agency.

I have, &c.,

HILTON KEITH,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

ASSINIBOIA—CROOKED LAKE AGENCY,

BROADVIEW, 20th July, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward to you my nineteenth annual report with tabular statement, and inventory of Government property under my charge up to the 30th June, 1896, with list of private property of Indians attached.

Reserves.—There are four reserves in this agency, viz., Ochapowace, No. 71, composed of Crees, as is also Kahkewistahaw's Reserve, No. 72; the other two are Cowesess' Reserve, No. 73, and Sakimay's, No. 74, chiefly composed of Saulteaux with a slight admixture of Crees.

Location.—Speaking generally, the agency is situated north of Broadview, and is bounded by the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Qu'Appelle River from the west end of Crooked Lake to the east end of Round Lake—the reserves lying just between the two. It is within easy reach, from different portions of the reserve, of Broadview, Whitewood and Grenfell, the agency buildings being fairly centrally situated, just nine miles north of Broadview; Leech Lake Reserve, having an area of a little over ten square miles, is about forty miles due north again, and is at present unoccupied by Indians, but forms an important hay reserve, and is a very valuable appendix to this agency as was proved in 1894, when an unusually early and fierce prairie fire destroyed a large quantity of hay on Cowesess' and Kahkewistahaw's Reserves, necessitating the wintering of a considerable number of cattle at Leech Lake.

Area.—This agency has an area of about two hundred and sixty-six square miles, or one hundred and seventy-eight thousand acres.

Resources.—There is a large quantity of dry wood for firewood. A sufficient quantity of hay for present requirements, and some most excellent farming land, which, however, runs a little light and sandy on the western portion, and the townships parallel with the railroad belonging to Cowesess and Kah-ke-wis-ta-haw's Reserves are unsuitable for general farming, but the hay is the valuable and indispensable asset; Ochapowace's Band also putting up hay there. Another valuable resource is the fish in Crooked and Round Lakes, which provides the Indians with all the food supply of this nature they require for their own consumption. The proximity of the three towns, Broadview, Whitewood and Grenfell, provides a market for the firewood or hay which the Indians may have to sell after providing for their own requirements.

Vital Statistics.—The population consists of one hundred and forty-seven men, two hundred and four women and two hundred and sixty-five children. There were twenty-five births and fourteen deaths, which shows a natural increase of eleven. During the year thirty-one Indians left the agency and fifty-eight returned to it, showing a net increase of population over the previous year of twenty-nine. The reasons of emigration and immigration were normal, no special causes contributing to either.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The general health of all the Indians has been very good and there have been no diseases or epidemics of any moment. Many of the children had very bad whooping cough in the spring, but none died of the complaint. The cough left them and later on seemed to attack the white children of the neighbourhood. The Indians are aware of the necessity of cleanliness round their buildings, and I have no trouble with them on that score. I keep an eye on cases likely to require vaccination, and a record is kept of every vaccination. There was a case of an epileptic on Sakimay's Reserve, who fell into the fire during a fit, and who was so badly burnt before he could be rescued that it was necessary to remove him to Brandon Hospital, where he was well treated and completely cured.

Occupation. Chief O'Soup left the reserve and went to Duck Mountain, and appears to have lived very successfully by hunting, having a large number of dressed hides for sale, but this precarious means of living only obtains amongst a very few, the rest of the Indians following farming chiefly as a living, selling firewood and surplus hay from time to time. The style of farming has considerably improved during the last three years, and especially in the present one, and I have great hopes of a successful and bountiful harvest if the season continues as propitious as it now promises, as the land could not have been better prepared in most cases, the Indians for the most part recognizing fully that they must follow a certain system, and they have acted up to it this year.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements. I have no means of comparing the buildings with those of other agencies, and I was afraid they were below the average, as I had been very anxious to get the Indians to improve them for the last two years, and I did not consider the advance was sufficient, but the inspector informed me that the houses were very fair and the stables were good.

There are no good building logs, and lumber is expensive, which are primary disadvantages, but should the Indians be blessed with a good crop this fall, there will be a marked improvement in the buildings, as the Indians are financially in a sounder position than they have ever been in this agency.

They possess a large quantity of farming implements, all paid for, as follows: nine binders, twenty-four carts, sixteen sets of double harness, seven rollers, twenty-five mowers, four ploughs, twenty horse-rakes, twenty six bob-sleighs, thirty-six double wagons, and two fanning-mills, which, altogether, should be worth at least five thousand dollars as it is in first-class working order. Furthermore they owe the merchants very little, as fortunately the merchants decline credit to any extent.

The stock are in splendid condition, the weather and feed being favourable. The Indians have from all sources, including bulls supplied, and cows and oxen lent by the department, by treaty, and their own private property, one hundred and ninety-three horses, one hundred and eighty-seven cows, one hundred and three oxen, six bulls, thirty-four sheep, twenty pigs and three hundred and seventy-five head of young stock, such as steers, heifers and calves, making a total of cattle (exclusive of horses, sheep and pigs) of six hundred and seventy-one head. There is no doubt that their chief source of wealth is in their stock, and they are becoming more alive to the fact that the greater care they take of their cattle the better it is for them. The Galloway bulls supplied by the department are a decided success, producing hardy, hornless stock.

Education. There are one hundred and six children of school age, sixty-nine of whom are at school, leaving thirty-seven not attending, of whom twenty-five belong to Shesheep's party who are opposed to schools as a band; of the remaining twelve I hope to get some to school, but a few of them belong to Indians like those of the Shesheep's party and are obdurate. Of the sixty-nine pupils at school, thirty-seven are attending the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school, six the Regina Industrial-school, eight the Elkhorn, and eighteen the Round Lake Boarding-school.

The scholastic progress of the pupils seems to be very fair. The parents certainly take an increasing interest in the education of their children, and that interest is widely disseminated amongst them. Those who are utter pagans see quite as clearly as the Christian Indians the vital necessity of education, and they compare the progress of the different pupils from the various schools narrowly and keenly, as far as their own attainments will allow.

The Round Lake Boarding-school, under Presbyterian auspices, is situated at the east end of Round Lake, and is visited by me monthly, and I always find discipline maintained, and everything properly kept and in active running order. The teacher, Mr. Sahlmack, is energetic and naturally a very good teacher.

The boy pupils are taught farming and care of stock, and the girls sewing, knitting and general housework, in addition to the regular school programme. The equipment is very good, and the Rev. Mr. McKay, the principal, has made substantial additions to the house, and hopes to erect a wind-mill this summer, chiefly to supply a large

reservoir on the top of the house, from which water can be promptly conveyed to every room in case of fire.

Religion.—There are here one hundred and forty-two Roman Catholic Indians, two Church of England and twenty-nine Presbyterians in this agency, the remainder being pagans. There are a number of children at school whose parents are pagan, and, as they themselves are unbaptized, they are accounted pagan. There is a Roman Catholic chapel on Cowesess' Reserve in the Qu'Appelle valley, where service is conducted by a priest, generally about six months in the year. The services are well attended, with great decorum, and the Indian singing, led by an Indian precentor, is remarkable. The Rev. H. McKay holds bi-weekly services (alternate Sundays, on an average) at Indian houses on Cowesess' and Sakimay's Reserves, which are also well attended. The Indians manifest considerable interest in religion, including their own pagan rites, which seem to culminate in a sun dance. There is anything but indifference to religion. The old pagan Indian is very conservative about the sun dance, and takes it very hard that it is made illegal to hold them, and great firmness will be necessary to suppress the barbarous institution. The Christian religion does not seem to progress as quickly as one would suppose, taking into consideration the amount of persuasion employed by the different denominations at work, as in this agency. Of course the schools will show a powerful influence in the future, but paganism is dying hard.

Characteristics and Progress.—I find the Indians still much as nature made them—*ne varietur*. Industrious at times, and correspondingly indolent as a counterpoise, and it is this, of course, the farmers and I have to be constantly on the alert to correct, and I am happy to be able to report sure, if slow, advancement in this respect, many showing a desire to make sustained efforts, knowing well how necessary such is to success in the altered condition of their lives; but they find it hard to battle against their nature, although some are fairly successful, and where such is the case success attends their efforts. The first on the list is Alexander Gaddy, who has made close and systematic effort for many years, and who is probably the best-off Indian in the Territories to-day, having been entirely self-supporting for many years, and having received very little help at any time. It seems invidious to make many such distinctions, but I would point to Nepahpeness, the chief of Cowesess' Band, and Ambrose Delorme, of the same band, also Pierre Belanger, of Ochapowace's Band, Louison, of Kah-ke-wista-haw's Band, and Acoose, of Sakimay's Band, who have systematically laboured for some years, and are well off and independent. These are examples to others, and I hope and trust such examples will have a good influence in inducing the rising generation to do better still. There are others, such as Nowekesewape, on Sakimay's Reserve, and Alec and Mesah-ca-ma-peness, and Kah-ke-no-we-na-peu on Kah-ke-wis-ta-haw's Reserve, who although not quite so successful, are progressing along the same lines steadily. The remainder of the Indians are surely progressing in different stages, some in advance of others, but their progress is intermittent as compared with the examples named. I have my eye on them all, and where a slip is made I exhort. They are all law-abiding, and when administered to by those they understand, are most amenable (at the time of exhortation), but the influence quickly wears off, as is the case with children. A bountiful harvest and fair prices would greatly benefit these Indians and improve their surroundings to a marked degree.

Temperance and Morality.—I have only had one case of drunkenness during the past year, and with the exception of that Indian (who was fined fifteen dollars and costs), I have had no trouble at all.

I see reported at times in different newspapers that "the reserves are hotbeds of vice and intemperance." I know that is not the case in this agency, and from the tone of the above utterances, I do not think many of those who pen them, know much of the subject. My experience is that morality is taking a much higher stand even amongst the most unenlightened Indians.

General Remarks.—It seems but right in summing up the results of the past year's work, to mention those who have aided me in that work, and I have no hesitation in saying that my whole staff have done more than they were called upon to do, in the

actual discharge of their duties, and when an extra call was made upon them (which was frequently the case), they cheerfully and strenuously responded, and I can confidently leave the results to the investigation of any one who may bring the closest intelligent criticism to bear.

I have, &c.,

A. McDONALD,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
SASKATCHEWAN—DUCK LAKE AGENCY,
STOBART, 22nd July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my ninth annual report, together with tabular statement and inventory of Government property under my charge, for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

This agency is situated about one and one-half miles north-east of Duck Lake, from which it derives its name.

ONE ARROW'S RESERVE, No. 95.

Location and Area. This reserve is situated on the eastern side of the South Saskatchewan River, about four and one-half miles east of Batoche, and contains an area of sixteen square miles.

Resources. The soil is a rich sandy loam with a sandy subsoil, and the reserve is well covered with scrub and poplar bluffs and is well suited for mixed farming.

Tribe. The Indians occupying this reserve are Crees.

Vital Statistics.—The population consists of twenty men, thirty women and fifty-nine children, making a total of one hundred and nine. During the year there were eight births and three deaths, one immigration through marriage and four emigrations through marriage, making an increase of two.

Health and Sanitary Condition. These Indians have not suffered from any epidemic, and with the exception of a few old cases of consumption and scrofula, and two cases of eye trouble, the health of the band has on the whole been good. Sanitary precautions are strictly observed; the houses are kept clean and well ventilated and the premises neat and tidy; and the Indians in general appear to take more pride in keeping themselves clean than in the past.

Occupation. Mixed farming is the chief industry of these Indians, and they harvested a fair crop of grain and roots, and they looked well after their cattle; they also earned a considerable sum from the sale of furs, and of native roots, which they gather on the prairie.

Buildings. There are several very good buildings on this reserve, with painted shingle roofs.

Stock.—The herd held under Government control consists of one hundred and twenty-three head of cattle, all of which are doing well, the natural increase being eighty-one per cent on the number of cows.

Farming Implements.—Among the farming implements held by the band are ploughs, harrows, wagons, mowing-machines, horse-rakes and one reaper, quite sufficient for their requirements.

Education.—There is no day-school on this reserve, as the Indians prefer sending their children to the industrial or boarding-schools, in which, latterly, a great interest is taken. There are thirty-three children of school age, belonging to the band, of which eighteen are at the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school and four at the Duck Lake Boarding-school, and the remainder are waiting to be admitted to the Duck Lake Boarding-school as openings occur.

Religion.—According to the last religious census six of these Indians belong to the Church of England, forty to the Roman Catholic Church, and sixty-three are pagans. There are no churches or missionaries stationed on the reserve and religious matters receive but little attention from the Indians.

Characteristics and Progress.—The men, on the whole, are industrious, but the majority of the women are indolent. Generally speaking, they are tractable and law-abiding, and are making good progress. They are gradually becoming more thrifty and are in much better circumstances than when I first took charge of them. I would particularly mention Running Thunder, Laroque and Pee-pah-keechen, who have good houses, stables and fields of grain and roots, and in their mode of living are adopting the ways of white people.

Temperance and Morality.—The majority of these Indians are temperate, while a few of them will make use of intoxicants if in any way they can procure them unknown to the officials. In other respects they are of a moral disposition.

General Remarks.—These Indians as a band seem contented, encouraged by the result of their crops and the success they had in raising cattle. One man had flour enough for himself and family for the whole year, while three other families had each enough for three months. The hay crop was abundant and the cattle wintered well, being regularly fed and watered. The spring's work has been well done, and both grain and root crops promise well, and with favourable weather there will be a large quantity of hay put up. The band is under the supervision of Farmer Marion, who is using his best endeavours to civilize the Indians and make a success of his work, and I may say gives me general satisfaction.

OKEMASIS AND BEARDY'S RESERVES, NOS. 96 AND 97.

These reserves adjoin and are dealt with together.

Location and Area.—Both reserves are situated at Duck Lake on the trail between Batoche and Carlton, and have a combined area of forty-four square miles.

Resources.—The natural features of the reserves are rolling prairie with scattered bluffs of poplar, willow and scrub, but no large timber, except in small tracts. The soil is very light and in most places sandy. There is a considerable area of hay land, and there are some small meadows. With favourable weather grain and root crops are successfully grown, but both reserves are more suited for stock-raising.

Tribe.—The Indians of both these bands are Crees.

Vital Statistics.—The population of these two bands, taken together, is as follows: men, thirty-seven; women, forty-eight; children, sixty-six; total, one hundred and fifty-one. During the year there were thirteen births and nine deaths, making an increase of four. There were no other changes.

Health and Sanitary Condition. The health of these bands has not been as good as usual, and physically they are becoming weaker. This is generally the case in the first stage in the transition from savage to civilized life; but it is believed that as the Indians become accustomed to their new conditions of life they will overcome this tendency. The chief trouble is consumption and scrofula, but no epidemic visited the reserves. The observance of sanitary precautions are strictly enforced, and to an increasing extent willingly taken up by the Indians. The houses are better ventilated and the premises kept in a cleaner and more tidy condition, but when the Indians are living under canvas, in the summer months, they enjoy better health than at any other time. Whenever any cases of infectious disease make their appearance they are

as well isolated as circumstances will permit, and all such cases are attended to by the doctor.

Occupation. At the proper seasons these Indians work well in their fields, seeding, ploughing, hay making and harvesting, and all the year through they attend well to their cattle. Some of them occasionally are employed freighting, and at times get work from neighbouring settlers. Very few of them, however, do any hunting worth mentioning. The women earn a moderate amount gathering roots and dressing hides.

Buildings. Some of the houses are of a very good class and other good houses are being erected. I would specially mention S-eseequasis and Yah-yah-kee-koot of Beardy's Band, both of whom have good log houses with shingled and painted roofs and with rooms up stairs. The furniture is fairly good and the families live comfortably.

Stock. The cattle held by these bands under Government control number two hundred and ninety-six. The natural increase this year was seventy-one per cent with twelve cows still to calve. The grazing this spring was specially good and the whole herd is in excellent condition.

Farming Implements. The implements held by these bands are ample for the present requirements, and the mowers, rakes and wagons are mostly the private property of the Indians, purchased from the proceeds of cattle killed for beef.

Education. These Indians are taking more interest in the education of their children, of whom there are thirty-four of school age. There are no day-schools on the reserves, as the parents prefer sending their children to the more advanced schools. There are fifteen at the Regina Industrial-school, one at the Battleford, and one at the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school, and eleven at the Duck Lake Boarding-school. As the interest increases I hope to get more pupils, but a number of the children remaining on the reserves are not in a sufficiently good state of health to send away.

Religion. There is no church on either of these reserves, but several of the members attend the Roman Catholic Church at Duck Lake, and appear to do so with interest, while others take little notice of religious matters. In these bands there are forty-seven Roman Catholics, one member of the Church of England, one Presbyterian, and the remaining one hundred and two are pagans.

Characteristics and Progress.—The majority of these Indians are industrious, while a few are indolent, but as a whole they are civil and law-abiding and are gradually becoming more provident, and are now in much better circumstances than they were a few years ago. In fact, the majority of them are more thrifty and better farmers than many of the half-breeds and white settlers.

Temperance and Morality. The greater number of these Indians are temperate and moral in other ways, yet there are some who will not hesitate to act immorally and make use of intoxicants if they can in any way procure them without the knowledge of the department officials or the police.

General Remarks.—I am pleased to say these bands put in a good crop this spring. The work was done well and prospects are encouraging; gardens are well weeded and good fences have been erected round all the fields, and the hay crop should be an abundant one. The reserves are under the management of Farmer Lovell, who is unremitting in his endeavours to make the bands second to none in the Territories. He is always to be found with the Indians encouraging and advising them about their work, and he gives me entire satisfaction.

CHECASTAPASIN'S RESERVE, No. 98.

Location and Area. This reserve is situated about fifteen miles south of Prince Albert, on the right hand bank of the South Saskatchewan River, and has an area of twenty-four square miles.

General Remarks.—This reserve has been abandoned since the year 1888, and the Indians who occupied it have joined the Cumberland Band, No. 100a, at Fort à la

Corne. The land is rolling prairie, and in places covered with poplar, generally running in ridges, with open glades between. The soil is rich, black, sandy loam.

JOHN SMITH'S RESERVE, No. 99.

Location and Area.—John Smith's Reserve is situated about twelve miles south-east of Prince Albert, and is intersected by the South Saskatchewan River. It contains an area of thirty-seven square miles.

Resources.—This reserve is well suited for mixed farming. The land is rolling, interspersed with poplar bluffs and numerous ponds and small lakes. The soil is rich, black loam.

Tribe.—The inhabitants of this reserve are half-breed Cree Indians.

Vital Statistics. The population of this band is one hundred and forty-three, made up as follows: men, thirty-five; women, forty; children, sixty-eight. During the year there were ten births and six deaths, making an increase of four. No change has occurred in other ways.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of this band has on the whole been good, and although a slight attack of bronchitis and influenza laid up a few during the winter and spring, still no serious cases resulted. Every case had medical attendance. With few exceptions these Indians are very particular about sanitary precautions, and keep their houses and premises neat and tidy, and good ventilation is to be found in most of the houses. Vaccination is well looked after from year to year, and all cases of infectious diseases are attended by the doctor, whose orders are strictly followed.

Occupation.—In stock-raising and general farming these Indians are more successful than any of the other bands in this agency. During the winter some of them are absent hunting, and generally do well. Two or three of the men do a considerable amount of freighting for the Hudson's Bay Company. No fishing of any consequence is done by these Indians, except what they catch for their own use. The women are generally employed at their household duties, and the majority of them take great pride in keeping their houses clean and neat. They also make excellent bread and butter, and in butter-making I would specially mention Mrs. Philip Bear, Maria Robinson, Mrs. Thomas Bear and Mrs. J. Badger. All of these women receive good prices for their butter in Prince Albert. Others dress hides, make baskets and rush mats, and other such handiwork.

Buildings.—The houses and stables on this reserve are a credit to the Indians, being much better than those of the surrounding settlers.

Stock.—The stock is well looked after, being well fed, stabled and watered, and particular attention given to calves. The natural increase during the year was eighty-four per cent, with seven cows still to calve.

Farming Implements.—The farming implements are well taken care of and most of the wagons, mowers and rakes are the private property of the band.

Education.—The children of school age number forty-six, of whom ten are at the Battleford Industrial-school, one at the Duck Lake Boarding-school and twenty-three attend a day-school on the reserve. The remainder of the children are absent.

The day-school referred to is under the auspices of the Church of England, and Miss McGregor, with a third-class certificate, is teacher. The studies taught are the rudiments of a common English education, namely, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, recitation, history and vocal music. Instruction is also given in sewing, knitting and patch-work. The school is suitably furnished and is well supplied with material for conducting the studies mentioned. Good discipline and order are maintained and excellent progress is being made.

The majority of the parents interest themselves in the education of their children. While there are three families that take very little interest in school matters, I am pleased to say that this school has been giving great satisfaction, and the teacher, Miss McGregor, is very painstaking, and is doing her utmost to make the school a success.

Religion.—The Indians of this band belong to the Church of England, and there is a resident native Indian clergyman and a church on the reserve in which service is regularly held and much interest is taken by the Indians in church matters.

Characteristics and Progress.—The majority of the men and women of this band are industrious, while others are the reverse. On the whole they are civil and law-abiding and are becoming more thrifty and have adopted the dress of white people and are gradually adopting their mode of living. I would mention Philip Bear, John Badger, Henry Bear, and Edward Bear, as making most progress, but with the exception of two families the whole band is in good circumstances and doing well.

Temperance and Morality.—There are a number of the band who are temperate, while there are others who will use intoxicants whenever they can get them without being discovered. However, all possible precautions are taken to prevent any liquor traffic. In other ways the band may be called moral.

Agricultural Operations.—The harvest last year resulted well both in grain and roots, and the Indians provided their own flour for the greater part of the year, and they put in a good crop of grain and roots last spring. Their gardens are good and are kept clean and free from weeds.

General Remarks.—This reserve is presided over by Farmer J. H. Price, who gives good satisfaction and is doing his utmost to advance the Indians. He is industrious and painstaking, but as very little assistance is rendered this band by the Government, he has not much leverage to bring to bear upon them. I am pleased to say, however, he is making a success of his work and appears to keep the Indians well in hand.

Since Mr. Price has been in charge he has sunk a good well at the home farm and has lathed and rough-cast the outside of the farm house. He has also put up a splendid stable with good flooring and stalls; also a harness-room with hay loft overhead. A milk-house is being put up and will shortly be completed. A fence has been erected around the farm-house and he has a magnificent garden and a pasture all well fenced. The whole place looks trim and neat and is a good example to the Indians.

JAMES SMITH AND CUMBERLAND RESERVES, Nos. 100 AND 100a.

Location and Area.—These reserves adjoin one another and are dealt with together. They are situated about fifteen miles below the forks of the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers and extend across the Carrot River near Fort à la Corne, and have a combined area of ninety-two square miles.

Resources.—The soil of these reserves varies from sandy to rich, black loam; the principal portions are low, wet and thickly wooded with poplar, willow and scrub. The surface is undulating and broken with shallow ponds and lakes of brackish water, and the land is of little value for agricultural purposes; but there are, of course, some good spots to be found for farming. The herbage is luxuriant, and hay of first-class quality grows in large quantities, which, were it not for the fly-pest which infests that part of the country, especially in wet seasons, would render the locality admirable for cattle-raising.

Tribe. The Indians comprising these bands are Crees.

Vital Statistics.—The population is composed of sixty-one men, sixty-eight women, and one hundred and two children. During the year there have been eleven births and nine deaths. There were three immigrations through marriage and eight emigrations in the same way, making a decrease of three.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the bands has not been as good as could have been desired, measles, chicken-pox and whooping-cough being prevalent during the year, necessitating the calling in of medical assistance on several occasions. I am pleased, however, to say that few deaths resulted from these diseases the majority of the deaths being from old age and consumption. Most of these Indians are particular about sanitary precautions, especially in keeping themselves and their houses clean. Ventilation is also attended to, and the surroundings of the houses are kept clean and

tidy. Vaccination has been well looked after each year at annuity payments, which is the only time it can be properly seen to. All cases of infectious diseases are kept as closely isolated as possible, and no overcrowding of houses is permitted. During the summer months the majority of the Indians live under canvas, when they enjoy much better health than during the winter.

Occupation.—Stock-raising and hunting are the principal occupations of these Indians, as they do but little agricultural work. The hunt is on the decrease, and some evince a desire to put in a little grain crop and have done so, and to a larger extent a root crop, and I am in hopes in the near future of inducing the majority of the band to turn their attention more to farming and stock-raising than they do now. They are far removed from a market for anything they can produce, and work is scarce, consequently they do not earn much beyond a chance trip as guides to Cumberland or conducting flat boats with supplies for the Hudson's Bay Company, and what they get for their furs. The women are generally engaged dressing hides for distant settlers, making rush mats and birch-bark baskets. Many of them are fairly good at housekeeping and attending to their children, and some make good bread and butter for their home consumption.

Buildings.—On these reserves there are several very good houses, and I may mention those of Chief James Smith, William Smith, M. R. Constant, Joseph Head and James Head as being the best. These men have also good stables, well-fitted with stanchions, and have good stable-yards. The other portion of the bands have small but comfortable houses, and good stables and places to stow away their implements during the winter.

Stock. I find it more difficult to get the majority of these Indians to take proper care of their stock than any of the other bands. They do not take sufficient interest in the work, yet I may mention George Sanderson, Nee-soo-pah-tan-wein, Kah-ta-pis-cow-at, James Sanderson, Bernard Constant, and James Head, who take great interest in their cattle and attend to them well. The natural increase this year is eighty-five per cent, with about nine cows still to calve. All the animals are in good condition: the grazing is excellent and hay will be plentiful.

Agricultural Implements.—The bands are well supplied with wagons, mowers and rakes and all kinds of implements necessary for their work.

Education.—Very little interest is taken by these Indians in the education of their children. For several years there was a day-school on James Smith's Reserve, but the children would not attend, the chief reason being that the movements of the Indians are of such an erratic nature that the families were never long enough at one time on the reserve for the children to derive any benefit from the school, and the families who remained more regularly at home took more interest in education and sent their children to the industrial-schools. The day-school was therefore closed indefinitely. There are sixty-three children of school age belonging to these reserves. Six are at Emmanuel College, Prince Albert, eleven at Battleford Industrial-school, and one at Regina Industrial-school. The remaining forty-five are moving about with their parents, so that they cannot be induced to go to school.

The Emmanuel College at Prince Albert is under the auspices of the Church of England. The Ven. Archdeacon John A. McKay is principal, and Mr. G. E. Gale teacher and assistant. Mr. Gale is a trained teacher from Exeter Training College, England. Miss R. Child is matron and general instructress. The subjects taught are the English language, general knowledge, writing, arithmetic, geography, reading, recitation, history, vocal and instrumental music and religious instruction. Excellent progress is being made in all these branches. The industries taught are farming, care of cattle and poultry, carpentering and shoemaking, sewing, knitting, mending, washing, cooking and general housework. The equipment of the institution is first-class, and the discipline and order maintained are very good. The school, recreation, wash and other rooms are kept clean and tidy, also the dormitories, which latter are well furnished with iron spring beds and good bedding. The dining-room is complete and the food supply is excellent.

An ample supply of fire-buckets, fire-grenades, axes and a Babcock extinguisher have been sent in to this school, and a new fire-escape has been added to the girls' dormitory, and there is easy egress from the boys' dormitory, so that in case of fire the precautions are good.

The principal is an energetic and ambitious man and leaves no stone unturned to make his school a success.

The Duck Lake Boarding-school is under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church. The Rev. Father M. J. P. Paquette is principal, Rev. Mother Kent, matron, assisted by several Sisters and one Brother. There are forty-one pupils: eighteen boys and twenty-three girls. The subjects taught are: the English language, writing, reading, spelling, arithmetic, geography, general knowledge, vocal and instrumental music, and religious instruction.

The industries taught are: sewing, mending, knitting, washing, scrubbing, farming, care of cattle and poultry, carpentering and shoe and harness-making.

The school is fitted with all that is necessary for such an institution. The dining-room is a model of neatness and the table is supplied with abundance of excellent and wholesome food. The children are comfortably dressed and present a clean and tidy appearance, and are all happy and contented, perfect discipline and order are maintained, and the progress made by the pupils is surprising, especially in their knowledge of the English language.

Fire protection in this school is complete. The whole building is heated by hot-air, which is supplied from the basement. A good force-pump, to which is attached a good hose running all through the building, supplies a good flow of water. In each dormitory there is a large barrel and several fire-buckets constantly kept full of water ready for use and the water is changed every morning. Axes, fire-grenades and fire-extinguishers are placed in readiness and the children are taught the use of them. The dormitories are kept clean and neat and are supplied with first-class bedding. The school-room and premises are also kept scrupulously clean and tidy. The play grounds, one for boys and the other for girls, are kept separate by a high board fence.

The grounds in front of the school are tastefully laid out; the whole is inclosed by a substantial board fence, all of which has been completed without any assistance from the Government.

An addition of 30 x 50 feet has been added to the school-building since my last report at a cost of \$2,000.

The principal is most energetic and the success he is making of the school shows how thoroughly he has his heart in his work and the greatest credit is due to him and his assistants for the manner in which the institution is conducted.

Religion. The greater number of these Indians belong to the Church of England, and a clergyman of that denomination resides on the reserve. A fine church has been recently built and well furnished, which is well attended when the Indians are on the reserve, who show a great interest in church matters.

Characteristics and Progress. A few of the Indian women are industrious, but the majority of the Indians are indolent and lazy. Generally speaking, they are well-behaved and law-abiding. Their mode of living is becoming more like that of the white man and in this respect the greater number may be called civilized. They are more provident than they were a few years ago, are gradually improving their position and I look for further improvement.

Temperance and Morality.—The majority of these Indians are temperate and moral, while there are a few who would not refuse intoxicants if they could get them. I am pleased to say, however, that they seldom err in this direction, and a strict watch is kept to see that they do not get the opportunity.

General Remarks.—These bands are in charge of Farmer John H. Gordon. A fair crop of grain and roots has been put in, which promises well. There was abundance of hay last year and to spare, but the difficulty is to get the Indians to feed it to their cattle.

During last autumn I had a good substantial house built for the farmer, a good well sunk and well-house erected, also a good stable and closet built, and the surroundings are such that with proper attention the place should present a very nice appearance.

Logs have been taken out for a store-house, though up to the present I have been unable to have it erected, but intend to have it put up as soon as possible.

Agency Quarters.—The ground in front of the agent's house has been terraced and partly sown with lawn grass and partly laid down with sod; some young trees have also been planted, and the whole, including the premises, has been inclosed by a new fence, all of which has greatly improved the appearance of the place. A fence has also been put up round the clerk's quarters, which gives the place a more home-like appearance. A granary and a combined ice and meat-house are partly erected, but, owing to the want of material and funds, have not yet been completed. Stone has been drawn for the purpose of putting foundations under the agent's house, office and clerk's house, as the present wooden foundations are rapidly decaying.

Mr. Sibbald, clerk, continues to discharge his duties to my entire satisfaction; and Sandy Thomas still holds the position of interpreter and teamster, and as such is found trustworthy and faithful in the discharge of his duties.

I have, &c.,

R. S. MCKENZIE,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
ALBERTA—EDMONTON AGENCY,
EDMONTON, 30th June, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith my annual report together with tabular statement and inventory of Government property for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1896.

Agency.—The official name of my agency is Edmonton Agency, with headquarters on Enoch's Reserve, about twelve miles from the town of Edmonton. Its jurisdiction extends over five reserves, as follows:—

ENOCH'S RESERVE.

Location and Area. This reserve is situated on the left bank of the Saskatchewan River, about six miles south-west of Edmonton, on the trail to Stony Plain, and contains an area of forty-four square miles.

Resources.—The reserve is principally a wooded country containing numerous swamps and woods consisting of poplar, willow, spruce, tamarack, birch and hazel. The soil is very good and there is plenty of hay land.

Tribe.—The Indians on this reserve are Crees.

Vital Statistics.—The population is one hundred and forty-five, made up as follows: forty men, forty-nine women, fifty-six children; a slight decrease since last year, which is due to the excess of deaths over births, the former being seven and the latter three.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—This band has been fairly healthy during the year, although there have been a good many cases of venereal disease, which in some instances have terminated fatally. Every effort is being made to stamp out this vile disease, but it is most difficult to get Indians to continue the treatment prescribed by the doctor until they are completely cured. The houses are all kept clean and are well ventilated, and the premises kept free from refuse. All children over a year old have

been vaccinated. The water used for domestic purposes is principally taken from wells located in places to ensure freedom from contamination.

Occupation.—Nearly all the men are farming, hunting being a thing of the past with them. With but few exceptions these Indians reside permanently on the reserve. The women can nearly all knit, and a few have learnt how to spin, and one of the best women I sent to the boarding-school at St. Albert to learn weaving. This she can now do, and if the department grant me hand-loom, this woman will very soon teach other women the art she has acquired.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—On this reserve there are thirty-seven houses and twenty-nine stables, all of which are built of logs. The stock is as follows: thirty-six oxen, two bulls, forty-two cows, and eighty head of young stock, making in all one hundred and sixty head. There are also forty-five sheep and twelve pigs. The principal implements are: one self-binder, twelve ploughs, eight harrows, eight wagons, one thresher, four mowers, one fanning-machine and sundry small tools. This enumeration as regards wagons and mowers includes the private ones.

Education.—There are no schools on this reserve. The children of an age to attend school do not exceed twenty; four of them attend the industrial-school at Regina (Presbyterian), and six the Roman Catholic boarding-school at St. Albert.

Religion.—With the exception of twenty-one who are Methodists, the rest of the members of this band are Roman Catholics. The latter have a resident missionary, the Rev. Father Ramasse, and a good-sized church, which is very well attended whenever services are held. The Protestants are visited about once a month by Mr. W. G. Blewett, the school teacher of the Methodist day-school at White Whale Lake.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians are progressing favourably both as regards farming and in their domestic life. Perhaps the most marked feature in their advancement is the manner in which they cook and serve their meals. It is no uncommon sight to see a family sit down to a meal consisting of a joint of meat, two or three kinds of vegetables, bread, butter, milk and tea, all of which are served in a civilized manner.

Temperance and Morality.—Owing to the reserve being close to Edmonton, some of these Indians are tempted to buy liquor occasionally, but I am glad to say that this vice is on the decrease. The morality of this band is fair.

MICHEL'S RESERVE.

Location and Area.—This reserve is situated about sixteen miles from Edmonton, on the southern side of the Sturgeon River, and contains an area of forty square miles.

Resources.—It is well timbered, principally with poplar and fir. Nearly one-half of the reserve is high rolling prairie; the soil is clay loam and there is an abundance of hay land.

Tribe.—The Indians occupying this reserve are of the Iroquois tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The number of people on this reserve is eighty-two, consisting of seventeen men, nineteen women and forty-six children, an increase of three over last year, through the birth-rate exceeding the death-rate, there having been four births and only one death.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There has been very little sickness during the year. The houses and premises, without any exception, are all kept in first-rate order.

Occupation.—Apart from a few who make a living by hunting, the rest of the band engage in mixed farming, and the homesteads compare very favourably with those of any white settlement. Butter is made by each family, although there is not much sale for it, as there is a strong prejudice against butter made by Indians.

Buildings, Stock and Implements.—The houses are of a superior kind and well furnished. The stables and corrals are all substantial and well put up. The cattle are as follows: twenty-nine cows, two oxen, two bulls and fifty-eight young stock, making

in all ninety-one head. These Indians also possess some good horses, pigs and poultry. They are well equipped with implements.

Education.—All the children of school age attend the boarding-school at St. Albert.

Religion.—These Indians are all Roman Catholics. At present, they either attend church at St. Albert or on Enoch's Reserve. A church, however, is being erected close to the reserve, the logs for the purpose having been taken from the reserve, which will entitle this band to seating accommodation in the church.

Characteristics and Progress.—All these families are industrious and law-abiding and are far advanced in farming and civilization generally.

Temperance and Morality.—Temperance and morality may be said to prevail on this reserve.

ALEXANDER'S RESERVE.

Location, Area and Resources.—This reserve is situated about twenty-five miles from Edmonton, on the Lac la Nonne trail. Its area is forty-one square miles. About sixteen square miles is rolling prairie of excellent soil; the remainder is more or less wooded with spruce and poplar of large size. Sandy Lake, lying at its south-western corner, is a beautiful sheet of water from one to two miles wide, and about six or eight miles long. In this lake there is an abundance of fish.

Tribe.—The Indians occupying this reserve are Crees.

Vital Statistics.—The population on this reserve is two hundred and three, consisting of forty-nine men, fifty-eight women and ninety-six children. A decrease of sixteen has taken place since last year, which is accounted for in the following manner: eleven members were transferred to White Whale Lake Reserve; there were eleven deaths and five births, and one straggler was admitted into the band.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There have been no infectious diseases, and all children of a suitable age have been vaccinated. All the houses were whitewashed in the spring, and the winter refuse was collected and burnt.

Occupation.—Most of the men farm, although nearly all make a portion of their living by hunting and fishing. Some of the farms are very good ones, and the fields are in good shape and well fenced. Seven families make butter, and most of the women do a quantity of knitting.

Buildings, Stock, Implements.—There are eighty houses and ninety-one stables. The stock consists of the following: twenty-seven cows, twenty-five oxen, one bull, forty-nine young stock, making one hundred and two head in all, besides fifty-two sheep and six pigs. Four families keep poultry. There are eleven ploughs, eight harrows, five wagons, fanning-machine, thresher, self-binder, four private mowers and sundry tools.

Education.—There is one Roman Catholic day-school on this reserve. The teacher is Miss Sarah Cyr. There are thirty children of school age. The progress made by the pupils has not been very satisfactory. This has been due to the frequent change of teachers. The present teacher, however, takes more interest in her work than her predecessors, and I am in hopes that the school will do better. Besides the departmental programme of studies, the children are taught knitting, sewing, spinning and laundry work.

Religion.—This is a Roman Catholic reserve. The resident missionary is the Rev. Father Dauphin, formerly at Onion Lake Agency. There is a nice church and a good organ. The services are always well attended.

Characteristics and Progress.—On the whole these Indians may be said to be in a progressive state, and they are amenable to advice and authority.

Temperance and Morality.—There is very little money spent on liquor, and the morals on the whole are good.

JOSEPH'S RESERVE.

Location and Area.—The situation of this reserve is the northern side of Lac Ste. Anne, about fifty miles from Edmonton; and it contains an area of twenty-three square miles.

Resources.—About three quarters of the reserve is covered with spruce and poplar timber, the remainder being prairie, hay and bottom lands. The soil is a sandy loam and suitable for agricultural purposes. Lac St. Anne is the principal fishing ground of the Indians of the district.

Tribe.—The Indians of this band belong to the Stony tribe.

Vital Statistics.—These Indians number, all told, one hundred and fifty-four; consisting of thirty men, forty-two women and eighty-two children; making an increase of nine over last year, owing to eight absentees having returned to the reserve, and the births being one in excess of the deaths, viz., four and three.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—This band is the healthiest one of this agency, and is very free from any chronic diseases. These Indians generally are very clean in their persons, and keep their houses tidy and their premises free from rubbish.

Occupation.—The farming done on this reserve is only on a limited scale, hunting and fishing being the principal occupations.

Buildings, Stock, Implements.—There are twenty good houses and twenty-nine stables. The cattle consist of fifteen cows, nine oxen, one bull and twenty-nine young stock, making a total of fifty-four head. The larger implements are three ploughs, two harrows, one wagon and one mower.

Education.—The day-school is under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church. The teacher, Mr. Girard, has not been a success, and he is to be replaced by a daughter of Chief Michel, who was for some time teacher on one of the reserves of the Hobbema Agency. The number of children of school age is about thirty, and as a rule they attend school very well, as the parents are anxious that their children should be educated.

Religion.—The Indians of this reserve attend the Roman Catholic church at Lac Ste. Anne. The priest of this parish is the Rev. Father Lizée, who also pays frequent visits to the reserve.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians may be characterized as being thrifty and intelligent. The progress made in farming is not marked, as there is no regular supervision by a white man, their rations being issued to them by the farmer of Alexander's Reserve.

Temperance and Morality.—There is no doubt that a considerable amount of liquor is traded to Indians at Lac Ste. Anne, but I am using every effort to stop this nefarious traffic. The moral character of these Indians is very good.

WHITE WHALE LAKE RESERVE.

Location and Area.—This reserve is situated at White Whale Lake, about forty-five miles west of Edmonton, and contains an area of thirty-two and seven-tenth square miles.

Resources.—The reserve is heavily timbered with poplar and fir. A portion of it is high rolling prairie. The soil is good and there is plenty of hay land. There is an abundance of fish in White Whale Lake.

Tribe.—The Indians occupying this reserve are Stonies.

Vital Statistics.—The population consists of forty-two men, forty-four women, and sixty-two children, making a total of one hundred and forty-eight. The increase of eleven since last year is due to that number of transfers from Alexander's Band. The births and deaths were even, both being four.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—This band is fairly healthy. The houses and premises are kept fairly clean.

Occupation.—As on Joseph's Reserve, the farming done is only on a very limited scale, but this band is very anxious to have a farmer. This has been promised to them by the department.

Buildings, Stock, Implements.—There are twenty-two houses and fifteen stables. The cattle number fifty-six head: fifteen cows, fourteen oxen, one bull and twenty-six young stock. The implements are: five ploughs, five harrows, two wagons, one fanning-machine and two mowers.

Education.—There is a very good day-school on this reserve under the auspices of the Methodist Church. All the children of school age—twenty-three—attend school. The progress made by these children is highly satisfactory and reflects great credit on the teacher, Mr. W. G. Blewett, who holds a third-grade certificate. The authorized programme of studies is carried out, and special attention is given to industries such as carpentry, knitting, sewing, spinning, laundry-work and gardening. The tools granted to this school by the department have been made excellent use of, and many of the boys are quite expert at making such articles as ox-collars, axe-handles, hay-fork handles, wheel-barrows, &c. As is not often the case with day-schools, the children will speak English to you out of school hours.

Religion.—These Indians with but few exceptions are Methodists. Services are held by Mr. Blewett in the school-house, which is a good, roomy building. These services are well attended.

Characteristics and Progress.—These people are not as far advanced in civilization as the other bands, but they are willing to take advice, and, when a farmer is appointed, I think they will do very well.

Temperance and Morality.—This band, as far as I know, spends nothing on drink, and is fairly moral.

The grist wind-mill erected at this agency last summer has given great satisfaction to the Indians and turns out excellent flour. The miller is an Indian of Enoch's Reserve, and the cost of running the mill does not exceed ten cents an hour.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. DE CAZES,

Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

ASSINIBOIA—FILE HILLS AGENCY,

QU'APPELLE, 14th September, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report for the year ended 30th June last, together with tabular statement and inventory of all Government property under my charge.

Area and Location of Reserves.—This agency comprises the following four reserves: Little Black Bear's, Star Blanket's, Okanees' and Peepeekeesees', containing a combined area of one hundred and thirty-one square miles, or eighty-four thousand four hundred and fifty-four acres. These four reserves adjoin each other, and are laid out in the form of a square, or rather a parallelogram, and are situated in the File Hills, some eighteen or twenty miles north-east of Fort Qu'Appelle.

Resources.—The southern portion of these reserves is rolling prairie of a rich, sandy loam. The northern part is broken by the File Hills and well wooded with poplar and

willow, and contains an abundance of hay meadows. The country here is not adapted for wheat-growing, on account of being liable to summer frosts. Oats and barley, however, are raised successfully, as well as all kinds of vegetables. Cattle-raising is the chief industry, and the Indians in this branch are very successful. The herd now numbers about seven hundred head, being an increase since last year of one hundred and thirty-three, after supplying all the beef for their own use and some to the department for the old and helpless who are destitute.

Vital Statistics.--In this agency there is a population of two hundred and seventy-four, consisting of seventy men, one hundred and seven women and ninety-seven children. During the year there were twelve births, against eighteen deaths, making a decrease of six. In every case death was from natural causes, some from old age, while several children died from scrofula and consumption.

Health.--The health of these Indians on the whole has been fairly good. The sanitary regulations laid down by the department are attended to, and the homes of the Indians in most cases are kept clean and tidy. They give more attention to cleanliness both of their persons and premises than formerly, and appear to realize the necessity of cleanliness in their homes, which no doubt assists to ward off diseases of a contagious nature, and adds to the general health of the community. At the same time there is much room for improvement in many families in this respect. I am glad to state that no epidemic visited these Indians during the year, although it was thought at one time last spring that it would be almost impossible to keep diphtheria, which was prevalent in the half-breed settlement close by, from reaching the reserves. By a proper system of quarantine of the premises of those who were afflicted, and by keeping the Indians at home on the reserves, the disease was kept from spreading. Dr. Hall, of Fort Qu'Appelle, is the medical attendant on these Indians, and spares no pains and trouble to relieve those who are suffering. All who required vaccination were operated upon by him.

Occupation.--Cattle-raising, mixed farming, which includes butter-making and raising of poultry, digging seneca root, tanning hides, hunting, and working for white settlers are the occupations of these Indians.

Education.--The Indians in this agency have educational advantages which many white settlers would be proud to possess. The boarding-school here under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church is in a flourishing condition. Mr. and Mrs. Skene, principal and matron, are untiring in their work, and the children under their charge are rapidly advancing. Fourteen Indian children are enrolled here. English alone is spoken by the pupils, and their pronunciation and accent are remarkably good. In the class-room the children are far advanced for their age. Five are in standard I, five in standard III, and four in standard IV. The industries taught the girls are sewing, knitting, bread-baking, cooking and general housework; while the boys learn gardening, care of stock and general work around the barns and stables of the institution. The parents of the pupils are permitted occasionally to visit their children, but are not allowed to remain long, for, if encouraged, many would linger for days at a time, such is their great love for their children. This not being an industrial institution, no trades are taught. These important occupations are, however, not lost sight of, as there are from twenty-five to thirty pupils belonging to these reserves who attend the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school and are giving a good account of themselves in that institution, which is under the efficient management of the Rev. Father Hugonnard. The parents are now taking more interest than formerly in the education of their children. Even old Chief Star Blanket is beginning to realize its advantages, for last fall he placed one of his sons in the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school. There are still eleven children of school age belonging to his band who should be in school, and I hope before another year to be able to report that some of these at least have been sent to some educational institution.

Religion.--The majority of the Indians here are pagans, numbering one hundred and ninety-two; Roman Catholics, seventy-one; Presbyterians, eleven. The Roman Catholics have a nice little church on Okanees Reserve, and the Rev. Father Magnan, Superior of the Oblate Fathers of the Sebret Mission, looks after their spiritual welfare

and holds service at stated times. Some of the Indians manifest considerable interest in religion, while most of them are very indifferent.

Characteristics and Progress.—Many of these Indians are industrious and law-abiding. This is more noticeable on Okanees Reserve than on the other reserves, for there the Indians are more under the eye of the agent, and consequently the Indians of that band are further advanced than the others. Three new dwellings and five stables have been erected on this reserve during the past year, and several new fields laid out and fenced for individual Indians, which gives their places a more home-like appearance. On the other reserves some advancement is also apparent, but none of them have made such strides towards civilization as the band already referred to.

Several women on Okanees and Black Bear's Reserves milk their cows and make butter regularly and are very successful in raising poultry. While a number of the Indians here are self-supporting and are making a good livelihood, there are many who still cling to their old habits, and in this connection I might mention the fact that they decided last spring to hold a sun dance here, and invited other Indians from far and wide to join them in this old pagan rite. After spending several weeks of valuable time making elaborate preparations for this festival, they began to realize that the department would not permit it, more especially after seeing several encampments of strange Indians were removed from the reserves as trespassers. They abandoned all idea of the sun dance and submitted to the inevitable with as good grace as they could command. To lighten their disappointment, I permitted them to have a horse dance, which is a harmless affair. It only lasted one day and they appeared to take great enjoyment out of it.

Individual Earnings.—The earnings of individual Indians for the past year amount to \$2,211.

General Remarks.—On the whole I am safe in saying that the Indians have made during the past year most decided advances in civilization, and many have very materially bettered their condition in life, by staying at home and attending to their herds and farms.

In conclusion, I would say that the members of the staff have performed their duties in a satisfactory manner. All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have, &c.,

A. J. McNEILL,

Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

ALBERTA—HOBBEWA AGENCY,

HOLLBROKE, 30th June, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith my sixth annual report, together with tabular statement and inventory of Government property under my charge for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1896.

Health.—The health of the Indians has been very good, the only epidemic which has visited us being a few cases of measles during the last month.

At our annual treaty payments, which took place in November, 1895, there were five hundred and twenty-two paid, which was an increase of thirty over the previous year. This increase was due to there having been fifteen more births than deaths, and fifteen absentees having returned.

Occupation. The work throughout the agency is similar to that which is carried on in a white farming community ; all branches of farming are carried on. Nearly all of the Indians summer-fallow a portion of their ground, and are becoming better farmers year by year.

Crops.—This is the first season since I have been here that we have suffered anything worth speaking of from frost. Our wheat only averaged about ten bushels to the acre ; hence we shall be obliged, from this date, to depend upon the Government for flour to carry us through until after harvest. Had it not been for the unfortunate frost, we should have had far more flour than we should have required. The present appearance of the crops is fair, although they are now suffering a little from drought.

Housekeeping.—The Indian women are becoming better housekeepers and the improvement in domestic economy and thriftiness is very noticeable.

Pigs, Poultry, Sheep.—Quite a number of families now keep pigs and poultry. Some forty three families in the agency have purchased sheep from two to twelve each according to their means ; they have also purchased four hand cream-separators and many of the Indians are now making fairly good butter.

Stock. Our cattle are doing well and are in good condition ; one per cent would cover the entire loss during the winter. Our crop of calves is very small owing to some of our bulls being apparently sterile, also not of sufficient number. In my last annual report we had eight hundred and thirty-five head of cattle ; we now have eight hundred and sixty-five. We have disposed of, during the year, one hundred and seventeen head for which we have received \$3,786. This money has been judiciously spent by the Indians in the purchasing of food, clothing, harness, implements, mowing-machines, wagons, cream-separators, sheep and a few head of cattle. Each of the bands had not only plenty of hay for the cattle during the winter, but a little left over that was not required.

Road-work. The Indians have improved the roads throughout the agency, by building eleven culverts and doing considerable grading.

Education. In connection with Ermineskin's Roman Catholic day-school, a boarding-school has been in operation since the commencement of the fiscal year just ended ; this has proved to be a change in the right direction. I consider that the Government is now getting good value for every dollar spent on this school. This is more than I could have said about the day-school while it alone was in operation. The staff is excellent and thoroughly understands the work, and the progress the children are making is very praiseworthy. The Indians are now perfectly satisfied with the school, and the children appear to be happy and contented. In this school there are twenty boarders, which is the number authorized, and it has been necessary to refuse the admission of eight other applicants. Samson's and Louis Bull's day-schools continue the same ; Miss Shaw teaching at the former and Mr. Youmans at the latter school. They are both under the auspices of the Methodist Church, and are doing good work.

Mills. The grist-mill has been run exclusively by the Indians. They have not only ground all the flour they have used up to date, but have done considerable work for outsiders : during the fall and early part of the winter it ran day and night.

With our saw and shingle-mill we have only done a small amount of work so far, but have a good many logs on hand which we expect to cut up during the summer.

Sale of Liquor to Indians.—During the past winter we have been troubled with unprincipled men selling or giving intoxicating liquors to our Indians. Seven of these men have been convicted and paid fines, two others were also convicted, but have left the country without paying, and two more returned home to the United States in order to escape trial. We have been so successful in the prosecution of these men that I think we shall have little trouble from them in the future.

Religion. With the missionaries there has been one change. The Rev. Father Gabillon, O.M.I., has gone to Duck Lake, and he has been succeeded by the Rev. J. O. Perreault, O.M.I., from Stony Plain.

I am pleased to report that everything has worked very harmoniously during the past year between the missionaries and the employees of the department, thus making the management of the Indians very much easier.

Employees.—Mr. C. J. Johnson continues to fill the position of clerk and has discharged his duties in a very satisfactory manner. Mr. Moore still holds the position of farmer at Bear's Hill, and is doing his work fairly well. Gilbert Whitford still continues as agency interpreter, and is giving good satisfaction.

I have, &c.,

D. L. CLINK,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
EAST ASSINIBOIA—MOOSE MOUNTAIN AGENCY,
CANNINGTON MANOR, 1st July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following annual report upon Indian matters in this agency for the fiscal year now ended, and also the accompanying tabular statement, inventory of Government property in my charge at date, and return of private property of Indians.

PHEASANT RUMP'S RESERVE.

Location, Area and Resources.—This reserve is situated on the western part of the Moose Mountain, with an area of twenty-three thousand and forty-six acres, is well adapted to mixed farming, having a considerable area of good arable land, with a large number of hay sloughs and sufficient poplar woods to provide shelter, fuel, building material and fencing.

Tribe or Nation.—The Indians occupying the reserve are Assiniboines, and related to the Assiniboines in Wolf Point Agency, Montana.

Vital Statistics.—Their numbers have been reduced by emigration to the United States, where, they state, they receive regular rations from the Government and do very little work. There are now eighteen men, twenty-one women and seventeen children in the band, of whom thirty-seven are at present residing upon the reserve. There have been two births and two deaths during the past year, and no Indians have left or joined the band. The deaths were from consumption.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of these Indians has been generally good, the only epidemic having been influenza. Every sanitary precaution, such as the keeping of houses and premises clean and the vaccination of children, has been attended to.

Occupation.—The principal pursuit of these Indians now is farming, including stock-raising. Their grain crop last year was not good, and, as a change of seed was desirable, most of it was sold and new seed purchased. Their potato crop was not large, but they had an ample quantity of turnips. They have continued to be successful in stock-raising, and this industry now contributes considerably to their support, almost every head of a family having had one or more animals for sale and consumption last fall, and hereafter this will be still more the case. They took very good care of their cattle last winter, and the only losses during the year were one cow and one heifer which died

calving, one bull calf from rupture, and the bull belonging to the band; this animal died from disease. Some of these Indians are milking their cows and making butter this summer. They have been taking great care of their potatoes, turnips and gardens this year, and have had no frost as yet. Money is also earned by dressing cow robes and the manufacture of skin coats, &c., and one man still hunts deer with some success in the early winter.

Buildings. A decided improvement is being made in the houses, the new dwellings that several of the Indians are putting up being much larger, higher and better built than those hitherto occupied, and they are to be shingled or thatched and divided into rooms.

Stock. Their stock has increased from seventy-two to seventy-nine head, besides eight which were sold or consumed during the year.

Farming Implements.—Ewack has purchased a new mower this summer, and during last winter some of the band made new bob-sleighs for themselves, which were ironed by the farmer, Mr. Lawford, who has taught some of them to do simple blacksmithing jobs, and from whom they are learning how to repair their own implements.

Education. There are eight children of school age in this band, of whom six attend the industrial-schools at Qu'Appelle and Regina. There is no day-school on the reserve, and it is very difficult to induce the parents to allow their children to be sent to school. I had an opportunity in May, for the first time in ten years, of visiting the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school, and of seeing the children from this agency who are attending that institution, and the recollection of that visit will always be a great pleasure to me, and an encouragement when endeavouring to overcome the unwillingness of Indian parents to part with their children; for such results as are being accomplished, these are surely worth any efforts that may be made in securing and training the children.

Religion. There are not any Christianized Indians residing on the reserve excepting two children (whose brother and sister attend the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school) who were baptized into the Roman Catholic Church.

Characteristics and Progress. These Indians have become fairly industrious, but as yet require constant stimulus and direction. They are improving in their condition, and will do so more rapidly in future, now that their cattle have reached a point which will admit of their disposing of a larger number each year. Red Thunder, who was a troublesome, dissatisfied Indian, has now twenty head of cattle, and sold and consumed three head last year, and will have two head to dispose of this year; has built a new house much larger than the old one, to be roofed with iron shingles in order that he may continue to use an Indian open-fire place, for the sake of ventilation, as well as a stove.

Temperance and Morality. I have no trouble in preventing the introduction of intoxicants among these Indians, and have never had to deal with a case of drunkenness. At one time, I believe, there was a certain amount of prostitution of daughters and wives by their fathers and husbands, who took them to the railway towns for that purpose, but this has been, I believe, entirely stopped.

STRIPED BLANKET'S RESERVE.

Location, Area and Resources. This reserve is situated immediately south of Pheasant Rump's Reserve, with an area of twenty-three thousand six hundred and eighty acres, and is similar in its soil and general features and capabilities to that reserve, which it adjoins.

Tribe. These Indians are mostly Assiniboines, with a slight mixture of Cree in some cases.

Vital Statistics.—There are at present in the band nineteen men, nineteen women and twenty-one children, this band having suffered in population in the same manner as Pheasant Rump's Band by emigration to the United States. During the year there were three births and one death.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of these Indians is on the whole good, but in both of these bands there are very few able-bodied workingmen. All sanitary precautions are carefully attended to.

Occupation.—These Indians depend almost entirely upon their crops, gardens and cattle for a livelihood, and are steadily progressing towards independence. The amount of assistance which it is necessary for the department to give them grows steadily less, and as their cattle increase they will become more and more comfortable and self-reliant. A kiln of lime was burnt on this reserve this summer, which will provide lime for plastering the new houses, and some for sale as well. There has been more milking of cows and making of butter than hitherto, and another start has been made at poultry-keeping.

Buildings.—There has been a decided improvement in some of the houses during the year, and some new houses and stables have been and are being erected that will be more commodious than those now occupied.

Stock.—Their stock has increased from sixty-four to seventy, besides six sold and consumed, the losses during the year having amounted to five.

Education.—There are six children of school age in this band, and three attending the industrial-school at Qu'Appelle, all of whom have been sent with great difficulty, as the parents are invariably strongly opposed to parting with them.

Religion.—The resident Indians are pagans, and they, as well as the Indians of Pheasant Rump's Band, are visited from time to time by Mr. McKenzie, whose headquarters are on White Bear's Reserve.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians are also steadily progressing, improving in their material comfort and spirit of independence, and whereas, when I came among them, councils for the purpose of making demands upon the Government, and complaints, were of very frequent occurrence, such are now most unusual, and when there is anything of the kind, the tone is entirely different from what it then was, while they are now receiving from the Government very little assistance, indeed, as compared with what it was found necessary to give them at that time.

Temperance and Morality.—The remarks made regarding Pheasant Rump's Band apply also to this band.

General Remarks.—Both the bands just mentioned are under the immediate supervision of Mr. C. Lawford, who works hard to advance them and is watchful of their interests.

WHITE BEAR'S RESERVE.

Location, Area and Resources.—This reserve is situated in the south-east part of Moose Mountain, with an area of thirty thousand seven hundred and twenty acres, of which a large portion is covered with poplar woods and lakes, in some of which pike and pickerel are caught, the south-eastern part being more level and having a sufficient quantity of arable land, and many pretty bluffs of poplar and willow and small lakes. The Indians mainly depend upon the sale of dry firewood, logs and poles cut from the timber killed by fire in 1886, which they pile and draw for sale to settlers, and upon the produce of their farms, gardens and herds.

Vital Statistics.—The band at present numbers twenty-six men, thirty-nine women and sixty-eight children; during the year there were nine births but no deaths, making an increase of nine.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There was an epidemic of whooping cough among the children last summer, and Dr. Hardy's services were called in, and he was successful in his treatment of every case. During this spring, while there was understood to be some danger of diphtheria about Fort Qu'Appelle, all the Indians in this agency were obliged to remain in this district, and visitors from reserves that were likely to have had intercourse with that district were not allowed to come on these reserves. The vaccination of all Indians not having good marks on their arms was attended to by

Dr. Hardy during the treaty payments last fall. There were, as usual, some instances in which a good deal of opposition was met with, but in all cases this was overcome and the difficulty in this way grows less each year. All other sanitary precautions receive due attention.

Occupation. Apart from farming and stock-raising and the sale of wood already mentioned, these Indians derive much of their support from the dressing of cow robes for the settlers through a large district. During the berry season the women gather and sell a large quantity of wild fruit, and the fish in the two largest lakes form an additional source of food supply. Some fur is caught during the winter, but this is not important now. The Indians also earn a good deal during the year by working for neighbouring white settlers and by freighting.

Crops. After providing an ample supply of hay for their own cattle, they were able in the spring to sell their surplus to settlers. Their wheat crop was fair last season and provided them with seed and a good deal of flour, and they had a good crop of garden produce, potatoes and turnips. An increasing interest in their gardens and a greater readiness to attend to the weeding of them, show improvement, and for the first time they all worked busily this spring, hauling manure to their fields until it was necessary to begin seeding.

Stock. They are just beginning to derive an appreciable benefit from their cattle which will now increase rapidly and steadily, as they should have more to dispose of every year: and they took very good care of them last winter.

The herd has increased from one hundred and three to one hundred and twenty-two, and the only casualties were five. There were also five animals sold or consumed. As to the quality of the cattle and the manner in which they were wintered, I may say that a cattle-buyer who inspected them a few days ago, pronounced them to be the finest he had seen in the district, and paid a higher price than he was paying generally, in order to secure some of them.

Some of the Indians have been milking their cows and consuming the milk, and a little butter has been made, and some are doing well at poultry-keeping. Besides their cattle already referred to, the Indians of all these bands have some native ponies.

Buildings.—Logs (considerably larger than those hitherto used) were taken out last winter for some houses which are to be floored and shingled with iron shingles from part of the proceeds of sale of cattle.

Farming Implements.—The Indians have bought a mower for themselves this summer, and made some good bob-sleighs last winter and had them ironed.

Education.—There are thirty-three children of school age in this band, and eight of them are in attendance at the industrial schools at Qu'Appelle, Regina and Elkhorn. On account of the strong opposition of the parents, the work of getting the children away to school is slow, but I hope that when some of the children have returned from the schools and settled down upon the reserves to help their parents there will be less opposition.

Religion. Last summer, Mr. Addison MacKenzie, a lay missionary, began work in this agency, making his headquarters on White Bear's Reserve, and visiting the other reserves from time to time. This spring the mission, which had hitherto been independent, was placed by Mr. MacKenzie under the control of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. MacKenzie informs me that he finds an increasing willingness to hear the Bible read in the houses and tents which he visits. At present there is one log building with earth roof, part of which is occupied by Mr. MacKenzie, and part of which was designed for the holding of meetings, but it is proposed to provide better accommodation at an early date.

Characteristics and Progress.—The Indians of this band are rapidly improving in industry, and work more regularly and systematically. They remained more steadily on their reserve during the spring than ever before, and, although there was a movement in favour of having a sun dance, it was easily suppressed. They are increasing in possessions and comfort, and now that their cattle have reached the point after which they are allowed to sell, I expect to see much more rapid improvement in their

condition. They are law-abiding, and only against one man has any charge been brought during the year.

Temperance and Morality.—I have never seen a case of drunkenness among these Indians, and do not think that there is any immoral intercourse with white men.

General Remarks.—Mr. Halpin still fills the position of agency clerk satisfactorily, and has his time fully occupied by the duties of his position. Mr. W. Murison, who acts as my assistant in the managing of the farm work on White Bear's Reserve, gets along well with the Indians, and receives and issues the supplies accurately.

I have, &c.,

J. J. CAMPBELL,

Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

ASSINIBOIA,

MOOSE WOODS RESERVE, 30th June, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith my report of the Moose Woods Sioux Reserve, which is situated eighteen miles south of Saskatoon, on the east side of the south branch of the Saskatchewan River.

Stock.—When I took charge of this reserve, in the fall of 1888, I received for the Indians twelve head of cattle, viz., six work oxen, six yearling heifers, and the following spring I received six more heifers and one bull, and at the present writing the Indians have two hundred and thirty-one head of cattle, of which nineteen are private stock, the rest being under the control of the Indian Department, and are composed of the following animals, viz.:—oxen, eighteen; bulls, one; cows, seventy-eight; steers, fifty-one; heifers, thirty-two; bull calves, twenty-five; heifer calves, twenty-six. Last year the Indians sold seven oxen, three cows and six steers as beef cattle, and killed nine fat cows for their winter beef, besides selling eight cows; and this year they can afford to sell a still greater number. It will be seen by this that their stock has increased rapidly, and that they are well taken care of, from the fact that when they sell they get the highest market price, as their stock is considered second to none in the country.

Crops.—Grain-raising on this reserve has proved a failure, but each Indian family has a good garden, in which they grow potatoes, turnips, onions, citrons, squash, carrots, &c. The potato crop this season promises to be exceptionally good. These Indians have on hand about three hundred tons of hay left over from last winter, and they intend to put up about five hundred tons this fall.

Indians Self-supporting.—They have been self-supporting for the past year, and have received no Government aid whatever except during haying, when the department furnishes them with a small quantity of flour and bacon, which is given as an inducement to have them work together during haying, as otherwise the able-bodied Indians would put up hay for themselves individually and thus leave the old men and widows who own cattle without hay to feed their stock in winter.

Buildings.—Since 1894 the Indians have built four first-class log houses, two of them 16 × 22 feet and two 16 × 18 feet, besides three good stables and a corral with branding chute attached.

Trade.—The Indians buy all their supplies and necessaries in Saskatoon. Some of them have earned quite a little money by gathering senega root and berries, which they sell in Saskatoon; and five of them gathered buffalo bones this spring, which they sold for \$100.

Civilization and Education.—These Indians are civilized and nearly all professed Christians; and their children attend the day-school regularly, which is under the charge of Mrs. Tucker, who teaches them to read both in English and in Sioux—their native language; and some of them subscribe for a newspaper which is published in Dakota in their own language. They have also the Bible, hymn book and "Pilgrim's Progress" in their own language. There has not been a "pow-wow" or any kind of a dance on this reserve for years: neither has there been a paint or feather-bedecked Indian seen here for years. The school children are clean and comfortably dressed and well fed; and no person on the reserve under twenty-four years of age uses tobacco. Yet eight years ago there was not a boy over six years old but used it more or less.

Household Furniture.—Some of the homes are comfortably furnished with iron bedsteads with spring mattresses, sideboards, chairs, rocking chairs, clocks and other necessary furniture.

Vital Statistics.—The population is: men, twelve; women, eighteen; children, twenty. Some of the boys since last inspection have developed into men. Of the women, only seven have husbands and nine are widows, most of them old.

Progress.—It must be gratifying to all those interested in the welfare of the Indians to see the rapid advance these Indians have made toward civilization, when it is known that eight years ago they were purely pagan, their time chiefly occupied in feasting, dancing and gambling; living in little huts without windows, floors, stoves, tables or any kind of furniture whatever.

I have, &c.,

W. R. TUCKER,
Overseer.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

ASSINIBOIA,

MUSCOWPETUNG'S AGENCY, 31st July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to present my report for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

PIAPOT'S RESERVE, No 75.

Location and Area. This reserve comprises township twenty and part of twenty-one, range eighteen, west of the second initial meridian, Qu'Appelle valley, and contains an area of fifty-four square miles.

Resources.—The chief resources are hay and firewood.

Tribe.—The Indians of this band belong to the Cree tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population is as follows: men, forty-eight; women, seventy-four; children, eighty-four; births, ten; deaths, seventeen—decrease seven. Causes of death: two from old age; four adults from consumption; four children, consumption; seven children from scrofula, consumption and inflammation of the lungs.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians on the whole has been good. The medical officer, Dr. Seymour, reports that he could find no trace of any contagious disease on his monthly visits of inspection within the agency. The Indians have been examined and vaccinated from time to time. Sanitary precautions receive strict attention, houses are well ventilated and kept clean, and all refuse matter is burnt.

Occupation.—Selling hay and wood are the principal sources of revenue, working off the reserve, freighting, tanning hides for robes, and leather, hauling hay to Government herd camp, hunting small game and farming, &c., &c.

Buildings.—These are kept in good repair. Houses and stables are overhauled and refitted every year.

Farming Implements.—These are all stored during the winter and put in thorough repair in the spring.

Stock.—The cattle are stabled during the winter, properly cared for, and are in good condition. The natural increase to date is satisfactory.

Education.—Day-schools on the reserves proved unsuccessful, as the daily attendance was so irregular that the children were doing no good and only going to school in name, so the schools were closed and the children sent to the industrial-schools at Regina and Qu'Appelle. This course has proved beneficial all round. As twenty-six children are attending the above schools, only twelve of school age are left on the reserve. Some of these are not fit subjects for the schools, having scrofulous affections. The Indians do not take much interest in education, and it is only by constant attention to the subject that the children are secured for the schools.

Religion.—Of these Indians twenty-two are Roman Catholic, ten Presbyterian and one hundred and seventy-four are pagan. Roman Catholic and Presbyterian missionaries visit the reserve and hold service in the different houses and tents, as there is no church on the reserve. There is, however, very little interest in religion manifested by these Indians.

Characteristics and Progress.—Indians are industrious when they are deriving a direct cash benefit from the results of their labour, but when working on their farms or engaged in other necessary work, they cannot be relied upon to work steadily. Lame Fox, Thunder Rock, Musquah, Big Sky, Oochapascopeyaces and others are acquiring property, have good teams of working horses, harness, wagons, sleighs, mowers, rakes, cattle, &c. No cases have come before me of infringements of the laws of the land.

Temperance and Morality.—Liquor is prohibited on the reserve and a close watch kept on the vendors of liquor in the towns, so that the Indians are kept under control and remain temperate. In morality I think there is a general improvement.

General Remarks.—The Indians on the whole have done very well the past year, and are advancing in every way. Grain and root crops were fairly good, and from the returns and their hay and wood industries, &c., they supplied their own flour for the past nine months, and worked for all assistance they received. All blacksmithing required on the reserve was done by Indians.

MUSCOWPETUNG'S RESERVE, No. 80.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the right bank of the Qu'Appelle River at its intersection with the western boundary of section eighteen, township twenty-one, range seventeen, west of the second initial meridian, and is adjacent to and west of Pasquah's Reserve.

Area.—This reserve contains an area of fifty-eight square miles.

Resources.—The chief resources of this reserve are hay and firewood.

Tribe.—The Indians of this band belong to the Saulteaux tribe.

Vital Statistics.—On this reserve there are thirty-one men, forty-eight women, and forty-five children. During the year there have been five births and five deaths. The

causes of deaths were one from old age, and four children from scrofula and inflammation of the lungs.

Health and Sanitary Condition. The health of the Indians for the year has been good. Scrofula and consumption are the chief causes of complaint. The vaccination of the Indians has been regularly attended to. Sanitary precautions are fully complied with, houses kept clean and well ventilated, and all refuse matter burnt.

Occupation. The Indians of this band engage in the following occupations: selling hay and wood, working off the reserve, freighting, tanning hides for robes and leather, hauling hay to Government herd camp, hunting small game, farming, &c.

Buildings. The buildings are kept in good repair; houses and stables are overhauled and refitted every year.

Farming Implements.—These are all stored during the winter, and put in complete working order in the spring.

Stock. The cattle are stabled during the winter, properly cared for, and are in good condition, with good natural increase.

Education. There are fifteen children attending the industrial-schools at Qu'Appelle and Regina, and only three of school age remaining on the reserve. Very little interest is taken by the parents in the education of their children, but the matter is kept before them so constantly that I look for a change when they see the benefits their children are deriving from industrial-school training.

Religion.—The religious belief of these Indians is as follows: twenty are Presbyterians, seven are Roman Catholics and ninety-seven are pagans. Presbyterian and Roman Catholic missionaries visit the reserve and hold service in the different houses and tents, as there is no church on the reserve. Very little interest in religion is manifested by these Indians.

Characteristics and Progress.—Indians are industrious at times, but lack energy, and require constant supervision to keep them at work steadily. Echewas, Uluscowcappo, Apisknew, Stone Bear and others are making headway and getting a good start in cattle, wagons, sleighs, mowers, rakes, harness, &c. These Indians conform to the laws and give no trouble.

Temperance and Morality.—The general behaviour of the Indians has been good.

General Remarks.—This band is making headway, and has been kept employed during the year.

PASQUAH'S RESERVE.

Location and Area.—This reserve is situated on the right bank of the Qu'Appelle River, about six miles west of Fort Qu'Appelle, and has an area of sixty square miles.

Resources.—The chief resources of this reserve are firewood and fish.

Tribe.—The Indians of this band belong to the Saulteaux tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population is as follows:—men, thirty-four; women, fifty-six; children, seventy-nine. During the year there have been five births and fourteen deaths, making a decrease of nine. The causes of death were:—four adults from consumption, one adult from erysipelas and nine children from consumption, scrofula and inflammation of the lungs.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians has been good with the exception of those suffering from diseases of a tuberculous nature, which unfortunately prevail to a large extent among the Indian nation. The Indians have been vaccinated, sanitary precautions strictly enforced, all refuse matter burnt and houses well ventilated and kept in order.

Occupation.—These Indians earn a living in the following manner: selling wood, working off the reserve, freighting, tanning hides for robes and leather, fishing, hunting small game, farming, &c.

Buildings, Stock and Farming Implements.—Buildings are kept in good repair, houses and stables overhauled and refitted every year. Stevenson has put a shingle roof on his house; the building is 20 x 16 x 12 feet, with lean-to kitchen 20 x 12; this gives a second story and makes a very comfortable house. Farming implements are all stored during the winter and overhauled and put in order in the spring. The cattle were stabled during the winter, received the necessary care, and are in good condition.

Education.—There are forty-three children attending the industrial-schools at Qu'Appelle and Regina, leaving only four of school age on the reserve. The Indians of this band are more advanced in civilization, and appreciate the benefit to be derived by having their children educated, and we have very little difficulty in placing the children at school when they reach the proper age.

Religion.—The religious belief of these Indians is as follows: ninety-eight are Roman Catholics, twenty-two Presbyterians and forty-nine pagans. There is one Roman Catholic and one Presbyterian church on the reserve; services are held and attended by the more advanced Indians.

Characteristics and Progress.—Indians are industrious at times only, and are easily influenced by the indolent. No cases of violation of the laws have been reported. Thomas Stevenson, Sam. Cyr, Antoine Cyr, George Asham and others are acquiring property, such as wagons, sleighs, mowers, rakes, binders, working horses, harness, cattle, &c.

Temperance and Morality.—These Indians have behaved well and no complaints are recorded.

General Remarks.—The Indians of this band have received very little assistance from the department, as they have been in a position to supply their own wants.

STANDING BUFFALO RESERVE.

Location and Area.—This reserve is situated on the north side of the Qu'Appelle or Fishing Lakes on the east side of Jumping Creek, about four miles from Fort Qu'Appelle, and contains an area of seven square miles.

Resources.—There is good fishing in the lakes in this agency.

Tribe.—The Indians of this band belong to the Sioux tribe.

Vital Statistics.—There are forty-eight men, fifty women and sixty-nine children in this band. There were ten births and four deaths during the year, making an increase of six. The causes of death were, one from old age, and three children from inflammation and consumption.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of the Indians has been good. There have been no diseases of a contagious nature. The vaccination of Indians was attended to, houses were kept clean and tidy, and all refuse matter collected and burnt.

Occupation.—These Indians support themselves entirely by working off the reserve, at harvesting and threshing, and during the remainder of the year working at odd jobs in the towns in the vicinity. They do not go extensively into grain farming, but devote their attention to vegetables, and always have ample for winter use. Fishing in the lakes and hunting small game in season are successfully carried on.

Buildings are kept in good repair, houses and stables overhauled and refitted every year.

Farming Implements are stored during the winter, and examined and repaired in the spring.

Stock.—The cattle were stabled during the winter and properly cared for and kept in good condition.

Education.—There are fifteen children attending the industrial-school at Qu'Appelle, leaving five of school age on the reserve. Most of the parents are interested in the education of their children.

Religion. The religious denominations of these Indians are as follows:—one hundred Roman Catholics, sixty-seven pagans. There is a Roman Catholic church adjoining the reserve, which is attended by the members of the band belonging to that faith.

Characteristics and Progress. These Indians on the whole are industrious and law-abiding. Joseph Patrippe, Moses, Tom, Towacca and others are getting ahead and own wagons, sleighs, mowers, rakes, working horses, harness, cattle, &c.

Temperance and Morality. The general behaviour of the Indians has been good and no cases of violation of the laws have come under my notice.

Government Herd.—This band of cattle is kept in the valley on Muscowpetung's Reserve, where we have a fine range and good supply of water. The stock wintered well, and the increase this year was one hundred and twenty calves. The herd has increased beyond what is required for all purposes in this agency, and the surplus forty-three cows, forty-three yearling heifers and thirty-two spring calves, were transferred to the Blood Agency at McLeod.

General Remarks.—The crops were all well put in and the weather has been most favourable, so that the prospects are exceedingly bright for a bountiful harvest. All root crops have been well attended to, and promise large returns. The hay meadows in the valley, owing to the very wet season, have been under water to a depth of from three to four feet. The river has been very high, but is now going down, so that we shall be able to drain the meadows in some places, but a very large proportion of the hay lands will be too wet to cut this season. However, the sloughs on the brush land will supply a large quantity of hay, so that I hope we shall be able to secure sufficient for all requirements.

We have lately received one hundred refugee Cree Indians at Piapot's Reserve as an addition to the band. These Indians, being destitute, will require assistance for the present to enable them to make a start in life.

The employees of this agency have cheerfully performed the various duties in connection with the work in a most satisfactory manner.

I have, &c.,

J. B. LASH,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
SASKATCHEWAN—ONION LAKE AGENCY,
ONION LAKE, 30th June, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report, together with tabular statement and inventory of Government property, for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

SEEKASKOOTCH RESERVE.

Location, Area and Resources.—This reserve is located on the north side of the River Saskatchewan, near Fort Pitt. The area is one hundred and seventeen thousand one hundred and twenty acres, and farming is the only resource.

Tribe.—The band (No. 119) belongs to the Cree tribe.

Vital Statistics.—This year the population numbers six hundred and sixty-four souls—one hundred and fifty-four men, two hundred and six women and three hundred and four children. There is a decrease of six compared with the previous year, made up as follows: births, twenty-five; deaths, twenty-four; immigrations, eight; and emigrations, fifteen. Of the persons who died twenty were children—one died from consumption, one from scrofula and eighteen from natural causes. Of the four adults, one died from old age and three from consumption. At the payments last fall eight non-treaty Indians entered the treaty, and the emigrations were caused by six Indians absent hunting in the district, four in the Battleford district, and five non-annuitant.

Health and Sanitary Condition. The general health of the Indians throughout the year has been good, and the reserve has not been visited by epidemics. During the winter a few suffered from the effects of influenza and there was an exceptional case of consumption and scrofula. The sanitary condition of all dwellings and premises has been well looked after.

Occupation. The Indians are all engaged in mixed farming. The grain and hay return of last season proved favourable. The acreage under cultivation this year, compared with that of last, has not been increased, and although the spring was decidedly late we anticipate favourable results next fall. Each family has a splendid garden, consisting of potatoes, turnips, carrots and onions. A great deal of pride is taken in keeping them free from weeds and in good order.

Buildings and Stock.—During the year the Indians' dwellings and stables were all repaired and some enlarged. The cattle belonging to the band wintered well, the increase in calves this spring was good. The Government herd is in splendid condition and there has been a good increase in calves.

Education. The schools on this reserve are two in number. The Roman Catholic boarding-school with a day-school in connection continues under the management of the R.-v. Sisters of the Assumption. The school-house is a large, bright and comfortable building; in every particular it meets the purpose for which it is required. The staff is as follows: principal, Rev. Father Thérien; teacher, Rev. Sister St. Patrick, who holds a first-class certificate, Quebec; assistant teacher, Rev. Sister St. Flavis. The pupils attending school number fifty-two, and are in the following standards: thirty-six in standard I, nine in standard II, three in standard III, three in standard IV, one in standard V. The pupils have made satisfactory progress in their English studies during the year; they can also exhibit very good specimens of their knitting and sewing. Altogether the work reflects great credit upon the institution. In connection with the school there is an excellent garden.

The Protestant boarding-school is under the auspices of the Church of England mission, the Rev. J. R. Matheson, principal. The management and teaching is conducted by Miss A. E. Phillips, who appears to be a very active young woman. The pupils attending school number eleven, and are in the following standards: three in standard I, four in standard II, three in standard III, one in standard IV. Advancement made by the pupils of this school fair, which is owing to the children being very young. This school also has a splendid garden. Both schools are well equipped and the discipline is good.

Religion.—The Roman Catholic and Church of England missions are the only two denominations on the reserve. The Indians regularly attend their respective places of worship.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians are steadily advancing in the civilized mode of living and each year finds them in a better position to support themselves. They have had sufficient wheat and barley flour of their own raising to supply their needs during the year. The beef requirements have been furnished from the increase in stock, besides eighty head being sold. All the Indian women make butter and can knit and sew very well. A number of families keep poultry and pigs, and are very successful in raising these kinds of stock.

Temperance and Morality.—I am pleased to report that there have been no cases of intemperance on the reserve during the year. General morality, fair.

General Remarks.—In September last this reserve was visited by Sir Mackenzie Bowell and the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. The Indians met them at the agency in order to make a few remarks, but no “pow-wow” was held, and everything passed off quietly.

THE CHIPPEWAYAN RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated on the Beaver River and is not surveyed.

Tribe.—The band (No. 124) belongs to the Chippewayan tribe.

Occupation.—These Indians, as heretofore, maintain themselves by hunting, fishing, and stock-raising.

Health.—The general health has been good, there being no sickness amongst them.

Religion.—The Roman Catholic church is the only one on this reserve, and the Indians all belong to that faith.

Education.—The day-school is in connection with the Roman Catholic mission. Mr. Lamoureux teaches and manages the school. He holds a third-class certificate. The number of pupils attending school is twenty-five, and they are in the following standards: fifteen in standard I, six in standard II, and four in standard III. The progress made by the pupils in their studies has been slow, owing to irregular attendance.

I have, &c.,

GEO. G. MANN,

Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

ALBERTA—PIEGAN AGENCY,

MACLEOD, 27th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report concerning the affairs of this agency, for the year ended 30th June, 1896, accompanied by the tabular statement.

PIEGAN RESERVE, No. 147.

Location.—This reserve is situated at Old Man's River, sixteen miles west of Macleod.

Area.—It contains an area of one hundred and eighty-one and four-tenths square miles, within which there is a timber limit of eleven and one-fifth square miles.

Resources.—Stock-raising and root-growing are the resources of this reserve.

Tribe or Nation.—The Piegan Indians are a branch of the great Blackfoot tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The population of this reserve consists of one hundred and twenty-seven men, two hundred and two women, two hundred and eleven boys and two hundred and ten girls. During the year there were twenty-seven births: boys, ten; girls, seventeen. The deaths during the same period were fifty-seven: boys, twenty-four; girls, twenty; adults, thirteen. Deaths occurred principally from old age, consumption and scrofula. Decrease in population, twenty-one.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—Fairly satisfactory. Whooping cough was prevalent during November, but was not of a serious character. The Indians obtain their

water supply chiefly from Old Man's River and Beaver Creek. Those who live near springs, or who have wells, are frequently cautioned to keep them clear of all refuse. All houses and premises have lately been cleaned, and all refuse burnt or hauled to a distance.

Occupation.—Stock-raising. Many Indians earn a fair amount of money by herding and otherwise working for settlers, freighting (using their own horses), selling raw-hide ropes, hackamores, fancy bridles, bead-work, buckskin gloves, &c., butchering, scouting, breaking horses, washing for settlers, selling ponies, bounty on wolves, &c.

Buildings.—Many of the Indians now have very good houses, in fact all houses, stables and sheds are very much better built and more comfortable than in preceding years.

Stock.—The raising and care of stock must always be the chief resource of these Indians. They recognize this fact perfectly, and are anxious to obtain larger herds. The cattle of this band now number nearly one thousand head, owned by seventy-nine individuals. The cattle owners all put up hay, and several have still some left from last year's supply.

Implements.—Many of the mowers and rakes have been bought by Indians for their own use, principally from the proceeds of the sale of their beef cattle.

Education.—There are two boarding-schools on this reserve. One under the auspices of the Roman Catholics was opened on 1st June, the Rev. Father Foisy being principal, his staff consisting of Brother John, the Mother Superior and two Sisters. The number of boarders at this school is at present eight, the space being exceedingly limited. I am informed that the building is shortly to be enlarged. The school having been only just opened, but little progress can be reported. The Sisters keep the house and children extremely clean and tidy, and are unremitting in their care and attention. This school has been in existence as a day-school for some years, but it was found extremely difficult to obtain a regular attendance of pupils, nearly all the Indians who formerly resided in its vicinity having now moved to other localities, and I am fully persuaded that the school will be far more satisfactory in its present state, especially when a larger number of boarders can be taken. The other institution is under the care of the Rev. J. Hinchliffe, Church of England, assisted by Mr. J. A. Mason, teacher, Miss Brown, matron, Mr. Brighton, carpenter and instructor. This school shows very fair progress in studies, and particularly in carpentering, &c., amongst the boys, much of the furniture used there being made by them. Some of the boys also learn tailoring, and are beginning to learn shoemaking. The girls are well taught all housework (one of them being an extremely good cook); also sewing, knitting, mending clothes, &c. The space at this school is also limited. The children are orderly, obedient and tidy, and everything is done to ensure their welfare and comfort.

Religion.—A church is now being erected by the Rev. J. Hinchliffe, who has hitherto held services in English and in Blackfoot in the school-room. The Rev. Father Foisy has a nice chapel, with frequent services. But little interest is as yet manifested by the Indians in religious matters.

Characteristics and Progress.—It is noticeable that the Indians are not as indolent as in former years; many of the men are very good workers and are anxious to improve their condition. They are becoming better off from year to year, and are law-abiding as a rule.

Pretty Face, Lost Spider, North Piegan, Many Chiefs, Otter Above, Strong Buffalo, Big Swan, Good Prairie Chicken, Wolf Robe, Commodore and Grassy Water have particularly good houses; some have rooms partitioned off, good furniture, including all necessary articles and a few ornaments, clocks, &c., all kept very clean, stoves blackened. Otter Above has a dairy. Several women make butter, and a great number make good yeast bread. The above Indians have all good stables and corrals, and these and others are beginning to take an interest in poultry-raising.

Temperance and Morality.—During the year there has been very little drinking. The morality has always been good.

General Remarks.—Mr. Forget, Indian Commissioner, visited the agency in June, held a large meeting of the Indians and gave them permission to have races, sports, &c., on 1st July, instead of the sun dance, of which it is probable we shall now hear nothing more. I shall do my best to make these sports in every way a success. I am glad to say that I have always received hearty co-operation from my staff in my plans for the welfare of the Indians under my care.

I have, &c.,

H. H. NASH,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
ALBERTA—SADDLE LAKE AGENCY,
PAKAN, 30th June, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith my seventh annual report of this Indian agency, together with tabular statement, inventory of all Government property under my charge, and a return showing the total receipts and issues for the fiscal year just ended.

SADDLE LAKE RESERVE, No. 125.

Location.—This reserve is situated in townships fifty-seven and fifty-eight, and ranges twelve and thirteen, west of the fourth initial meridian.

Area.—The Saddle Lake Reserve, inclusive of Blue Quill's, No. 127, the boundaries of which have not yet been defined, has an area of one hundred and fifteen square miles, or seventy-three thousand six hundred acres. It is bounded on the west by the Rolling Hills, a succession of sandy mounds of wind formation, irregular in contour and valueless as land, excepting for pasture. Running east, the southern line rests for about five hundred chains on the left bank of the Saskatchewan River and thence through poplar openings to the new half-breed reservation of Egg Lake, which touches on the east line its entire length. The northern boundary of the reserve is of a character similar to that of the Rolling Hills on the west, but is broken by stretches of water resting in deep natural basins, the volume of which is rarely affected by evaporation during even the hottest summers.

Resources.—For agricultural purposes the meadow lands on the reserve are invaluable—the soil is of sandy loam of a deposit of from ten to twenty inches with a rich yellow subsoil. In seasonable years, when rains are not infrequent, these lands produce a luxuriant growth of natural grasses, upon which stock fatten rapidly, and which, when cut and cured, make hay as heavy, by actual measurement, as cultivated timothy, and it is equally nutritious. The mineral resources are as yet undeveloped, but croppings of coal have been already found, which may later lead to valuable veins, and gold is washed from the banks and sand-bars of the river.

Of timber, heavy spruce is found growing on the low bottoms and the entire reserve is covered with patches of poplar—poplar bluffs they are called—which to the north-west of the reserve attain, in extent, the dignity of a forest. One of the most attractive features of this reserve is its wonderful adaptability for stock-raising, the perfect shelter it affords, the water supply, for, with the exception of the bench, upon which are built the houses of Blue Quill's Band, the reserve has several creeks and springs, ponds without number, some lacustral in extent such as Saddle and Duck

Lakes, giving an inexhaustible supply of pure water, apart from the great river which bounds it on the south-west. All this, together with its wide and splendid pastures and extensive hay lands, makes it one of the most desirable grazing sections in the provisional district.

Saddle Lake produces the finest whitefish in the district, and in the other lakes and in the creeks pike, pickerel and small fish are plentiful. The Saskatchewan furnishes fine sturgeon-fishing, and in season prairie chickens, wild geese and ducks abound on land and water.

Tribe.—Both bands of this reserve are Plain-Crees, though since the disappearance of the buffalo, they have become as expert hunters of other game as the Wood-Crees themselves.

Vital Statistics.—The Saddle Lake Band now numbers one hundred and sixteen, of the following composition: men, twenty-four; women, thirty-two; children: boys, thirty-six; girls, twenty-four. During the past year the band has increased by births over deaths from one hundred and fourteen to its present strength. One adult died of consumption and two children of infantile diseases.

Blue Quill's Band now numbers ninety-four, an increase of seven over last year, viz., two births in excess of deaths, two women married and were received into the band, and three Roman Catholics were transferred from Saddle Lake Band. The men number twenty-six, the women, twenty-nine; boys, twenty-five; girls, fourteen. The deaths during the year were three, one woman of consumption and two infants.

WAHSATANOW RESERVE, No. 126.

This band no longer exists: its members, who number twenty-six, have now become part of Saddle Lake Band. The reserve, which will shortly be surrendered, lies fifty-five miles west from the agency on the north side of the Saskatchewan River, and contains an area of twelve and a quarter square miles.

WHITEFISH LAKE, No. 128.

Location.—This reserve is situated in townships sixty-one and sixty-two, and in ranges twelve and thirteen west of the fourth initial meridian.

Area.—It has an area of seventeen and a half miles, or eleven thousand two hundred acres. Chief Pakan resides on this reserve, but his authority is acknowledged by the Indians of the two reserves already mentioned. The reserve is a strip of land of an average depth of about one and a half miles, about twelve miles in length, irregular in profile, running north and south along Reed, Goodfish, Wahyatahwah and Whitefish Lakes.

Resources.—The mineral resources of this reserve are as yet undeveloped. Mica was found a short time ago and the Indians were surprised when told that gold was not found in such large deposits, as they supposed they had discovered a limitless supply of this precious metal.

The cultivable area is restricted and difficult to work, owing to the stony character of the land; but the hay grounds are extensive. About three-fourths of the reserve is surrounded with forests of heavy timber, almost inaccessible in many places and untrudged save by an occasional hunter or trapper. The fishing on the lakes, particularly on Whitefish Lake, for pike, pickerel and whitefish is always good. Whitefish Lake is an extensive sheet of water, circular in outline, the water of great depth and purity, and the supply of whitefish, because of their retreat after spawning to the deep water where no nets can be sunk, is apparently inexhaustible. When these fish visit the shallows, the Indians catch thousands of them, which they cure by drying for summer use; their winter supply is stored frozen. Moose and black bear are found in the surrounding forests; on the reserve game birds are plentiful in season and add materially to the food supply of the band.

Tribe.—These Indians also are Plain-Crees, and many of them are expert trappers.

Vital Statistics.—This band is the largest in the agency, numbering three hundred and sixteen souls against three hundred and ten last year. In the band are seventy-one men, ninety women, eighty-five boys and seventy girls. The following is the increase: nine births, and one half-breed woman was married to an Indian and received into the band; against this there was a decrease of four, viz.: two deaths and two women transferred on marriage—one to Saddle Lake Band and one to that of Blue Quill.

OUTLYING BANDS.

There are three outlying bands, regarding which the following information is given in brief:—

Lac La Biche Band, No. 129.—This is a mere remnant, numbering only nineteen persons in all, the same as last year, four men, seven women and eight children. There is no reservation. The men are hunters and the few families are scattered through the hunting lands reaching to Great Slave Lake.

Chippewayan Band, No. 130.—This Chippewayan band lives in the neighbourhood of Heart Lake, about one hundred and five miles north of the agency. The men are successful trappers, and no assistance was given to the band by the department during the past year. They have a few head of cattle, but do not give them much attention. There are fifteen men, twenty women, twenty-two boys and fifteen girls, a total of seventy-two against sixty-nine last year. This increase was caused by two births, and the marriage of a half-breed woman to a member of the band.

Beaver Lake Band, No. 131.—This band of Wood-Crees numbers ninety-nine, an increase of four over last year. This increase is practically by births, though there were commutations and exchanges. There are twenty-two men, twenty-five women, twenty-two boys and thirty girls. These Indians make their homes at Beaver Lake, near Lac La Biche, whence they start on prolonged journeys north to hunt and trap. Last season they were very successful in trapping, and traded a lot of valuable furs at good prices. They were particularly fortunate this year, as the number of white traders in the north has greatly increased and the competition that resulted brought the prices of flour and groceries down very low, and the enterprise of these Indians was well repaid by the comfortable living they secured. There were no applications made by them in the past year for assistance from the department.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—During the year the general health of the Indians has been much better than in previous years. Among adults consumption carries off the greater number; but the chief mortality is among the infants and children under six years, due doubtless to the inexperience of the mothers, many of whom are mere girls in age. Very little scrofula appeared among the school children last winter, as early measures were taken for its repression. Among the adults of both sexes this disease largely exists. Experience leads to the conclusion that in the adult it is ineradicable, though it may be mitigated by a prolonged treatment, to which no Indian will submit, because he thinks that the medicines of the white man should be at once curative in their properties; but perhaps a continued observance of cleanliness would be more effectual than any medicines. Early in March all of the employees and a majority of the Indians were laid up with la grippe, but it passed away gradually without any deaths resulting. In regard to sanitary matters, the instructions received from the department on this important subject have been strictly carried out. The dwellings of the Indians have been subjected to frequent inspection and, as a rule, have been found clean and neat in their interior arrangements, this action being usually voluntary on the part of the inmates, as instructions on this matter have seldom to be given a second time. In the autumn and in the spring the houses were all whitewashed inside and outside; the surroundings of each house, as soon as the disappearing snow admitted, were thoroughly cleaned up, the accumulations of wood, chips and rubbish were raked into heaps and then burned. All springs and running

water on the reserves were visited to see that they were in no way polluted by the drainings from byres or stables, and everything that was considered needful as sanitary precautions against disease has been scrupulously carried out. The results are evident in the improved condition of the general health, and it is gratifying to report that in each successive year the Indians are becoming more amenable, and now both assent and lend their assistance to any measures adopted for their health, comfort and better condition of living. About thirty children were vaccinated.

Occupation.—The Indians settled on the reserves of this agency have but little to depend upon to obtain a living personally beyond what they can gain by their efforts at farming and stock-raising. In the latter industry they are gradually having success, and as their cattle increase by natural means they will be placed in a more secure position to support both themselves and their families. Last year they were enabled, by the sale of beef, to purchase a number of wagons, mowers and small farm implements necessary for their work, especially in the harvest season, and several supported their families last winter by purchasing the necessary provisions, and it is hoped that a fair number of families will be self-dependent in the coming winter. Farming hitherto has proved only a partial success, but the favourable condition of the crops, both grain and roots, holds out a promise of an unusually good harvest. Outside of their usual routine labour on the reserves, a few of the men make from four to six weeks' wages working on the Hudson's Bay Company's boats in the north; others have been mining on the river, but have met with no great success. Trapping has been more remunerative. From furs sold two wagons were purchased and the total sales on the reserves are estimated at about \$1,000. A little freighting is done by the Indians of Blue Quill's Band, but the total earnings were small.

Buildings and Stock.—The houses on all of the reserves are built of logs, with thatched roofs, excepting three, which are of a story and a half, and the roofs of these are shingled. Two of these are the dwellings of Chief Pakan and Arthur Steinhauer, of Whitefish Lake Reserve, who is the foremost man in the agency; the third is Thomas Hunter's, of Saddle Lake Reserve, a progressive man, in possession of a large herd of cattle and a number of horses. The houses are nearly all floored with one-inch lumber. As all of the Indians are fine axe-men, the houses are well put together, the logs are all hewn on two sides and dove-tailed at the corners, and roofs are well pitched, and as they are whitewashed twice yearly, their appearance is always attractive. In every house is a large open fire-place, and the wide chimney, in addition to its required use, is a good means of ventilation.

On the Saddle Lake and Blue Quill's Reserves the stables, during the year, have all been rebuilt or enlarged and now range from forty to ninety feet in length; each stable is furnished with stanchions for the cattle and with an inclosed cattle yard or corral. In addition, pastures for the calves have been fenced in, and on each reserve there is a large branding corral built of heavy logs.

At Whitefish Lake the stables on the reserve were left unrepaired last autumn, as, owing to the scarcity of hay on the reserve, a number of the men were employed in erecting stables and sheds for the protection of a large number of the cattle during the winter at Floating Stone Lake, some fifteen miles off the reserve, where hay was plentiful and two or three hundred tons were stacked. These cattle were wintered so well that many of them were fit for market when spring opened. The same remarks apply to the stock on all of the reserves, as they were well fed through the winter, and there is now a surplus of about two hundred tons on hand of last year's hay. The losses for the year were about one per cent. The natural increase of this season is not yet fully known, as the round-up and branding will not take place till the end of September next.

Farming Implements.—The farm machinery and the implements not required in winter were placed under cover before the snow fell. In March and April the ploughs and mowers were overhauled and made ready for use when required. From the proceeds of the sale of beef, furs, &c., the Indians purchased five new mowers, four horse-rakes, five wagons and a large number of hay-forks and other implements.

Education.—There are one hundred and five children of school age on the reserves. Of day-schools there are four, one under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church and three under those of the Methodist denomination. In addition there is one boarding-school, nominally included in those of this agency, and under the principalship of Rev. Henri Grandin, the clergyman in charge of the Roman Catholic mission, at Lac La Biche. At present there are but three teachers of day-schools in the agency, only one of whom is a qualified teacher, and he is of the third grade.

Saddle Lake Day-school.—The present teacher of this school holds a Normal school certificate, and is a semi-cleric or lay preacher of the Methodist Church, holding a dual office of divided interests. The average attendance of pupils for the past year was eight and the school was kept open two hundred and sixteen days. There was some progress made by the Indian children in reading, writing and spelling, but their proficiency in these was not of such value as to create any great enthusiasm. This teacher enforces discipline and follows the revised programme of studies prescribed for all Indian schools some two years ago by the department.

The school-house is a roomy building, and on Sundays is used for church purposes, such as prayer meetings and Sunday-school. It was removed to its present site in 1894, and rebuilt, so that it is almost a new structure. It is roomy, comfortable and well ventilated. In winter it is heated by the largest size giant box-stove, is protected by a well-built porch, large enough to hold firewood for several days' consumption, and is well equipped with combined forms and desks, a table, chair and cupboard, several maps and lesson cards; and the necessary school-books and school stationery are renewed from time to time from the Indian Commissioner's Office at Regina.

Blue Quill's Day-school.—The teacher of this school is a lay brother in the Roman Catholic Church. The average attendance of pupils for the past year was ten, and the school was kept open two hundred and thirteen days. There are eighteen pupils attending, whose average age is nine, eleven are in standard I, and the progress of these children is slow; the pupils in standards II and III are doing better, but it would be fiction to state that their present proficiency is at all commensurate with their opportunities and the length of time they have been attending this school. A fair discipline is maintained and the revised programme of studies is followed. The school-house is comparatively a new structure. It has, in addition to a stove, an open fire-place, is as well-equipped in every way, excepting in wall maps, as the Saddle Lake school. This school is close to the Roman Catholic mission, and holds a central position on the reserve. A salutary lesson might be taken to heart by those who aim at being teachers on Indian reserves from the course pursued by the teacher of this school in keeping up its attendance. He visits from house to house and is always a welcome visitor, and, if a pupil absents himself from school, he goes personally to the home of the child to inquire into and, if possible, remove the cause. During play-hour he is with the children, joining in and directing their sports and trying in every way to attract and amuse them, and when a holiday comes, he takes them out in a body to some pleasant spot where, with perhaps only their school biscuits for dinner, they pass their day in games and amusement under his guidance and encouragement.

Whitefish Lake Day-school.—The teacher of this school is a good musician and teaches the children to sing, to knit and sew, and is competent to teach them in all the other branches, as the furthest advanced pupils are only in standard IV. The average attendance of pupils for the past year was seven and one-half, and the school was kept open one hundred and seventy-nine days. As the average attendance during the last quarter fell to between two and three, the progress made latterly may be considered nil. In the first half of the year two very proficient scholars, Edith Steinhauer and Peter Stamp were attending, but they are much beyond the school age. Discipline was well maintained, and the revised programme of studies followed. The school-house, which was built four years ago, is close to the residence of the Methodist missionary and adjoining the Methodist church. It is comfortable, heated by a large box stove, and its equipment similar to that of the other day-schools.

Good Fish Lake Day-school.—The teacher of this school was Mr. A. E. Dawson, and he held a second-class school certificate. He left at the close of the year, and the

school is now closed. He was a painstaking and efficient teacher, and the progress made by the pupils during the past year was much greater than in any other of the day-schools, and the order and discipline maintained were admirable. The average attendance of pupils during the past year was twelve, and the school was kept open two hundred and twelve and a half days. This school is similar in size and equipment to that at Whitefish Lake.

Lac la Biche Boarding-school.—This is an industrial as well as an educational establishment. The school itself is under the direction of the Reverend Sister Dogherty, and it has a daily attendance of twenty-nine Indian children of Treaty No. 6, besides a number of half-breed pupils who receive a free education. As an educational institution it holds a high place in the Territories, and was established forty-two years ago. The accomplished teachers cover a wide field of instruction. The education imparted is in all the branches comprised in that of English. The girls are taught the following industries: knitting, sewing, fancy and plain crochet-work, embroidery, dressmaking, spinning, weaving and manufacture of cloth and dress goods for pupils' wear, and cooking and housekeeping. The boys are trained as gardeners, farmers, millers, carpenters and blacksmiths. The most perfect order and discipline prevail, and what attracts the visitor is the constant work that appears to be going forward in the workshops, fields and gardens, where every one—young and old—appears interested and engrossed in his occupation. There are few schools deserving of greater recognition for the good work done in the cause of civilization than this one.

Religion.—The Indians in this agency are either Roman Catholics or Methodists. In the agency, including the outlying bands, there are three hundred and forty-nine Roman Catholic Indians and three hundred and seventy Methodist Indians; on the three reserves the Methodists are the same number and the Roman Catholics are one hundred and fifty six. There is a Roman Catholic church and missionary on Blue Quill's Reserve, and a Methodist church and missionary at Whitefish Lake. The schools at Goodfish Lake and Saddle Lake are used as churches on Sundays by the teachers of these schools. The Indians all take a great interest in the Sunday services, and their attendance is regular.

Characteristics and Progress.—These Indians as a rule are not indolent; on the contrary, they are capital workers, though there are the drones as there are in all classes, but on the reserves these are the exceptions. They are also very law-abiding. During the past seven years there have been but two magisterial cases. In one instance the Indian received one month, at hard labour, for beating his wife; and in the other the man was committed for shooting and wounding a bull, but the case was dismissed by the judge of the superior court.

A great many of these Indians are becoming better off every year in the possession of cattle. Wahpeeinew raised twenty-five head of stock from one original cow, and Peter Blood, fifteen head under similar circumstances. Thomas Hunter owns forty head of stock and a number of horses. Augustine and Arthur Steinhauer have each a like number of cattle and horses; Little Crane has twenty-five head of stock and six horses; John Whitford, sixteen head; Puskwack, twenty; Chief Pakan the same number, although he had only four head five years ago; but to enumerate them all would require several folios. All of these Indians except Chief Pakan, possess wagons, mowers, and horse-rakes and double harness of their own. When any of them acquire money, they expend it to quite as great advantage as any thrifty white man.

Temperance.—During my seven and one-half years' residence here as agent, I have never seen one of the Indians intoxicated nor have I known one to have in his possession any intoxicating liquor. In carrying out my duties I have frequently to take some of the Indians to Edmonton with me, and in all my visits with them to that town, I have yet to see one of them show any symptoms of having touched it and I am convinced that very few, if any, either touch or taste it, nor is there any record, magisterial or otherwise, to be found, that they have ever offended in this manner since I took charge of this agency.

Morality.—This is a subject that must be regarded by comparison. Among Indians situations that would result in social ostracism among any class of white people, are by

them looked upon with a lenient eye. In this light, the Indians living on these reserves may be said to be above the average of their fellows in carrying out both the teachings of the missionaries and the requirements of the law. Last winter it came to my notice that a number of young people on the Whitefish Lake Reserve were living together illegally, and steps were taken to have them married. As no objection to the proceedings was raised by the offenders, Mr. Farmer Tompkins took them to the Methodist missionary and had them legally married. At present I know of no Indians on any of the reserves living together as man and wife who are not recognized as such by the law.

General Remarks.—The general conduct of the Indians on all the reserves during the past twelve months has given much satisfaction; they are displaying more thrift, and the former custom of sharing with their neighbours and of giving feasts when their supplies were in a flourishing condition, has nearly altogether ceased, and they now put in practice the maxim of "every man for himself." During the current month the Indians of the Whitefish Reserve did eleven miles of good and necessary road-work on the main trail between Lac La Biche and Edmonton. After putting the roads and bridges on the Whitefish Lake Reserve in a capital state of repair, they continued their work south to Cache Creek; they cut out new roads through the bush and graded them, repaired the bridges and sections of the old trail that had become dangerous from the depth and frequency of ruts and washouts. Before this work was done, the trail in parts had become an almost impassable bog, a result of the wet season. This work is supposed to be done by the North-west Government, but no help of this kind is given to this section of the electoral district. A new ferry has been put across the Saskatchewan, above the Crooked Rapids, and about twelve miles above the agency. This ferry will shorten the trail to Edmonton about thirty miles. I have had a road built from Blue Quill's Reserve to this ferry. This work entailed four miles of cutting through timber and thick brush by the Indians of Blue Quill's Band, and the road now completed is a good one and wide.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ROSS,

Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
ALBERTA—SARCEE AGENCY,
CALGARY, 22nd July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report with inventory of Government property and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1896.

This agency contains only one reserve, bearing the same name as the agency.

Location.—This reserve is situated at Fish Creek, about ten miles south-west of Calgary, Alberta.

Area.—It contains an area of one hundred and eight-square miles.

Resources.—The resources of this reserve are: good land for cultivation in the eastern portion, hay and grazing land in the central, and building timber and firewood in the western.

Tribe.—The Indians on this reserve belong to the Sarcee tribe.

Vital Statistics.—They number two hundred and twenty-four, made up of sixty-six men, eighty-nine women, thirty-five boys, and thirty-four girls. The deaths during the year were: men, twenty-five; women, three; boys, seven; girls, five; total, thirty.

There were twelve births: eight boys and four girls. The principal cause of death among the adults was lung disease; most of them had been ailing for years.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The deaths of the children may be ascribed chiefly to unnecessary exposure in wet and cold weather and lack of care and proper medical aid when sick, for during illness the Sarcees have more faith in their medicine men and conjurers than in a physician, even when they do accept the aid of a doctor, they do not follow his instructions.

The Indians do not exercise the least control over their children: they are allowed to go in or out, sick or well, during the most inclement weather, often insufficiently clad.

These Indians cannot be called healthy. A great number are afflicted with scrofula and syphilis, though I believe they are improving in health yearly.

More vegetables are being used for food; houses recently built are larger, better ventilated and kept cleaner than the old buildings. There is also an improvement in cleanliness of person and clothing.

All have been vaccinated that are over two years old, and others will be vaccinated on reaching that age this summer.

Occupation.—Farming is the principal work. A good crop of barley, potatoes and roots was put in this year. Six men have been induced to take cows and work cattle on loan from the Government. The cows are chiefly used for stock-raising, though the success of one family in butter-making will, I hope, induce others to attempt this industry. A great quantity of hay is made and sold yearly; there is besides considerable money earned by selling firewood, tanning, selling horses, and working among the farmers in this vicinity.

Buildings.—The Indians have recently built comfortable and substantial houses, well floored, walls whitewashed, roofs shingled and painted. Timber for new houses and stables was made during the spring months. The agency buildings are all in good repair. No new buildings have been erected.

Stock.—The stock wintered well and all are in the best condition.

Implements.—The implements are in good repair. All were housed during the winter, and those not required after seeding were cleaned and put under shelter. The Indians now buy their hay-forks and some of them buy their chopping axes.

Education.—The Sarcees do not seem to have any conception of the advantages of education, but they are willing to have their children taken off their hands and cared for until they are old enough to be useful around the camp, herding horses, &c. There are twenty-two children of school age, all of whom except three are in the boarding-school, two of these I expect will shortly enter; the medical officer has pronounced the other unfit to attend. The teacher, Mr. Percy Stocken, is competent and efficient. The children are bright and intelligent and make good progress until they attain the age of thirteen or fourteen years, when they appear to lose interest in their studies and want to leave the school. This wish is too much encouraged by their parents. The studies taught are: reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and drawing. The school is well supplied with material, and strict discipline is enforced. All seem content and happy.

Religion.—There are only three of the Sarcees that profess Christianity—two have joined the Church of England and one the Roman Catholic Church. The others cling tenaciously to their old rites and customs. There is on the reserve a church and resident missionary, Rev. Mr. Tims, of the Church of England.

Characteristics and Progress.—The Sarcees cannot be called industrious, though the majority will work when immediate results can be obtained. They work willingly at making hay, cutting wood for sale, and working for settlers, but they are very unwilling to do any work in return for the assistance they receive from the Government. Dislike to prolonged exertion is perhaps the worst failing in those who do work, though the number of those who seem desirous to better their condition is increasing. The Sarcees are evidently improving their condition every year, but not very fast, they reluctantly admit their progress is slow. They have better buildings, more houses, better lodges and more in number, and they are better clothed. Crow Child, Jim Big Plume,

One Spot, Big Belly and Big Crow are among those who are doing well. The Sarcees may fairly be called law-abiding and respecters of law and order.

Temperance.—The majority of the Sarcees are addicted to the use of intoxicants and too many are intemperate when they can obtain liquor. Lately, through the efforts of the Mounted Police, very little drinking has been indulged in by the Indians.

Morality.—Morality is upheld. Immorality is always censured and denounced.

Irrigation.—The Calgary Irrigation Company has completed its main ditch through the reserve, so that it will be possible to irrigate all but a few acres of the land under cultivation, and the greater part of the hay land. This will be of great benefit to the Indians if they take advantage of it, which I believe they will. It also lessens the danger of prairie fires, as it divides the reserve.

General Remarks.—During the year the Sarcees were visited by Their Excellencies the Governor General and Lady Aberdeen. The Indians were much impressed by the evident sympathy and kindness shown them.

The Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs and the Indian Commissioner visited the reserve also. The Sarcees are looking forward to a repetition of their visits this year.

I have, &c.,

SAML. B. LUCAS,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
ALBERTA,

STONY RESERVE, 30th June, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report, together with tabular statement and inventory of all Government property under my charge up to 30th June, 1896.

STONY RESERVE.

Location.—This reserve is situated some fifteen miles from the Rockies, in the foot hills, having an area of sixty-nine thousand seven hundred and twenty acres, twenty-four thousand of which are under timber. The Canadian Pacific Railway runs through the centre of the reserve, having a station, Morley, only half a mile from the Government buildings. The reserve is well watered by numerous streams and springs which empty into the Bow River, this river running directly through the whole length of the reserve, which is inhabited by the Stony Indians.

Vital Statistics.—On this reserve there is a population of five hundred and seventy, consisting of two hundred and sixty-six men and boys and three hundred and four women and girls, a total decrease of six compared with last year.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The general health of the Indians has been fair. This spring they all had a very severe attack of la grippe, which proved fatal in many instances, particularly in the case of those afflicted with consumption.

They whitewashed their houses inside and out, and raked up and burned all refuse from around the buildings.

Household Furniture.—A number of them have during the year added bedsteads, tables, chairs and stoves to their household furniture, and seem very comfortable.

Occupation.—From the 1st July to 1st September, when the Indians usually receive their annuity money, they are employed in hoeing their root crop and putting up hay, then they go off on their annual hunt, which lasts from three to five months. From this they earn their own living while out, and on their return bring quantities of valuable furs to sell to the traders in exchange for clothing, groceries and ammunition. During the early summer they get a good share of work around Canmore and Anthracite in the mines, and at Banff cutting wood and acting as guides to tourists.

Stock.—The raising of cattle is our work here, as this reserve is only fit for grazing purposes. During the year we have killed one hundred and fourteen head, thereby furnishing the greater share of the beef required to supply the Indians. We have now a band of seven hundred and seventy-six all in good condition. We have been working into the Galloway cattle, the Indians having now purchased for themselves ten thoroughbred pedigreed bulls from Mr. W. E. Cochrane, of High River. We find they are the best feeders in the cold weather, and in the middle of winter the best beef received in the ration-house was from the Galloway cattle. We have branded this spring one hundred and ninety-three calves.

Buildings.—A number of the Indians have repaired their old houses by putting in new windows and doors, some by putting on a new shingled roof, and three have built new ones. Two of these are fine, large, well finished houses.

Education.—There are about one hundred children of school age on the reserve divided up among the three schools, viz. : No. 1, with Mr. J. W. Widdrie as teacher, No. 2, with Rev. R. B. Steinhauer, B.A., as teacher, and the McDougall Orphanage with its staff. I can see a greater interest being taken by the parents in the education of their children in this way. Where in former years the school was never considered in selecting their camping place, this year it is, the majority of them camping near their respective schools. Considering the irregularity of attendance in the day-schools, the teachers have done very good work. At the orphanage, which is a boarding-school, there are now thirty children being well looked after by Mr. Butler and his assistants. They have one teacher, Miss Walsh, lately arrived from Ontario, but who has already brought the children on splendidly, thereby proving that the Indian schools need the very best grade of trained teachers. The girls are taught all kinds of housework, and the boys general farm-work.

Characteristics and Progress.—Taking the Stonies as a tribe, they are industrious and law-abiding, not one Indian belonging to the reserve having been punished for any offence during the year. Some of them are becoming well off: Jonas Two Young Men branded eighteen calves this year, has a good comfortable house, lives and dresses like a white man. Another, Peter Wesley, has a herd of over seventy cattle, besides a number of horses; he has built a fine story and a half house with good windows, panel doors and shingled roof. Also Hector Crawler, who killed some \$300 worth of furs last winter; part of this he expended in lumber, shingles, doors, &c., for his new house, and the balance in clothing and groceries. And so with a number I could mention.

Temperance and Morality.—I have been now in charge of this reserve for five years and have never seen or known of one of the Indians being the worse of liquor or in fact of having any, as they do not seem to have any desire for it. Generally their morals are good.

Religion.—The Stonies are all Methodists and attend the one church. They have service in the morning, followed by Sunday-school, in the church, and in the afternoon each band holds a prayer meeting usually led by one of themselves, either in one of their own houses or in the school-house. There they have prayer meetings during the week.

General Remarks.—During the year we have put up a good length of fencing on the reserve. At the farm we have put in a good well with a pump, and built a good house over the whole, also built a large stable for calves in the winter and a lean-to against the ration-house, thereby sheltering the Indians while waiting their turn to be

rationed. We had little returns from our root crop, owing to drought and frost. However the Stonies saved enough potatoes for seed. So far this season it is so hot and dry we have very poor prospects of anything. The grass is already burned brown and is not over three inches high; but, if we get rain in the next week, it may come on yet.

I have, &c.,

P. L. GRASSE,
Farmer in Charge.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
ASSINIBOIA—SWAN RIVER AGENCY,
CÔTÉ, 4th August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward my annual report with tabular statement and inventory of Government property under my charge, up to 30th June, 1896.

This agency consists of three reserves here, and a fishing station on Lake Winnipegosis. They are as follows:—

CÔTÉ RESERVE, No. 64 (SAULTEAUX).

Area and Vital Statistics.—This reserve has an area of thirty-six thousand one hundred and sixteen acres, and a population of two hundred and seventy-eight souls, consisting of seventy-two men, seventy-five women, sixty-one boys and sixty-three girls.

Education.—There are seventy-eight children of an age to attend school. Thirty-one of these are at the industrial-school at Regina, thirty-one are on the roll of the Crowstand Boarding-school here, with an actual attendance of twenty-six. The rest are either very young or else belong to hunting Indians, who do not live permanently on the reserve.

Religion.—The religious denominations to which the members of this band belong are represented as follows: Presbyterians, one hundred and forty-nine; Roman Catholics, fifteen; Church of England, one; pagans, one hundred and thirteen.

There is on the reserve a church, also a mission and a boarding-school, all of which are under the direction of a Presbyterian minister.

Stock.—The Indians on this reserve have seventy-one oxen, one hundred and seventy cows, one hundred and twelve steers, one hundred and twenty young cattle, seventy-five horses, and ninety-four sheep.

KEY'S RESERVE, No. 65 (CREES).

Area.—This reserve has an area of nineteen thousand five hundred and sixty acres.

Vital Statistics.—The population consists of fifty-four men, sixty-three women, forty-nine boys and fifty-six girls—in all two hundred and twenty-two. There are fifty-five children of school age, fourteen of whom attend school here, twenty-five at Shoal River school and ten at the industrial-school at Elkhorn, Man., only leaving six not attending school.

Religion and Education.—The religious faith of the members of this band is as follows: Church of England, one hundred and twenty-five; Roman Catholics, eight; and pagans, eighty-nine.

They have a mission church and an Indian day-school, under the charge of a Church of England clergyman, and at Shoal River a day-school, in charge of a missionary there.

Stock.—This band has twenty oxen, eighty-eight cows, fifty-two steers and sixty-five young cattle, thirty-six horses and five sheep.

KEE-SEE-KOUSE RESERVE, No. 66 (SWAMPY-CREEP).

Area and Vital Statistics.—This reserve has an area of eighteen thousand three hundred and two acres, with a population of one hundred and forty-six souls, viz., fifty-one men, fifty-one women and fifty-four children. Of these twenty-five are of school age, fourteen of whom attend the Indian day-school on the reserve.

Resources.—This agency lies along the Assiniboine River, having the Duck Mountain at the back of it. It is well adapted for stock, fairly good for barley and roots, but not for other grain. We are fifty-five miles from a market. The only article we can realize cash for is number one well-bred steers. This we are doing with fair success.

Religion.—The religious faith of these Indians is as follows: Roman Catholics, fifty-two; Presbyterians, seventeen; Church of England, ten; and pagans, sixty-seven. There is a Roman Catholic mission and church on the reserve, under the direction of a resident priest. In fact, all religious and educational matters on the reserves of this agency are under the charge of three resident clergymen.

Stock and Farming Implements.—This band has thirty-one oxen, eighty-one cows, thirty-eight steers, seventy-eight young cattle, forty horses and fifty-two sheep—in all nine hundred and twenty-six cattle—thirteen thoroughbred bulls, one hundred and fifty-one horses and one hundred and fifty-one sheep. These Indians also own out of money earned by themselves sixteen mowers, twelve horse-rakes, twenty-three wagons, also a number of other articles. Some have built cellars for their roots, milk-houses and sheds for implements. The individual property in cattle, horses, implements, &c., of some of these Indians is as follows:—

Geo. Brass	\$880
Wm. Brass	800
Thos. Brass	615
John Redlake	565
Kitchemonia	760
Que-we-yance	825
White Hawk and sons	708
J. Severight	665
Chief Côté	520
A. Callwell	805
Mrs. Favel	600
Thos. Singuish	560
Bill Fidler	425

And many others with property of their own, acquired in the last five years, equal to the above.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The health of these Indians has been fairly good. We have to contend with chronic scrofula, a large number being affected with it. An attack of erysipelas—seven cases, and two of diphtheria—broke out in May last, but owing to the careful supervision of Dr. Patrick, the medical attendant, the diphtheria was soon controlled and stamped out. All sanitary precautions are fully carried out.

Progress.—The Indians on the reserves are advancing. They feel that they possess property, and are most willing to care for it.

Religion.—We have four mission churches and three resident clergymen. The Indians attend divine service very regularly and show an interest in their respective religions. This goes a long way to help the advancement of education, which is of very vital importance.

I have, &c.,

W. E. JONES,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
ASSINIBOIA—TOUCHWOOD HILLS AGENCY,
KUTAWA, 20th July, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1896, together with a tabular statement and inventory of Government property under my charge.

Agency.—This agency is situated in section sixteen, range sixteen, township twenty-eight, west of the second principal meridian, and is comprised of the following reserves, viz: Muscowequan's, No. 85; George Gordon's, No. 86; Day Star's, No. 87; Poor Man's, No. 88; Fishing Lake, No. 89; and Nut Lake, No. 90.

MUSCOWEQUAN'S RESERVE.

Location and Area.—This reserve is located in ranges fifteen and sixteen, township twenty-seven, having an area of twenty-three thousand and forty acres.

Resources.—There is a large quantity of good farming land on this reserve, but it is so subject to early frosts that it is difficult to secure a good crop of grain; however, it is good for stock-raising, having plenty of hay and water. The timber on the north-west part of the reserve is of large size, and good quality, but it was badly damaged by the fires in the summer of 1894.

Tribe and Vital Statistics.—This band belongs to the Saulteaux tribe, and consists of thirty-seven men, forty-three women and seventy-three children; total, one hundred and fifty-three. There have been seven deaths and eleven births. The band has increased eleven in population over the previous year, which is accounted for by excess of births over deaths, and several women from other bands marrying into this.

Farmer in Charge.—Mr. William Lambert is the farmer in charge of this band.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—There was a good deal of illness in this band during the beginning of the winter, and in the spring from bad colds; during the months of February and March nearly all the band had the mumps. All sanitary precautions are taken, such as vaccination, keeping premises clean, whitewashing houses, cleaning yards, and burning all refuse in the spring. But the closest supervision has to be taken to compel this being done, as Indians are not naturally inclined towards cleanliness.

Occupation.—Their principal means of making a living are farming and stock-raising. With the former they have had very poor success in the past, owing to the early frosts and dry seasons. At the present time their grain crops are looking fairly well. Their potatoes will be good, other root crops fair. They are taking better care of their root crops this year than formerly, keeping them well hoed and weeded. A

number in this band are hunters and make their living in that way. These Indians will not settle down on the reserve and work.

Stock.—Their stock consists of fourteen oxen, two bulls, forty-five cows, thirty-three steers, twenty-six heifers and twenty-nine calves, making a total of one hundred and forty-nine head, also forty-two ponies; and all are in good condition.

Buildings.—The majority of their buildings are of an inferior class, but a marked improvement can be seen each year in this direction. Several have started to erect new houses, which they will finish this fall, and I trust that in a short time their buildings will compare favourably with those on the other reserves.

Farming Implements.—The Indians of this band are beginning to purchase implements for themselves, such as axes, hay-forks, mowers, horse-rakes, wagons, &c. They purchased two mowers and two horse-rakes this season. I find that when an Indian purchases an article himself, he takes much better care of it than when it is given to him by the department.

Education.—The school in this reserve is under the Roman Catholic mission, which has, with the assistance of the Government, built a splendid new boarding-school, which will be able to accommodate forty pupils. It will be complete about the first week in August, and will be one of the best buildings of its kind in the Territories. The old building was found to be too small to accommodate the number of pupils attending, besides being old and continually in want of repair, the ceilings were low and the place unhealthy. There are twenty-two pupils attending as boarders and six as day-scholars besides a number that will be brought in, when they move into the new building next month. This school is conducted by Mr. F. W. Dennehy, principal, who has had charge of it for the past ten years. The equipment in this school is very good, so also is the discipline and order. The pupils are making very good progress in their studies, and the attendance is good. The parents are each year taking more interest in the education of their children, and there is now very little difficulty in getting them to send their children to school.

Religion.—The Roman Catholic mission holds services here now every Sunday, which a number of the Indians attend regularly, although the majority of them do not manifest any interest in religion.

Progress.—On the whole these Indians are not as industrious as I would wish. Many of them are very indolent and set a bad example for others who might do better if away from those who do not try to improve themselves; yet I am pleased to state that I can see a decided improvement; the most marked is in one Windi-goo-wee-yance, a headman, who, eighteen months ago, was thought to be one of the worst and most indolent Indians in the band, and who is now considered one of the best workers and is doing well.

Temperance.—This band has been the worst in this respect in this agency. I have fined two outside persons for supplying these Indians with intoxicants, one \$150 and costs, and the other \$50 and costs; also sentenced one Indian to two months in jail, and two others to one month each, during the past year. I think this has put a stop to the traffic.

GEORGE GORDON'S RESERVE.

Mr. Thomas Baker is farmer-in-charge.

Location.—This reserve is located in ranges sixteen and seventeen, townships twenty-six and twenty-seven, having an area of thirty thousand seven hundred and twenty acres.

Tribe and Vital Statistics.—This band belongs to the Cree tribe, and consists of thirty-eight men, forty women and seventy-nine children, being a total of one hundred and fifty-seven persons. There have been three births and six deaths. There is a decrease in population of three, owing to the excess of deaths over births.

Health.—The general health of this band has been much better than during past years, and is, I think, due largely to the fact that they are now using more vegetables as a diet than formerly. The only epidemic during the past year was the mumps, which

was very bad here in January last; but no serious results occurred from it. Sanitary precautions are taken in having the premises kept clean, houses whitewashed and all persons vaccinated. As the majority of this band are intelligent treaty half-breeds, they do not require to be compelled to do these things, and they set a good example to the Indians.

Occupation.—A large number in this band get very little assistance from the department: they do a good deal of freighting and working for outsiders. Their farming has not been a success in the past, but their grain and potato crops look good at present. Their root crop was eaten down by worms this spring after it had come up in good shape; this I regret, as the Indians of this band take a great interest in their gardens.

Buildings.—The buildings here are of a good class; the majority are one and a half stories high: the up-stairs is used as a sleeping apartment; a number have several rooms in them: some of the houses are shingled, and the rest are all thatched. They are all fairly well furnished, with chairs, tables, cupboards, stoves, cooking and eating utensils, bedsteads and bedding. A number of the Indians have sewing-machines, clocks, &c., and as a rule they keep their houses very clean and tidy.

Stock.—Their stock consists of twenty-eight oxen, three bulls, one hundred cows, eighty-one steers, thirty-six heifers and thirty-nine calves, making a total of two hundred and eighty-seven head, besides having seventy-three horses and ponies. Stock-raising will be their principal means of making a living and their reserve is well adapted for it.

Farming Implements.—These Indians are well supplied with implements, which they have purchased themselves: they have eight mowers, eight horse-rakes, eleven sets of bob-sleighs, eleven wagons, besides a large number of other implements and tools.

Education.—The department has built a splendid stone building, 42 x 48 feet, two stories high, with a basement, as a boarding-school on this reserve; it is under the auspices of the Church of England. There are twenty-seven pupils attending as boarders, and three as day-scholars. The school is now managed by the Rev. C. F. Lallemand as principal, assisted by the Rev. F. Palgrave; Miss Vidal, matron, with Miss Duncan as assistant. This school is well furnished. Twenty-eight new iron bedsteads with spring mattresses were supplied last January. The department has also supplied this school with two Babcock fire-extinguishers, one Star glass-lined chemical fire-engine, twenty-four hand fire-grenades and twelve fire-buckets; (the same was also supplied the Muscowequan Boarding-school). These have been distributed through the building, so as to be handy to get at in case of fire. The Ladies' Auxiliary Society of Toronto sends large quantities of clothing, bedding, &c., to this school each year, which is a great help, and is very much appreciated by all concerned in the school. The discipline and order in this school are good, and the pupils are making very satisfactory progress. The parents take a very deep interest in the education of their children, and state that they wish them to have a good education.

Religion.—The Church of England has a church on this reserve, in which services are held twice every Sunday, and these are well attended. These Indians manifest a greater interest in religion than any of the other bands.

Progress. They are an industrious and law-abiding people, and are each year getting in better circumstances. They have summer-fallowed about sixty acres this season for crop next year.

Temperance.—They are on the whole a temperate people, as I have never heard of a single case of drunkenness amongst them.

DAY STAR'S AND POOR MAN'S RESERVES.

These two bands are under the charge of Farmer E. Stanley, who is assisted by Mr. C. Favel. The former resides on Poor Man's and the latter on Day Star's Reserve.

Location.—They are located in ranges sixteen, seventeen and eighteen, townships twenty-nine and thirty. The former consists of sixteen thousand acres, and the latter, twenty-seven thousand and forty acres.

Resources.—Day Star's Reserve is not at all adapted for farming, owing to its being subject to early frosts. The Indians on this reserve have never yet had a successful crop of grain, and during the past four years no grain has been sown, but we are trying about five acres of barley this year, and if it is successful will sow more next year. However, the reserve is well adapted for stock-raising, there being plenty of hay and water, and the land well sheltered; the reserve is also supplied with timber of superior quality. Poor Man's Reserve is better adapted for farming, and not so subject to frost; it is also very good for stock-raising, but the timber is small and scarce.

Tribe.—Both these bands belong to the Cree tribe.

Vital Statistics.—The number in Day Star's Band is twenty-one men, twenty-one women and thirty-eight children, making a total of eighty persons, being a decrease of two compared with last year, which is accounted for by the number of deaths over births, there being six deaths and four births during the year. The number in Poor Man's Band is twenty-eight men, twenty-six women and forty-five children, making a total of ninety-nine, being an increase of one over last year, which is accounted for by several women marrying into other bands, as there was one death and five births during the year.

Health and Sanitary Condition.—The general health of these bands has been very good, excepting that mumps was very prevalent amongst old and young during the early spring. Sanitary precautions were taken in the spring in having all yards cleaned up and rubbish burnt, and as all the Indians go into tents as soon as spring opens up, and do not go back to their houses until the cold weather sets in, their houses are thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed in the fall before they move into them.

Occupation.—Their principal means of making a living is from their stock; they sold \$1,283 worth of beef, out of which they purchased one hundred and twenty-eight sacks of flour, a large number of hay-forks, axes and tools, besides many of them keeping sufficient beef for their own use during the winter. The grain crop on Poor Man's Reserve is at present looking splendid. The potato and other root crops on both the reserves are looking well and are well cared for.

Buildings.—The houses on these reserves are of a good class, they all have thatched roofs and are well built, with good doors and windows and floors, and as a rule are kept clean and tidy, many of them have tables, chairs, bedsteads, cupboards, and are fairly well furnished; they all have the open fire-place, which makes a good ventilator. The stables are also well built, with stanchions in all of them.

Stock.—Day Star's Band has seventeen oxen, two bulls, seventy-one cows, sixty-three steers, twenty-two heifers and forty-six calves, making a total of two hundred and twenty-one head, also thirty-one ponies. Poor Man's Band has fourteen oxen, two bulls, forty-three cows, thirty-eight steers, twenty heifers, and thirty calves, a total of one hundred and forty-seven head, and forty-eight ponies.

Farming Implements.—These bands are beginning to purchase implements and tools for themselves, and they take much better care of them than of those given to them by the department.

Education.—The only school on these reserves is a day-school on Day Star's Reserve, conducted under the auspices of the Church of England, Mr. Mark Williams, teacher. There are fourteen pupils on the roll, and the attendance has been very regular; all the children of school age on the reserve are attending the school. The school-room is comfortable and fairly well equipped. The pupils are making very good progress; the parents take a very great interest in this school, and wish to keep it up. The children on Poor Man's Reserve attend the boarding-schools on Gordon's and Muscowequan's Reserves; also the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school, but the majority are at Gordon's school. The parents of these children do not take very much interest in having their children educated, and would not send them to school if they could help it.

Religion.—There are no churches near these reserves, and although the Church of England has a missionary living near Poor Man's Reserve, who does mission work amongst both bands, yet they are nearly all pagans of the worst kind and manifest no interest in religion.

Progress.—The Indians on Day Star's Reserve are an industrious, law-abiding people, and are each year doing more to help themselves; they are the best lot of Indians as a whole in this agency. I regret that I cannot speak so favourably of Poor Man's Band; they are more inclined to be indolent and shiftless, and it is sometimes very discouraging in trying to help them along; at other times they do fairly well.

Temperance.—I have never heard of a single case of drunkenness in either of these bands.

FISHING LAKE AND NUT LAKE RESERVES.

Location and Area.—These reserves belong to one band (Yellow Quill's). The former is in range twelve, townships thirty-three and thirty-four, and contains twenty-two thousand and eighty acres; the latter is in ranges twelve and thirteen, townships thirty-eight and thirty-nine, and contains ten thousand seven hundred and forty-four acres.

Resources.—These reserves are well adapted for stock, having an abundance of hay and water, also good shelter. There is plenty of good timber; and on the Nut Lake Reserve there is some spruce. There are plenty of fish in the lakes near the reserves, and game is also plentiful.

Tribe.—These Indians belong to the Saulteaux tribe. There are sixty-seven men, ninety-one women and one hundred and ninety-nine children, making a total of three hundred and fifty-seven, being an increase of three over last year, which is accounted for by several widows with families marrying into this band from other reserves. There have been twenty-one deaths and fourteen births during the year.

Occupation.—About fifty persons reside at Fishing Lake; the rest of the band are scattered in groups of from thirty to sixty persons over the country surrounding the Nut Lake Reserve. They live by fishing and hunting. They sold about \$12,000 worth of furs during the past season; this has been the best year they have had for a number of years, and as long as the hunting keeps good, it will be impossible to get this band to settle down on a reserve. These Indians get very little assistance from the department.

Health.—The only time in the year that this band is all together is at the treaty payments in August, at which time a doctor is present and examines them all, in order to see that none of them have any infectious disease, but they will not allow themselves to be vaccinated; as a rule they are a very healthy lot; they nearly all live in tents throughout the whole year.

Stock.—The Fishing Lake Band has twelve head of cattle; and a portion of the Nut Lake Band living near Kinistino, has thirteen head of private cattle.

Religion and Education.—There are no churches or schools in the district. The Indians are all pagans, and are opposed to sending their children to school. The Church of England has recently sent a missionary, the Rev. C. Kettle, to the district, to endeavour to establish a mission among the Indians.

General Remarks.—No attempt was made to hold a sun dance here this year, neither did these Indians leave their reserves to attend any that had been proposed to be held at other agencies, as I told them that the department would not allow such dances to be held. I have not heard of a single one being held this year. This is, I consider, a great stride towards civilizing these pagan Indians.

The individual earnings of the Indians in this agency, amounted to over \$16,700 during the year, which is an increase of \$6,500 over the previous year.

We have been able to effect a saving of one hundred and sixty sacks of flour, and about two thousand four hundred pounds of bacon, compared with the previous year. I trust that each year we shall be able to make a further saving over the preceding year, as our Indians grow more self-supporting.

I have had the hearty co-operation of my clerk and of the several farmers, who are capable and practical men.

I have, &c.,

JNO. P. WRIGHT,

Indian Agent.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
REPORT OF SURVEYOR,
BLACKFOOT AGENCY, 1st August, 1896.

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1896.

At the commencement of the year I had already been some months in charge of the irrigation canal under construction on the Blackfoot Reserve, and sufficient work had been carried out to prove the feasibility of taking water from the Bow River and putting it on some two thousand two hundred acres of land known as Old Sun's bottom. The fact had also been demonstrated that work of this nature could be carried out successfully and economically by Indian labour, which would give promise of proving in the course of a few years a means of making this large band of Indians self-supporting.

During the month of July several gates were constructed to control the water.

Receiving instructions to return to Regina, the work was left in its then unfinished state until resumed again this season.

From the Blackfoot Reserve I proceeded to Regina, where the month of August was employed in the office.

In compliance with instructions to go to the Swan River Agency, I left Regina on the 31st August. On my arrival at Fort Pelly, a survey to re-establish the boundaries of the Côté and Kee-see-kouse Reserves was commenced and carried on until the end of September.

At this date Mr. Agent Jones left for Shoal River to make the annuity payments, and I accompanied him *en route* to a point on the Swan River where it was proposed to lay out a hay reserve for the benefit of the Indians in his agency. The approximate location of the boundaries having been pointed out by Mr. Jones, the survey was at once proceeded with and a return made to Pelly on the 18th October.

Arriving at that point, the main trails were surveyed with a view to locating the Indian homesteads and obtaining such topographical features of the reserve as it was thought would be of interest to the department.

The work of re-establishing boundary lines already mentioned was also gone on with until the end of October, when very cold weather arrived and the ground was frozen to an extent which made establishing of lines and posts and mounds impossible. I therefore decided to proceed to the Birtle Agency, where it might still be feasible to take levels in connection with the proposed irrigation schemes. Before doing so, I drove to Moosomin, intending to reduce my party, but on reaching there the winter had set in for good, and I was instructed by the Commissioner to return to headquarters. I arrived in Regina by rail on 2nd November, and my horses and party a few days later by trail.

From 2nd November, 1895, to 1st May, 1896, I remained at headquarters engaged in the preparation of plans, drawings and various reports, all of which have since been submitted.

On 2nd May, 1896, I proceeded to the Blackfoot Reserve to re-assume supervision of the irrigation canal. My efforts were here directed chiefly to the planning and construction of a head-gate to control the flow of water before the annual June flood of the Bow River. A very late spring and unexpected difficulties met with, in placing the foundations, made it doubtful if the work could be accomplished in time to employ the water on this season's crop, but I am glad to report that we were ultimately successful.

Work was at the same time being carried on on the canal from the intake for a sufficient distance to permit of irrigation being employed in the fall when the river is at its lowest stage, experience having proved the value of giving land a good soaking at this season. Considerable work was done in this direction; but as soon as it was possible to employ water on the crops, it was discontinued.

The work remaining to be done is not great, and can be completed at a more convenient season. A new ditch three-quarters of a mile in length was constructed to replace natural channels where the water had heretofore been conveyed by allowing it to spread out and form two considerable lakes. A great loss of water from seepage and evaporation is thus avoided.

Lateral ditches were also carried from the main canal to all growing crops. I may so far anticipate the new year as to mention that the work was sufficiently advanced to turn the water on by the 12th July, with a noticeable improvement at the time of writing.

I have, &c.,

A. W. PONTON,

In charge of Indian Reserve Surveys, Man. and N.W.T.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

ALBERTA DISTRICT,

HOSPITAL, BLOOD RESERVE, 5th October, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit a succinct report, in reference to the hospital built on this reserve for the benefit of the Indians of Treaty No. 7.

During the fiscal year just ended, the hospital has been open continuously.

There has not been a single day of the year that the dwelling-rooms have been unoccupied. The average number of patients treated has been more than five. Twenty-three have been received during a period of time more or less extended. Of this number, eight were cured, and seven died; two preferred to return to their homes, before being cured, and of the six actually under the care of the attendants, four are in progress of being cured, and two are incurable.

The patients who come to ask for treatment at the hospital, generally belong to the class of those who are most neglected, either because they are poor or in consequence of their not having any near relations.

They are generally grateful, and know how to appreciate the devotedness of the sisters, who attend on them daily. Up to the present time, no method of constraint has been employed for the purpose of compelling sick Indians to come and be treated at the hospital. Every one remains free to come, and also to return to his home, if he prefers it, after having tried the treatment received at the hospital.

Apart from the attention given to those who stay in the hospital, a good number of patients come, from time to time, to have some remedies administered to them, or to consult as to their complaints; moreover, every day, and principally on the days when the Indians receive their rations of beef and flour, one of the sisters is obliged to be at their disposal, in order to procure for them the remedies they have come for, at the dispensary.

The hospital-service thus satisfies numerous wants; and although these advantages might be still further extended, yet a great number among the Indians know how to profit by them.

I have, &c.,

SISTER ST. EUSEBE,

Superior.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

REPORT OF INSPECTOR MCGIBBON,

REGINA, 21st September, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my eleventh annual report of my work of inspecting Indian agencies and reserves in the North-west Territories and Manitoba.

My last report ended with Touchwood Agency. I then proceeded to Regina, and on the 11th of September, 1895, left for Brandon Industrial-school to relieve the principal, Rev. Mr. Semmens, who left for Lake Winnipeg with the view of procuring more pupils. I returned to Regina and commenced the inspection of the department warehouse on 7th October. I audited the books since last inspection, June, 1894, making seventeen months work to go over. W. B. Pocklington is store-keeper; W. Grahame, clerk; Peter Hourie, packer. The building was in good repair, the basement had been sheeted with tar-paper and ship-lap, which made the place warmer, as well as more secure and dry for the goods. The inside of the warehouse was in good order, all goods neatly placed, standard samples in their proper places and the best of care taken of property. I checked all the advice sheets returned by agents with the shipping entries, and took an inventory of the contents of the warehouse, and balanced each account with ledger and furnished a report with inventory to the Commissioner. I complimented the clerk, Mr. Grahame, on the neat and careful way in which he kept the books and accounts; Mr. Pocklington also for the vigilance displayed in the general work of receiving and forwarding of supplies, he being thoroughly posted as to his particular duties. Whilst at the warehouse I inspected a number of samples of flour, tea, &c.

CROOKED LAKE AGENCY.

I returned to Regina, arriving there on 29th February, and on 5th March left for Crooked Lake Agency, and commenced my inspection there on the 6th March, 1896. Col. McDonald, agent; Duncan Pierce, clerk; Harry Cameron, interpreter and teamster; J. A. Sutherland, farmer, Reserve No. 73, or Farm 3*a*; Isaac Pollock, farmer, Reserve, No. 71, or Farm 3*c*; James Pollock, farmer, Reserve No. 72, or Farm 3*b*; M. Calder, farmer, Reserve No. 74, or Farm 3*d*.

This agency had not been inspected since December, 1892, by Mr. Wadsworth. I had the transactions, therefore, of thirty-nine months to go over. I spent nearly fourteen days, in company with the agent, visiting the various reserves, going from house to house, and from stable to stable, checking each Indian's cattle. I found a great improvement since I inspected it last, in 1889, and a much greater change for the better than it was in 1886, when I first inspected it, this being when I commenced my work in the department. At that time one could scarcely stir without being besieged by Indians asking for help in the way of food, whereas this time no one asked for food, and no one complained about not getting enough. I found an improvement also in the style of houses, and how they were kept, and in their equipment, and in the mode of living. I also found greater care in the management of the cattle, by having good comfortable stables and provision for water. The style of farming also had in most cases been much improved, and there seemed to be a general desire among the Indians to work better, being more industrious, and the rule was to better their position in every way. The agency buildings were in good order: they had been painted since last inspection; an implement shed had been put up, also a flag-staff. The agent had a

very good garden. The clerk has one also, good crops of cabbage, celery, turnips, carrots, beets, pease, lettuce, parsnips, potatoes, &c., and the agent has two fields for oats for the agency use, one under crop, and one summer-fallowed, and neatly fenced. There was some nice poultry around, which gave a cheerful appearance to the place. The first reserve visited was Ochapowace, No. 71; Isaac Pollock, farmer. The farmhouse has had outside siding put on since last inspected, and a staircase put in by the farmer, Mr. McNeill, at his own expense. The store-house had a new floor put on in the fall of 1895.

All the houses on this reserve now occupied, have been built since I was here in 1889, and a great many of them since last inspection, in 1892. The same can be said about the stables. It would take too much space to give a report of each house and stable, the same as furnished to the Commissioner, so that I will only give a few as samples of the general run:—

Belanger, No. 69—New place, started two years ago; good house, roof-rails and sod: whitewashed outside and in; logs on hand for another new house; two beds, quilts, blankets, pillows, cook-stove, cupboards, table; no open fire-place, but promised to have one before another winter; pictures, lamps, clock, dishes; makes butter in summer: floor of house scrubbed clean, comfortable place. Has hen-house, horse stable, cattle stable with twelve stanchions, piggery, granary, corral and a good supply of hay. Had a binder covered with canvas. I told him to build a shed for it. Had a new wagon, fanning-mill, bob-sleighs, jumpers, hay-racks, twenty-five loads of hay in hay field, sixteen acres of new land broken, six of which are in a new place for his son; had seven head of cattle. The house was neat and clean, and arrangements tastily made, no doubt owing to the good training the daughters had got at Qu'Appelle Industrial-school.

Gabriel Belanger, No. 117—New house built last fall, old man sick here; mud floor, no open fire-place, cook-stove; dirty and uncomfortable; new stable, with four stanchions: had two oxen, and hay was on hand; water near both Belangers. I may say that a dirty house was the exception on these reserves.

Kee-say-mani-towa-neasis, No. 115—Small house, 12 × 12, no open fire-place, tin stove, wood floors, two beds; whitewashed outside and in; door and window frames painted, cupboard and a good supply of dishes; a clean comfortably built house; had a mower and rake under cover; had eight head of cattle and a good stable; supply of small tools.

Kah-pee-chap-peace, No. 35—Small house, open fire-place, beds on floor, wood floor fairly clean, except in the corners of the house. I told them to clean out the corners as well as the middle of the floor. It was a comfortable place, owing a good deal to the open fire-place; new stable, five head of stock, good sheep. I impressed strongly on all to have the open chimneys put in where they were not in already. One man said: "A chimney is the poor man's stove." I told him a chimney need not hinder him having a stove if he wanted one, but that a chimney would carry off all the foul air of the house. "If that is so," he replied, "why don't you white people have open fire-places in your houses?" I told him all the best houses in the east had grates, some in every room. This is one of the difficulties to contend with here; another is allowing piles of manure to accumulate, instead of hauling it out on the field, this is more done now than in the past. It serves two purposes: it makes the crops grow better and cleans up their places.

Wah-ches-toose, No. 84—Had good house, cook-stove, no open fire-place, table, beds; not whitewashed; lamps, cupboard. Next door is a council room, 20 × 14, not floored. Had seven head of cattle and a good stable. The houses on this reserve have roofs, principally of rail and sod; and in many cases the rails are peeled of the bark, and the clean rails give a nice appearance to the house.

Old Englishman, No. 62, lives with his son George, No. 101, or

Nah-wah-ke-ka-pan—Very nice house, 15 × 15; two beds, table, cupboard, chairs, cook-stove, water-barrel; promised to put in a chimney. We took our lunch at this

house ; comfortable place. At this place there are two goats, oxen and a number of private cattle and horses ; good stables and corrals.

Kanees-tumup-pees-tum-onat, No. 105—Clean little house, open fire-place ; wood floor ; one bed. Had good bob-sleighs and hay-racks, both hand-made. Four head of cattle and a few horses ; warm stable and plenty of hay and water. The houses with open fire-places were by far the best ventilated. A number of good wells have been dug where there were no springs and where the small lakes freeze or cannot be depended upon for a supply.

Wah-wa-okemah, No. 106—New place on the north-east side of the reserve, one of the best built little houses I had seen ; a new chimney and the place was the pink of neatness. This man's wife was a former pupil of Round Lake School. Tables were varnished and doors and windows painted. This man has a brother at Elkhorn School called Black Horse. The man was formerly in the valley, but Mr. Pollock got him to start this place on the bench, where there is any quantity of timber, good land and splendid water, lots of hay, and altogether a most desirable location. Had a good supply of house utensils and everything was clean. Lamps, pictures, Christmas cards, wash-basins, clock. Had a new mower and wagon paid for ; hammers, saws, plane and draw knife, &c. New stable, five stanchions ; eight acres of land broken at old place and three at new place. Had ten bushels of potatoes for seed. Has seven head of cattle. He is a handy man, and made a very fine pair of bob-sleighs, assisted by Mr. Pollock. This man has made a good beginning, and is blessed with a tidy, sensible wife, and if they only continue as they have begun, they are sure to succeed. I complimented them on their nice place. It was a long drive to go to it, but we were rewarded for our trip, as it is a real pleasure to visit such places and to see what can be done by Indians when they have the desire to do it. He is quite a young man, I should say not over twenty-one, and the couple are deserving of every encouragement. The wife's name is Rosy, and she was the widow of one Tradis, a Swampy Indian.

Ne-he-ma-we-pev, No. 107, a neighbour of the above, has also a nice place ; has eight head of cattle.

Jacob Bear, No. 116—House and stables in the valley, near Rev. Mr. McKay's boarding-school. The house is 20 x 20, rough-cast walls and shingled roof, up-stair rooms, good floors and doors, no open chimney ; house well furnished and clean. Has wagon, mower, rake, and a good supply of smaller implements and tools, all private property. Store-house, hen-house, creamery, new lean-to kitchen ; his daughter was busy knitting. Horse stable, 18 x 18, room for sixteen horses ; cattle stable No. 1, 18 x 18, eleven stanchions ; cattle stable No. 2, 18 x 18, the last one for younger cattle ; has twenty head in all. Some good pigs were noticed. A thrifty-looking homestead, and all had the appearance of plenty.

Louis Henry, a former pupil of Qu'Appelle School and who worked for some time in Regina warehouse, has a house in the valley at the west end of the lake. His wife is a daughter of Jacob Bear, and she had her house very clean. Has five head of stock, being a donation from Jacob Bear to his daughter. These are the average of the houses I visited. The crops put in and harvested for three years were :—

1893.

Sown.	Harvested.
61 acres wheat.....	649 bush.
8 " oats.....	48 "
4 " potatoes.....	110 "
2½ " gardens.....	produce consumed.

Hay stacked, two hundred and twenty tons. New land broken, twelve acres. Land summer-fallowed, thirty-five acres.

1894.

Sown.	Harvested.
85 acres wheat.....	205 bush.
11 " oats.....	none.
2½ " potatoes.....	150 bush.
1½ " turnips.....	none.
1½ " garden.....	produce consumed.

Hay stacked, three hundred tons. New land broken, twenty and one-quarter acres. Summer-fallowed, three acres.

1895.

Sown.	Harvested.
76 acres wheat.....	140 bush.
18½ " oats.....	200 "
4¼ " potatoes.....	275 "
1½ " turnips.....	250 "

Hay stacked, three hundred and fifty tons. New land broken, fifty-four acres. Summer-fallowed, twenty-eight acres. Private implements purchased by the band from 1st January, 1889, to March, 1896: binder, one; mowers, five; horse-rakes, five; wagons, six; fanning-mill, one; besides a number of smaller implements and tools, such as forks, axes, saws, &c. The cattle were in very good condition, and not one had died during the past winter; it was pleasing to see with what care the cattle were treated by the Indians; there was not an uncomfortable stable on the reserve and they were kept in a cleanly state and the cattle in nearly every case were properly bedded either with straw or the waste hay. The herd under department control consisted of ninety-six head, namely: oxen, twenty-one; bull, one; cows, thirty-nine; steers, fourteen; heifers, nine; bull calves, twelve; heifer calves, ten. In private stock the band had thirty-eight horses, fifteen head of cattle and nine pigs. Since last inspection a new road had been made from the Qu'Appelle River up a coulee leading to the town of Whitewood, the distance being about five miles. Two bridges were made for crossing creeks on the road. The fences on this reserve were fair, in some cases panels are too long, being fourteen to fifteen feet, whereas a fence with panels of ten to eleven feet is stronger and will stand this windy country much better.

The number of destitute people on the reserve, chiefly old widows and young children, who require regular help, is twenty. The quantities of flour, beef and bacon, issued to this band were as follows:—

	Flour.	Beef.	Bacon.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1893--			
Department.....	2,565	1,264	1,650
Private.....	5,280	1,900	
1894			
Department.....	2,295	2,481	1,046
Private.....	4,763	3,050	
1895 (including three months of 1896)—			
Department.....	6,223	3,590	1,557
Private.....	2,390	4,000	
Total.....	23,516	16,285	4,253

As the population of the reserve is one hundred and seventeen, these figures show that the utmost economy has been observed.

Rev. Mr. McKay acts as missionary also and visits the Indians at their homes, and holds services on Sundays in different Indian houses. The mission is in connection with the Presbyterian Church, and is the oldest of the kind in the Territories, the McDougall Orphanage being the first.

SAKIMAY'S RESERVE, No. 74,

This reserve was my next point of importance, as we wanted to do the long distance before the roads got bad.

Mr. Calder is the farmer. The farm-house had been sheeted on the outside since last inspection, new window frames put in and sitting-room plastered, all being done by Mr. Calder himself. The house was very tidy, Mrs. Calder being a capital housekeeper. The store-house is used also as a workshop, and it was well supplied with wood, drying, to make yokes, sleigh-runners, handles, &c. Logs, lumber and shingles were on the ground for a carpenter shop, to be built this spring. The farmer had a good garden. There was a large stack of hay in the corral, and Mr. Calder said he liked to have plenty, so that he could give a load or two to any who ran short. There is a splendid spring near the house, and the purest of water is continually to be had. I remember assisting the agent in selecting the site for this farm-house, and the spring was one inducement for selecting the spot we did. I was pleased, therefore, to find that after seven or eight years the supply of water had never failed. It is a boon for man and beast. The houses on the reserve are all of a good class and cleanly kept, and in most cases comfortably furnished. I can only give one or two, as space would not permit to describe all the houses I visited.

Nowe-ke-se-swape, No. 28—Good house, 18 × 16, open chimney, three beds, one table, three chairs, cupboard, dishes, milk-pans, strainers, lamps. This man makes butter, borrows churn from farmer. Clean place, good bob-sleighs, made by himself, double jumper, mower and rake, wagon, a number of smaller implements and tools. Only in one or two cases did I find implements left outside, generally under cover and well cared for. This man had two stables, fourteen stanchions, one stable 14 × 18 with stalls, and the other 30 × 20, a good shed, and a fourth stable 20 × 24, for young cattle; good corral. Has a pair of very fine Canadian mares. Winters cattle for settlers and others. Jumpers and bob-sleighs, made and ironed by himself. Hay rack, &c.; a comfortable place. Water holes in the lake for the cattle. Has twelve head of his own, in fine condition; was stall-feeding two head. Had an abundance of hay. She-sheep's village in the valley; houses on both sides of Qu'Appelle River; those on south side first visited.

Sah-coo-ta-ah-wah-sie, No. 5—Has a good house, 18 × 18, built four years ago, wooden floor, no chimney, box-stove, three beds clean and comfortable; whitewashed outside and in; thatched roof and peeled rails. There are six or seven other houses similar in style to the two I have mentioned, on the south side. A new bridge was made at this spot by Mr. Calder and the Indians.

This band has four wagons, two mowers and rakes, and each has a cart, all private. Some of the horses were new ones and of good size.

Nee-pa-twa-oo-quanape, No. 22, or "George" for a short name, and more easily pronounced and spelt—has a good house, 18 × 18, whitewashed outside and in, plastered ceiling, pitched roof, up-stairs rooms, box-stove, no chimney, wooden floor, three beds, a lean-to room with an open chimney, clean comfortable place; sells hay and works for settlers; has a double stable, wintered twenty head of cattle for others in 1895, but none this winter. The stables are good ones, and cattle fed up the centre. Pony stable, four stalls, and a calf compartment had a cow and calf. Two houses occupied by old women, 16 × 16 each, and an open fire-place in each; beds, and fairly clean; six stables in a row with stalls for eight horses in some, others from three to five each. A pit-saw frame is near this place; a new stable under way, 36 × 24, walls were up.

The farmer was making every effort to get this band to make a beginning to raise cattle. The band makes its living chiefly from hay sales, also wood and working for

settlers and hunting. They are somewhat backward, as for instance they will not allow any of their children to attend school, although the different missionaries have endeavoured to get them to do so. They appeared to be comfortably off, and well dressed. Mr. Calder is trying to get some of them up on the bench and to go into farming, and expected one or two would do so this year. The houses on the north side were reached by coming up from O'Soup's crossing, on the north side.

Pinah-see-cah-oo-ti-mah-nah-pit, No. 3, is the occupant of the first house coming up the river. House 16 × 16, fairly clean, not whitewashed, three beds, box-stove. Has a double jumper and a democrat wagon, four horses, but no cattle.

Arch. McDonald—House 12 × 16; open chimney, three beds, snug little place; three old stables not used; has a cow, buckboards, bob-sleigh, jumper, three horses; half a bag of flour was in the house. He appeared to be a fine old man, and was glad to be called upon, and the old woman was grateful for a little tea we gave her. There were about twelve houses in all on the north side.

She-sheep's house has a thatched roof, fine new cook-stove, three beds, three horses, two ploughs, harrows and a number of small tools, such as augers, brace and bits, chisels. Bob-sleigh, double harness, good team of half-bred horses, two stables. She-sheep's mother had a new house, 17 × 17. Horse and cart and harness. House had a floor, but it had been taken away by her son-in-law.

Next to this is the dancing-hall, the only one in the agency, 39 × 15 feet. Part of this hall is an old house, with one end knocked out and a new piece added, making the length 39 feet. There is an open chimney in the old part, three windows, mud floor, benches at the sides and an opening in the roof for ventilation.

There is a stable with four stalls for eight horses, one cattle stable with fourteen stanchions. Cattle of outsiders wintered here. The houses on the bench were now visited.

Ah-ka-ah-ka-wania, No. 29—Good house, 17 × 17, open fire-place; wooden floor, whitewashed inside, not outside; very clean place, barrel of water on hand; good spring close to the house. This man makes butter, borrows farmer's churn; and Mrs. Calder shows them how to make butter. I found that this lady took a deep interest in the progress of these Indians and lost no opportunity of showing them how to do many things. This man cut eleven tons of hay with the scythe last year himself. Good stable with six stanchions; calf compartment; good doors, strap hinges; corral and hay, and more in the valley. Has no field; no oxen. Has six head of cattle; comfortable place and a thrifty look about it.

Kesiek and Cumicoat, No. 23—Good house, with lean-to, whitewashed; open chimney in the latter: usual furniture; oil-cloth on floor; zinc under stove; the whole place clean and comfortable; mower and rake, bob-sleigh, democrat wagon, corral and lots of hay: all implements under cover in an old stable; new stable, slab floor; good field and garden, and latter well looked after. This man burns lime and had two hundred bushels on hand and for sale; has nine head of cattle, all in fine condition.

Acoose, No. 17—Good house, 24 × 19; one and a half stories; whitewashed outside and in: five windows, frames and casings painted; shingled roof, painted red; no fire-places; four beds, stoves, good floor and cellar; thirty bushels potatoes for seed; upper rooms in house; has a lime kiln and burns lime; has two wives, the only Indian on this reserve with more than one wife. This is his third house, all in view; first stage a small flat shak, second stage a little larger, the third, or present house one and one half stories; shingled roof and painted, and house has a lean-to kitchen. Surely this is one sign of progress; but there are many others. Has a fine Canadian team, horse and mare, and a two-year-old colt, a beautiful animal, seven ponies and eleven head of cattle; stable is 30 × 22, with stanchions; lots of hay, a good well and a spring, four hundred yards from the house; has a fine lot of poultry, a granary, a fanning-mill, oats and wheat on hand for seed; good horse stable. This is an enterprising man, and his whole place had an air of comfort about it, for both man and beast. We met quite a number of Indians in this house, and they all agreed to plant lots of potatoes, the agent

arranging seed for those who had none, to be repaid out of treaty money. They were exceedingly pleasant.

The rest of the houses were much the same, also the stables; and with the exception of one house in the valley, where the children were dirty, the houses were clean and comfortable and the stables warm, and cattle well looked after. The fences were good, and new rails were at many points to make new ones. The manure piles are here much the same as at No. 71. I understand since my visit many of the Indians commenced to haul the manure to the fields. The fall is the best time to do this. Two corrals were at once started for branding purposes. Yellow Calf, who has been absent for some years, had returned, and was going to settle down on a farm on the reserve. A road has been made down a coulee to Crooked Lake, about one and a half miles in length, then along the shores of the lake about two miles. There are several small bridges along this road and heavy timber all along. The road is a very good one, and is an easy grade. The Indians now on the south of the valley, can haul a full load of hay to other places on the bench. On the old road the oxen had difficulty in drawing an empty wagon. The bridge I have already mentioned at She-sheep's was made in connection with this new road. The whole work was done by Mr. Calder and his Indians, and a splendid piece of work it is, as the poor oxen could testify if they could only speak.

The crops sown and harvested on this reserve were as follows:—

1893.

Sown.	Harvested.
50 acres wheat	763 bush.
9 " oats	175 "
7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " potatoes	120 "
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " turnips	none.

Hay stacked, one hundred and ninety-six tons; land summer-fallowed, fifteen acres.

1894.

Sown.	Harvested.
67 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres wheat	188 bush.
11 " oats	none.
2 " potatoes	45 bush.
1 " gardens	none.

1895.

Sown.	Harvested.
81 acres wheat	250 bush.
10 " oats	200 "
3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " potatoes	152 "
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " turnips and gardens	25 "

Hay stacked, four hundred and eighty-one tons; new land broken, eighteen acres; land summer-fallowed, thirty-two acres. It was proposed to increase the acreage of potatoes more than double this year.

The implements purchased by this band from January, 1889, to March, 1896, were: binder, one; mowers, eleven; rakes, four; wagons, eight; fanning-mill, one; and a number of smaller implements and tools, all private.

The cattle were in particularly fine condition for this time of year, showing the best proof of careful attention in food and water during the winter, as well as, good warm stabling. The herd under department control numbers seventy-nine head: oxen, eighteen; cows, twenty-two; steers, nine; heifers, ten; bull calves, eleven; heifer calves, nine. The band has in private property sixty-four horses and seventeen head of private cattle. Farmer has two horses, one cow and one heifer. About ten of this band are

destitute, and require constant help, and there are over a hundred who take no help whatever, either in food, cattle, or implements; others, of course, are given food when working. The following quantities of flour, beef and bacon have been issued during the past three years:—

	Flour.	Beef.	Bacon.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1893—			
Department.....	2,835	1,548	1,978
Private.....	980	4,500	
1894—			
Department.....	3,045	3,232	1,314
Private.....	5,451	3,680	
1895 (including three months of 1896)—			
Department.....	5,765	3,830	1,704
Private.....	2,560	5,240	
Totals.....	20,636	22,030	4,996

The Indians were evidently perfectly satisfied, for no one made a complaint.

KA-KE-WIS-TA-HAW'S RESERVE, No. 72.

The next reserve inspected was "Ka-ke-wis-ta-haw's," or No. 72; James Pollock, farmer. There is a small blacksmith shop in connection with the farm buildings, where Mr. Pollock does a lot of repairing for the Indians, also in carpentry. A lot of timber was on hand to make ox-yokes, sleigh-runners, fork-handles, whiffletrees, plough-handles and bob-sleighs. The corral was well-filled with hay and oat-straw. Binder, mowers, rakes, ploughs, &c., were all neatly placed in the implement shed. The farmer had a good little garden, and rails were on the ground for fencing a pasture for horses and cows. The Indian houses and stables on this reserve were much like those I had already visited. The snow was disappearing, and one could see the fields. It was proposed to plant about fourteen acres of potatoes this year, seed being on hand for this acreage. Mr. Pollock had seed to plant one acre for old widows. He would put in the seed and they would attend to the hoeing and weeding, and Mr. Pollock will keep the crop in his own cellar and give it out as wanted. The Indians had hay to sell left over from the winter's feeding.

Sakunow, No. 13—House 13 × 12; open fire-place; beds on floor; wooden floor; house too small; nine people were in it, but three were visitors; has no cattle, and rather a poor place.

Kah-say-way-se-mat, No. 22, and Tap-waw-tat, No. 99, live here. Fair house, 14 × 14; wooden floor; has open chimney, cook-stove, two beds, table; whitewashed inside, but not outside; had potatoes for seed; good stable, with stanchion and stalls; had ox-yokes, bob-sleigh, wagon, buckboard, cutter, and a lot of small tools; painted cupboard; has a granary and nine head of cattle between the two; hay in corral and water was handy; has an implement shed.

Manitow-was-to-tin, No. 30—Good house, 15 × 13, and a wing, 14 × 17; open chimney in one; wood floor, clean; cupboard, table, dishes, box-stove, five beds, cook-stove, mirrors, pictures; door painted; a comfortable house. Had seed potatoes; oil-cloth on table. A boy who had been at Mr. McKay's and Qu'Appelle Schools was here and was making himself useful. Three stables with racks, warm, and lots of hay; old shed for implements. Has ten head of cattle; poultry. A thrifty-looking homestead.

Pre-coo-chese, No. 70—House 16 × 16; no open chimney; well supplied with usual furniture; walls covered with cotton. Tans hides for Donaldson, of Brandon, and gets \$2.50; had tanned ten in all, and made \$25. Had a wagon, bob-sleigh, two jumpers,

buckboard, hay-racks; made a cart for the exhibition in Regina; is handy with tools. Clean little place. Was building a new stable; tools all private; is enterprising; had thirteen head of cattle, looking well.

The chief's house was next reached. He is one of the old school, and it is hard to get him out of the old ways. Kah-ke-nis-tee-him-not and his wife were lying on the floor in one corner of the house, and the bedding consisted of old pieces of blankets and they looked as if they never had been washed. The house is 16 × 20; shingled roof; no chimney; whitewashed inside, but not outside; large cook-stove supplied by the department on upper flat in house. I saw no table, and I presume meals are taken in the old style—off the floor. The place was fairly clean, but comfortless. The old man is frail and almost blind. He attends faithfully to the cattle, feeding and watering them regularly. His stables were poor, and he is not able to put up better ones. I suggested that the farmer should help and have good ones put up before next winter. The old chief is harmless and never gives any trouble. Has eleven head of cattle. There is a good well close at hand.

Omequah Kisi-cou-a-was-is, No. 29—Small house, 12 × 14; partly floored; cook-stove; no chimney. Eleven people in house at one time; some were visitors. Untidy place; house too small and the air was bad. Has seven head of cattle; small stable with stanchions; the stable was more comfortable than the house.

Say-say-see, No. 73—House 14 × 16, open chimney, wood floor, cupboard and dishes, wagon, buckboard, sleighs, hay-racks; house comfortable and clean; good stables; has twelve head of cattle, lots of hay and water. Francis, No. 64, and Thos. Francis (son) 106, have neat tidy places, well furnished, make butter; logs on the ground for a new house for Francis; this is a thrifty family, and their places had the appearance of it. These are the average of the other houses visited on the bench. The fences were on the whole good. The first house reached in the valley was Louison and son, No. 28. Louison is a "headman," and it was one of the nicest places I had visited. The house is one and a half story thatched roof, whitewashed outside and in, and I never saw better whitewashing. Box-stove, three beds, bedding plentiful and clean, such as quilts, pillows, blankets and sheets; table covered with oil-cloth, lamps, clocks, chairs; kitchen is a lean-to, with a fine cooking-stove, shining as bright as a new shilling. The house is 18 × 20; lean-to 14 × 16, and son's house is 14 × 16, with a box-stove and other furniture. The son has two wives; he and Acoose, of Band 74, are the only two in the agency with more than one wife. They are both enterprising, and are capital workers. The whole premises were in splendid order. There is another son, twenty-two years of age, a cripple, who has been in bed for the last ten years. They have mower, wagon, bob-sleighs, jumpers, double harness, and a number of small tools and implements, all under cover, and make butter. The granary had twenty bags of flour, of their own gristing; twenty-one bags of seed wheat, a quantity of bran and shorts, chop feed. Some very nice baskets made by Mrs. Louison were on hand, and I purchased one for fifty cents. The granary was tidy and the grain neatly piled; wood on hand for ox-bows, handles, whippetrees, pickets, and five hundred rails were on hand to make a calf pasture. The stables were in keeping with the house, in splendid order; No. 1 stable had six stanchions; No. 2 had four stalls and stanchions; No. 3 had five stanchions and calf compartments. There was a pony stable also; all the stables are floored with slabs. These men put the manure on their fields, the only ones I found doing this, and they had a fine crop of potatoes; had one hundred bushels in the cellar for seed, and were selling to others. Have a house and twenty-two hens, and a piggery. The old man has seven head of cattle, and the son, whose name is Me-sah-cah-ma-pe-ness, No. 80, has ten head, all in fine order; a pair of strong work horses and some ponies; water plentiful from the Qu'Appelle River in summer, and there is a spring near the stables for winter use. The fencing was very good. This man and his son deserve every encouragement for their enterprise, and in having everything in such capital order. The whole place would do credit to an Ontario or Quebec farmer. There are four or five other houses in the valley belonging to this reserve, and they were in good repair; rails were on the ground for new fences at various points; a corral was to be put up in the valley, and one on the bench for branding purposes. A

new road has been made from the Qu'Appelle River leading to the town of Broadville, one and a half miles up a coulee, and a bridge was made over a creek. The crops got in and harvested on this reserve for three years were :—

1893.

Sown.	Harvested.
105 acres wheat	1,395 bush.
2 " oats	30 "
3½ " potatoes	105 "
2 " turnips	none.
1½ " carrots	" "
1½ " gardens	produce consumed during season.

Hay stacked, one hundred and seventy tons; new land broken, five acres; summer-fallowed, fifteen acres.

1894.

Sown.	Harvested.
108 acres wheat	270 bush.
2 " oats	none.
1½ " potatoes	63 bush.
2 " gardens	produce consumed.

Hay stacked, two hundred and twenty-five tons; new land broken, seven acres; summer-fallowed, twenty-seven acres.

1895.

Sown.	Harvested.
117 acres wheat	1,330 bush.
6 " potatoes	415 "

Hay stacked, three hundred and fifty tons; new land broken, eight acres; summer-fallowed, forty-five acres.

Implements purchased by this band from 1889 to 1896: binder, one; mowers, four; rakes, three; wagons, seven; and forks, axes, &c.

The old and destitute on this reserve who received regular rations number twenty souls. The following have been issued in three years:—

—	Flour.	Beef.	Bacon.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1893—			
Department	2,751	3,014	2,156
Private	1,860	4,200	
1894			
Department	4,375	4,711	1,359
Private	7,454	3,300	
1895 (including three months of 1896)—			
Department	7,019	5,183	2,009
Private	3,615	4,305	
Totals	27,064	24,713	5,524

The cattle were all in good condition. The herd numbers one hundred and fifty-seven head, namely: oxen, thirty; bull, one; cows, thirty-eight; steers, thirty; heifers, twenty-six; bull calves, sixteen; heifer calves, sixteen. In private stock the band has

thirty-one ponies, no cattle. The farm stock consists of six old horses, one bull, and one cow; calf died.

COWECESS RESERVE, No. 73,

was next reached; J. A. Sutherland farmer, miller and general mechanic. The farm buildings were in good condition, having been painted terra cotta. The house had also been lined with tar paper and lumber on the outside. The mill is close to the house, and it was carefully examined and a statement of the working of it for three seasons was made out and forwarded to the Commissioner. The engine was in good order and condition, is as good as when purchased. There is a circular saw which cost \$20, paid for by the staff, and all the wood for the mill and houses cut with little trouble and saves time. The horse stable had been sided with lumber; room for five horses; loft for hay and oats, and a spout for the oats to come down when feeding; lots of hay and straw on hand; implement shed with all implements; a warehouse, with ice-house underneath. The warehouse is used as a carpenter-shop; carpenter's bench and tools. Some good specimens of ox-collars and whiffletrees were to be seen, and lumber was on hand to make such things. The separator was in a shed. There is also a blacksmith-shop, a neat and well kept place, where Mr. Sutherland makes many repairs. I noticed as many as fifteen ploughs brought by Indians for one repair or another. A cow stable has been built since last inspection. Some very good specimens of fancy-work, done by Indian women under instructions of Mrs. Sutherland, were to be seen. A number of prizes were obtained at the Regina exhibition; over one hundred exhibits were shown from this agency; seventy of these were women's work—cheese, soap, &c.; also the largest exhibit from any one Indian, but who did not get a prize however, owing to an omission in making the entry. The best sample of flour was from this mill. The Indians got first and second prizes for wheat, first and second for oats, first for pease, first and second for bread, first for butter, first and second for fancy sewing, women's clothing and men's suits, and second prize for best collection of vegetables. Mrs. Sutherland takes great interest in teaching the women in the various departments of useful as well as ornamental housework. This reserve, owing to its central position, the agency buildings being on it, has made greater advancement than any of the others, especially in farming; and in every case the houses are good, and the stables and fences are also very good.

Zac Le Rat, No. 26—House 20 × 18; was clean; open chimney; cook-stove, wood floor, two beds (one black walnut), four chairs, cupboard, water-barrel, house white-washed inside, pictures, good supply of small implements and tools, bob-sleighs, wagon, two racks, mower and rake, one set of double harness. Makes butter; tins and dishes all clean; store-house, 16 × 14, for implements and harness; has five horses, poultry and a good horse stable; cattle stable has five stanchions and two large stalls; had two Government cattle and sixteen head of private cattle, all looking well; corral for calves; good spring close to the house; place clean all round.

Mrs. Le Rat, No. 122—House 14 × 14; well furnished; six head of private cattle.

Ambroise Le Rat—House 15 × 15; black walnut bedstead; just beginning farming; lives with his mother; had no cattle.

William Aisaican, No. 156—A boy from Qu'Appelle School, a beginner. His wife is also a pupil from Qu'Appelle. Has a small field broken, new stable building and logs on ground for a new house; living at present with his father-in-law. Has one horse, five hens and four head of private cattle.

P. Peltier, No. 126—House, 16 × 16, open chimney, poor-looking place and not very clean outside, but was cleaning up. Had fifteen bushels of potatoes for seed; makes butter and has five head of cattle.

H. Peltier, No. 146—House, 15 × 14, clean, comfortable place. Has three sacks of potatoes for seed, one horse, five hens, a mower, two oxen and one cow.

Jos. Peltier, No. 157—Both man and wife are Qu'Appelle pupils. House, 18 × 16, and well furnished. Has three private cows and two horses, but no oxen. This boy is anxious to get along and has made a good start.

Wapa-mouse, No. 78, lives here also; has seven horses but no house; has a fair stable and six head of cattle.

Ambrose DeLorme, No. 58—Double house, one wood and one mud floor, stoves, beds, tables and chairs. Has a binder, mower and rake and other articles all under cover. Building a new house. Has twenty bags of potatoes and some turnips in root-house and nine head of cattle. Is a thrifty man and has a comfortable place. Has a good well, hen-house, cattle and horse stables.

Aug. Peltier, No. 114—House, 16 × 16, open chimney, cotton on walls, neat house, good stable and spring, hay in corral. The wife was formerly at Qu'Appelle School and keeps her house very neatly, as all the girls from there do who have houses. Has five head of cattle.

Kawas-way-we-tung, No. 37—House, 20 × 21, open chimney, fancy stove, clean, comfortable place. Will plant fifteen bushels of potatoes and pay for the seed at treaty time. Fancy needle-work was to be seen. This man has no field yet, is a hunter, and has no cattle. A very fine map was hung on the wall made by his son at Qu'Appelle School. Children were neatly dressed and were perfectly clean. Wife is a good house-keeper.

Aisaican, No. 13—House, 20 × 25, thatched roof, well furnished, rooms up-stairs in house. Has twenty-five bushels of potatoes for seed. His daughter had just returned from Qu'Appelle School and was doing good work in the house and makes butter. Good stables, sheep-house and hen-house, with spring at the foot of the hill, close to the stables. Hand-made land-roller and wooden shovels. Had two oxen, six sheep and seven head of private cattle; altogether a thrifty, tidy-looking place.

Equequanope, No. 10—House, 21 × 20, open chimney, women sewing and ironing. Has an interest in a binder. Has wagon, mower and rake, two bob-sleighs and double harness; son has seven hens and five horses; stable with eleven stanchions, slab floor, good warm stable; spring close to stable. Has seven head of cattle, three private, nine sheep and four lambs. A boy and girl have just come home from Qu'Appelle School.

Wahpekaneuap, No. 139—House, 14 × 15, snug little place, open chimney, clean bedding. Has three horses, twelve hens, and potatoes in a pit. Small lake and spring near the place. Window and door frames painted. Has three head of private cattle. Neat little place and comfortable. We now proceeded to the valley. The Roman Catholic mission was visited and we were kindly received by the Rev. Father Campeau. The church is 56 × 20, and wall 14 feet high. It will hold two hundred persons. There is a tower and bell, nicely finished on the inside. There is a very neatly laid out cemetery close to the church and a pretty fence around it. Headstones painted and inscriptions on each tastefully done. The whole place reflected credit on the good taste of the Indians and the Rev. Father Campeau.

There is a building for Indians to meet in when visiting. There are stables, a new house is to be built for the missionary; in the meantime the vestry is occupied. The church is supplied with benches, made by the Indians, and they take care of the church and cemetery.

Peter O'Soup, No. 159, was next reached. This is the homestead formerly occupied by Peter O'Soup's father, who was chief of the band for a while. The young man is making good promise of an industrious farmer, and is likely to get along well. He has made a good beginning by getting a sensible thrifty wife. The main house is 20 × 25, divided into two rooms, with an up-stairs, well furnished and very clean, a kitchen at one end, with a good-sized hall in the centre, shingled roofs, and house whitewashed outside and in, walnut bedsteads, cook-stove, shining bright. An old house is used as a granary, a small dairy, store-house, horse stable, shed, sheep-house, piggery, hen-house, cattle stable, with twelve stanchions and another with seven stanchions and one stall, good fences, and fifty-acre field fenced in for hay meadow, sixty-four acres fenced for crops, all implements under cover, home-made land-rollers. Had some

good pigeons, ten bushels of potatoes for seed, has two horses, six head of cattle, hay and straw stacks, a fine spring of water. Old O'Soup was one of the most enterprising of the band when I was here ten years ago. He has gone to Lake Dauphin to settle.

J. B. Sparvier, No. 138, has a house, 16 × 20, comfortably furnished, has four horses and seven head of cattle, nice place

Ne-pah-peness, chief, No. 2 valley. Has a fine homestead, house one and a half stories, thatched roof, with a lean-to kitchen, 20 × 14, both whitewashed outside and in, well furnished house, a large picture of the Queen amongst others on the wall. Has a binder, mower and rake, two wagons, democrat, buckboard, two bob-sleighs, hay-racks, land-roller, &c., heavy and light harness, five Canadian horses, three his own raising, and very fine animals, three colts, hens and pigeons, store-house and granary, eight bags of flour and sixty bushels of wheat, bran and shorts, product of his own gristing, horse stable, curry-combs and brushes, cattle shed for young stock, 38 × 16. Cattle stable with stalls and mangers and calf compartments. Hen-house, implement shed; had potatoes on hand, places all cleaned up, hauls hay twelve miles, cut and hauled one thousand rails the past winter for new fences; has a twenty-acre field on the bench, besides a yield in the valley, has seven head of cattle and six private, all in splendid condition, plenty of hay and water easily obtained. This is a fine place, and would put many a white farmer to shame.

Ed. Peltier, No. 108, on the bench. House, 16 × 16; well furnished, and everything clean in and around the house; has six head of cattle.

A. Gaddie, No. 31—House, 20 × 20, with up-stair rooms, thatched roof; well furnished with stoves, beds, clocks, mirrors and ornaments. Has a binder, two bob-sleighs, five hay-racks, wagon, buckboard, heavy double harness, two mowers and rakes, plough, land-roller, counter scale, milk-strainers, churn, &c., all private property; eight Canadian mares, horses and colts, some splendid specimens, three native horses. Has a dairy and makes butter. Store-house had thirty-one bags of flour in it, his own gristing; sells flour to others of the band at \$2.50 a bag. Granary was well filled with wheat and oats for seed and for sale. Two double wagons passed the office one day loaded with wheat to sell in Broadview. Two splendid teams of horses, good harness and wagons, the whole showing a lively picture of an industrious Indian. Has a new implement shed, house for a workshop, horse stable, six stalls and a loose box, slab floor; cow stable, with twelve stanchions, also slab floor; hen-house and twelve hens; shed for young stock; second cattle stable, with eight stanchions, slab floor; and quantity of straw in stack, also hay. The best made hay-stack I have seen in the Territories was here. A splendid spring of water near the buildings. Has a good garden and a calf pasture. I did not compliment him on the large manure piles. He said he would have them hauled out to the fields. He has a box-stove, obtained in the old days from the Hudson Bay Company, and it cost him \$75. It is a solid stove and would weigh as much as half a dozen of the modern ones; it came by Hudson Bay and York Factory. This is a thriving homestead, and Mr. Gaddie is generally successful in having good crops. He had a lot of land ready for seed. Has twenty-three head of private cattle, looking well; they had the run of the straw-stacks in day time all winter.

Francis DeLorme, No. 30—Had a good house, 16 × 16, and lean-to, 16 × 16, and a nice place, clean all around; two small stables, and horse and four head of cattle.

Baptiste Henry, No. 17—House, 19 × 19, lean-to used as a store-house, up-stairs flat; the place was clean; has a half interest in a binder, usual implements and furniture; makes butter in summer and packs enough for winter use; three head of cattle and ten private; a thrifty-looking place.

Norbert DeLorme, No. 137—Small house, 14 × 14; this was the only house on this reserve without a wooden floor, which was covered with the matting off tea chests; the floor and house was as clean as a new pin; open chimney. This man works a good deal round the agency, when the interpreter is absent on the reserve.

Joe Le Rat, No. 56—House, 20 × 20; usual furniture, has three horses, four head of cattle, good stable with stanchions. The best contrivance of a stable door I saw here; the man is handy with tools. The place is clean and comfortable.

P. Redmond, No. 152—Double house, 15 × 16, kitchen on one side. This man is a carpenter, and he and his wife are old pupils of the Qu'Appelle Industrial-school and are just beginning; the house was nicely furnished with stained sideboard, bureau, wash-stand, bed with covered frame for curtains, tables; has a tool chest with a good assortment of tools, couch, stoves; made his own furniture at the school; had four bags of potates for seed, stable, and has four head of private cattle. There is a small shak opposite this house, occupied by an old woman, but it was closed when we called; the old woman does scrubbing and washing at the agency.

This concluded the houses and stables on this reserve. The fences all along the line were good and straight. A new road has been made from agency to Farm 3*d*, Sakimay's Reserve, by which the distance in travelling is shortened over three miles and an easier grade on the big hills and coulees; the road crosses Weed Creek Valley, length about two miles, and a bridge was made over the creek. The whole of this work was done by Farmer Calder and his Indians of Sakimay's Band.

In visiting the Indians who are located more to the south of the farm, the old trail is shortest, but in going direct to Farm 3*d* from the agency fully three miles are saved. The crops put in and harvested on Reserve No. 73 for the past three years were as follows:—

1893.

Sown.	Harvested.
204 acres wheat	4,140 bushels.
38 " oats	1,233 "
7 " barley	none.
8 " potatoes	600 "
$\frac{1}{4}$ " turnips	50 "
1 " pease	13 "
2 " gardens	60 "

Hay stacked, four hundred and fifty-eight tons; new land broken, four acres; summer-fallowed, one hundred and fifty acres.

1894.

Sown.	Harvested.
210 acres wheat	1,185 bushels.
31 " oats	100 "
4 " barley	15 "
8 " potatoes	528 "
$\frac{1}{4}$ " pease	8 "
$2\frac{1}{4}$ " gardens	produce consumed during the year

Hay stacked, five hundred and eleven tons; new land broken, twelve acres, and summer-fallowed, eighty acres.

1895.

Sown.	Harvested.
200 acres wheat	1,590 bush.
36 " oats	1,040 "
$13\frac{3}{4}$ " potatoes	1,240 "
$\frac{7}{8}$ " turnips	250 "
$2\frac{1}{2}$ " gardens	produce consumed during season.

Hay stacked, six hundred and five tons; new land broken, ten acres; summer-fallowed, one hundred and eighty acres. The implements purchased by this band from 1889 to 1896 were: binders, six; mowers, ten; rakes, seven; wagons, eighteen; besides numerous smaller implements and tools, milk-pans, strainers, &c.

About twelve old people are totally destitute on this reserve, and have to be constantly cared for. The following issues of flour, beef and bacon have been made:—

	Flour.	Beef.	Bacon.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1893—			
Department.....	5,939	2,673	2,086
Private.....	2,830	2,600	
1894—			
Department.....	11,256	6,970	2,689
Private.....	13,165	4,600	
1895 (including three months of 1896)—			
Department.....	13,382	4,314	3,562
Private.....	3,762	7,600	
Totals.....	50,334	28,757	8,337

Stock.—The cattle were looking well. The department herd numbers seventy-two head, namely: oxen, twenty-four; bull, one; cows, twenty-three; steers, four; heifers, seven; bull calves, eight; heifer calves, five; sheep and lambs, thirty-four. In private stock the band has one hundred and eight head, namely: oxen, five; bull, one; cows, forty-six; steers, eight; heifers, twenty-two; bull calves, eleven; heifer calves, fifteen. The band has, besides, sixty horses and eleven pigs, poultry, &c.

The home farm has three horses, a cow and calf. The total live stock on 31st March, 1896, on the agency was: cattle, five hundred and fifty-seven; horses, two hundred and eleven; sheep, thirty-four; pigs, twenty; grand total, eight hundred and twenty-two.

Crops.— Summary of crops for three years:—

Sown.	Harvested.
1,364½ acres wheat	12,105 bush.
176½ “ oats	3,026 “
11 “ barley	15 “
63¾ “ potatoes.....	3,803 “
7 “ turnips	575 “
1½ “ pease.....	13 “
18½ “ gardens	60 “

Potatoes and garden produce consumed during the season in addition to the above. Total hay stacked, three years, four thousand one hundred and one tons; land broken, three years, one hundred and forty one and one-quarter acres; land summer-fallowed, six hundred and twenty acres.

Total binders on hand, nine; mowers, twenty-five; hand rakes, nineteen; wagons, thirty-nine; fanning-mills, two. All private property purchased paid for from cattle sales, wheat and hay, &c.

Vital Statistics.—

1893.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.
Ochapowace's, No. 71.....	125	4	8
Kahkewistahaw's, No. 72.....	127	9	8
Cowessess, No. 73.....	142	6	6
Sakimay, No. 74	180	9	4
	574		

1894.		Population.	Births.	Deaths.
No. 71	.....	122	2	4
72	.....	131	4	4
73	.....	146	9	8
74	.....	188	10	6
		587		
1895.				
No. 71	.....	117	2	7
72	.....	133	8	11
73	.....	158	6	4
74	.....	208	9	1
		616	78	71

Average population for three years, five hundred and ninety-two; and the births seventy-eight, and deaths seventy-one during same time.

Beef supplied by contractors has been: in 1893, sixteen head, ten thousand two hundred and twenty-one pounds; 1894-95, five head, three thousand two hundred and eighty-four pounds. From Indians: 1893, eleven head, six thousand eight hundred and forty-six pounds; 1894, twenty-two head, fourteen thousand four hundred and fifty-eight pounds; 1895 to 31st March, 1896, twenty-six head, sixteen thousand six hundred and forty-nine pounds—total, eighty head, fifty-one thousand four hundred and fifty-eight pounds; the offal of which was also issued and hides given to Indians for footwear.

In addition to the above the Indians killed sixty-three head of private cattle, producing forty-eight thousand nine hundred and seventy-five pounds of beef which are the private issues referred to in the statement of issues, and they had also the hides.

The private earnings of the band have been: Band 73—1893, \$2,522.17; 1894, \$2,177.37; 1895, to 31st March, 1896, \$2,086.95—total, \$6,516.49. Derived from the sale of firewood, wheat, hay, senega root, cattle, wages and tanning hides.

The amounts were expended on wagons, binders, mowers, lumber for houses, stoves, provisions and clothing.

Band 72—1893, \$1,292.66; 1894, \$1,606.69; 1895 to 31st March, 1896, \$1,361.45—total, \$4,260.80. Earned and expended in a similar way as Band 73.

Band 71—1893, \$936.23; 1894, \$2,074.05; 1895, to 31st March, 1896, \$1,629.06—total, \$4,639.34. Similarly earned and expended.

Band 74—1893, \$880.18; 1894, \$1,112.97; 1895, to 31st March, 1896, \$1,157.99—total, \$3,151.14. Earned and expended same as the others.

Total earnings in three years and three months was \$18,567.77.

The agency and farm books were carefully audited. The office work is done in a most efficient manner by Mr. Pierce. He is a valuable official and takes great care in his work. The agent is as interested as ever in the welfare of his Indians, and he loses no opportunity in advising and encouraging others. They seem to have entire confidence in the agent, as they come to him with all their little troubles for adjustment and they generally go away contented and happy. The farmers are all good-reliable men. The usual inventories of agency warehouse and farm store-houses were taken and together with detailed report forwarded to the Indian Commissioner, Regina. The health of the Indians at the time of inspection was very good.

Grist-mill.—The work of the grist-mill was carefully examined and full details of its operations were sent to the Commissioner. In 1893, two hundred and sixty-four and a half bushels of wheat were gristed, producing nine thousand nine hundred and seventy-two pounds of flour—equal to thirty-seven and a half pounds to the bushel. Bran and shorts made up the difference of sixty pounds to the bushel, less seven hundred and eighty pounds of waste, which made good chicken and pig feed. In 1894, one thousand and fourteen bushels of wheat were gristed, producing forty-two thousand four hundred

and forty-four pounds of flour—equal to forty-two pounds to the bushel ; bran and shorts making up the difference of sixty pounds to the bushel, less four thousand and seventy-six pounds of waste, or pig and chicken feed. In 1895, two hundred and sixty-seven bushels were gristed, yielding ten thousand three hundred and ninety-six pounds of flour, or equal to thirty-nine pounds per bushel ; bran and shorts and waste, six hundred and eighty-one pounds, making up sixty pounds to the bushel ; in 1896, five hundred and ninety-two bushels were gristed, producing twenty-six thousand four hundred and twenty-six pounds of flour, or equal to forty-four and a half pounds to the bushel, bran and shorts and waste, two thousand and sixty-five pounds, making up sixty pounds to the bushel. Toll taken in wheat chaff ; bran and shorts were taken into the warehouse and accounted for. The Indians take away at the time their flour, bran, shorts and waste, and are very particular about getting full weight back.

Some gristing is also done for settlers, and the books show that in 1894 one hundred and ninety-seven bushels of wheat were gristed ; in 1896, two hundred and ninety-eight bushels were gristed, producing in flour and chaff seventeen thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, or equal to thirty-six pounds to the bushel ; bran, shorts and cleanings, one thousand three hundred and seventy-four pounds, making up the difference of sixty pounds to the bushel. Cash in some cases was taken for toll, and \$25 has been accounted for from this source, in the official cash book.

On the 18th April I left for Broadview to take the train for Elkhorn, and I arrived at the latter place on the 21st April. My visit here was to select and report on a suitable site for the buildings for the Elkhorn Industrial-school. I spent a few days examining different places, and on 29th of April left for Qu'Appelle with the view of inspecting Assiniboia Agency, but on 2nd May I received a telegram to proceed to Battleford. I therefore left for Regina on the 4th, and took the train on the 5th for Saskatchewan, thence to Battleford by stage, arriving there on the evening of the 7th May. My time was occupied for about ten days in some special business before commencing regular inspection.

BATTLEFORD AGENCY.

P. J. Williams, agent ; T. J. Fleetham, clerk ; W. G. Mackay, interpreter and teamster ; S. Warden, farmer, Stony Reserve ; Justus Willson, Red Pheasant's ; F. A. D. Bourke, Sweet Grass ; R. H. Mair, Moosomin's and Thunderchild's ; Chas. DeGear, Little Pine's ; Peter Taylor, Poundmaker's.

The agency warehouse is in the barrack square of the North-west Mounted Police, an old building. The office is a small lean-to to the clerk's house, on the south side of Battle River. The agent's house is also on the south side, and has been considerably repaired during the past year. It has been clapboarded on the outside and shingled, and rooms put over the kitchen, new flooring, plastered and kalsomined throughout. The Public Works Department, to which the building belongs, is making improvements. It is now a comfortable dwelling ; the outside is not yet painted. The first reserve visited was the Stony, No. 109, or Farm 11a, Mr. S. Warden, farmer in charge. A new stable had been added to the farm buildings. The Indians are all living in the new village, about five miles from the old one, where the farm-house is. All the old Indian houses have been pulled down and sold for firewood in Battleford. The distance is about fourteen miles. Very little is done in the way of grain crops by this band ; they confine themselves more to roots, hay and cattle. They sell hay, wood, lime and charcoal in Battleford. They are industrious and capital workers and take the best of care of their cattle, of which they have a good herd, principally Polled Angus breed.

The crop sown and harvested in 1895 was :—

Sown.	Harvested.
28 acres oats	186 bushels.
14 " barley	157 "
10 " potatoes	610 "

Gardens and turnips; extra hay stacked, six hundred tons. The crop put in this year (1896) was:—old place—one-half acre of potatoes, one-half acre of turnips, one acre of oats, three acres of barley; new place—five acres of oats, one acre of barley, nine acres of potatoes, five acres of turnips, one acre of gardens.

The farmer has ten acres of oats, one-half acre of potatoes, and one-half acre of turnips and garden: five acres broken at the old place and eighteen acres at the new village, and six acres were being summer-fallowed.

The cattle were in fine condition; they were rounded up and branded on the new system during the inspection. The herd numbers one hundred and fifty-nine, namely: oxen, thirty-five; cows, thirty-seven; steers, thirty-one; heifers, thirty-two; bull calves, ten; heifer calves, fourteen: more calves would be dropped, as some of the cows had not calved.

Home farm: three horses, three bulls and eleven sheep. There was an abundance of hay for feed, and some for sale, and fifty-five head of cattle were wintered for Pound-maker's Reserve, the hay there having been burnt. The Indians were living in teepees, but had left their houses all cleaned up, outside and in. They had all been whitewashed, and the white houses and the green grass gave the village a pretty appearance. The stables and corrals were substantial ones. Two new houses and two stables have been added since last inspection. Four kilns of lime had been burnt, which they use freely, besides selling some. In future they intend plastering their stables with lime instead of mud. Six of the band make butter; the houses are floored and kept cleaner than in the old village. The gardens at the time looked very well, and fences were good. The land being new and manure being used, the growth was rapid; weeding and hoeing was to be properly attended to when the time arrived to do this work. The Indians were well dressed, and they looked clean and comfortable and they were pleasant and seemed contented. They did not ask for anything, but I gave them a little tea and tobacco for their attention and services at the branding of the cattle. The prospects for hay are very good. Poultry could be seen at some of the places. Some of the Indians had potatoes for sale and were getting good prices for them. Calf pastures, with good shade and water, were provided, also smudges well guarded, so that the cattle would not get their feet burnt. Five thousand rails and six hundred roof poles were got out during the past winter. The one hundred and fifty-nine head of cattle are held by nineteen of the band, and the name of each holder was sent with the returns to the Commissioner, Regina.

RED PHEASANT'S RESERVE.

Red Pheasant's, No. 108, or Farm 11*b*, was next reached, Mr. Justus Willson, farmer in charge. The farm-house was in excellent order. The store-house had been plastered, and windows and doors put on since I was here last. New fences have been put around the garden, which is a good one, crop looking well.

The crop put in and harvested in 1895 was:—

Sown.	Harvested.
33 bushels oats.....	160 bush.
15 " barley.....	93 "
15 " turnips.....	264 "
60 " potatoes.....	748 "

And garden produce. Hay stacked, one thousand tons.

The crop put in this year, 1896, by the Indians, was as follows:—

Oats.....	18 acres.
Barley.....	5 "
Potatoes.....	12 "
Turnips.....	8 "
Gardens.....	2½ "

Farmer had four acres of oats, three-fourths of an acre of potatoes, and one-half acre of turnips. Seven thousand new fence rails were got out and seven sets of house logs

during the past winter. The cattle were in fine condition. The herd is a splendid one, principally short-horns, and over three hundred and seventy in one corral was a pretty sight. The herd numbers three hundred and seventy-four head, namely: bulls, five; oxen, forty nine; cows, one hundred and thirteen; steers, eighty; heifers, forty-four; bull calves, thirty-eight; heifer calves, forty-five, and twenty-four sheep. The cattle are held by thirty-nine of the band, in numbers varying from two up to twenty-nine, names of individual holders accompanied the return in each case. These were all branded on the new plan, each animal being put through the chute and checked off. Mr. Fleetham accompanied me on all the reserves and assisted in the work. The agent was also present at each place, and had often to settle disputes between Indians about some particular animal. It was pleasing to see the Indians take such interest in their cattle. It took us nearly two days to handle this herd. The houses were nearly all vacant and Indians located in different camps on the reserve. I have already described the houses here; they are of a good class and are cleanly kept. The stables also are comfortable. The houses had been all whitewashed last fall. The fields and gardens had all new fences and they looked well.

Soanas, No. 15 -- Walls up for a new house; good stable and corral; was clearing away brush for a new garden; had a field of oats, potatoes, turnips and garden stuff. *Biddy* had potatoes and turnips in the same field, all looking well.

Nepahat, No. 35, has two old stables and was building a new one; good house; put a new floor in it; a second house for his blind sister; a field of five acres of oats and two of potatoes between four. The manure was hauled out to the fields on this reserve.

Keay Cheena, No. 2—Good house; a two-acre field of oats fenced; one-half acre of potatoes and garden; three good stables with slab floors, partitions and stanchions and upper floor for hay. House has thatched roof; nice new stove; open chimney; good floor; three beds; upper floor; place clean all around.

Jacob Tobacco Juice has a small house with lean-to kitchen; was building a shed; good stable and calf compartment; tools hung on walls of house; cook-stove; open chimney; a good well with a plentiful supply of water during the winter. Family field, barley, three acres; potatoes, three-fourths acre; garden, one half acre; well cared for; half of the field is new land and the older half was being summer-fallowed. Has a mower and rake; some hay at the stables and five loads to sell; a thrifty, industrious man.

Ky-ace-koot, No. 56, has a new house, new stable, nice field and garden; has mower and rake; pit-saw frame; new logs on hand.

Koope-pekwanisit, No. 296—Two good houses, three stables and corral, store-house, manure all removed, chips all gathered up, field at another point.

Mis-as-quat, No. 36—Neat house, orchard, roof thatched, good floor.

Isaac Watanee—House and wing for kitchen, cook-stove, box-stove, beds, chairs, tables, cupboard, oil-cloth on table, clock, lamps, pictures, house whitewashed outside and in, two good stables, all manure carted to the fields, nice field and two acres of potatoes and garden.

Walter Watanee—Walls up for a new house, not yet roofed; field with Isaac and a garden near new house, not yet fenced.

Peek-awis, No. 10, has a nice place; has a mower and rake and double-moulded plough, all private property; house nicely furnished and clean; has a good store-house in which were harness, milk-pans, tubs, tent, bag of flour, oil-cans, tools, all nicely hung on walls; sold hay and potatoes and had more on hand; three very good stables and eleven head of cattle and some good horses; does his ploughing and hauling with horses; good field, well fenced; thrifty man and is getting along well.

Baptiste, No. 13—Good-sized house, and it was clean and neat, well furnished, upper rooms and stair, clock and pictures; has a team of heavy draught horses and a stallion, half Clyde, raised by himself; has a mower, rake, wagon and top buggy. His wife has been an invalid for a long time and the buggy was for the purpose of taking

her for out-door exercise. Had a lot of hay left over and sold some. Has twenty-nine head of cattle, the result of one cow given him for loyalty in 1886.

Watinee headman, No. 5—Good comfortable house, 20 × 22, up-stair rooms, house well furnished, whitewashed outside and in; has mower, rake and wagon; tans hides for settlers; store-house for tools; has a nice dairy and makes butter; two old stables, one new one; corral for calves. The other houses and fields were about the same as those I have mentioned. The farmer has a six-acre field as a pasture, near the farm building. Mr. Willson is displaying considerable energy in his work and is meeting with success, as the state of the cattle, houses, stables, gardens, fields and fences show. Prospects for hay were good; this is an important element where four hundred head of cattle have to be provided for.

SWEET GRASS RESERVE.

My next point was Sweet Grass Reserve, No. 113, or Farm 12a, Mr. F. A. W. Bourke being farmer in charge. The farm buildings were in good order, and the place cleaned up all around. There is a never-failing spring close to the house, beautiful clear water, a boon for man and beast. Some good manure and hay-fork handles made by the Indians, also ox-collars, whiffletrees, neck-yokes, hay-racks, bob-sleighs, jumpers, lariats made from hides. The farm garden consisted of about two acres of potatoes, turnips and other vegetables. The crop looked well and the weeds were kept down.

The crop harvested in 1895 was forty-five bushels of wheat from sixteen bushels of seed; one hundred and sixty bushels of oats from twenty-eight bushels of seed; two hundred bushels of potatoes from fifty bushels of seed. Hay stacked, seven hundred and fifty tons.

The crop put in this year, 1896, was: fifteen acres of oats; one acre of pease; five acres of barley; ten acres of potatoes; four acres of gardens and two of acres farm garden. Two hundred and fifty logs were on the ground for new stabling for Indian cattle, and two thousand rails for fences; good fences were around the fields and gardens. The cattle were in splendid form. These were rounded up and branded. The herd consists of four bulls, thirty-five oxen, sixty-four cows, forty-three steers, forty-seven heifers, twenty-six bull calves, twenty heifer calves—total two hundred and thirty-nine and forty sheep. The cattle are held by twenty-three of the band, the names of individual holders being furnished along with the returns. The cows had not all calved. It was expected that hay enough would be got on the reserve and save sending the cattle, or part of them, to be wintered elsewhere. The Indians here, as elsewhere, are much more interested in their cattle than formerly, as they find out that it is the best and surest industry they can follow. The fields and gardens, at the time, looked promising. The houses had been left well cleaned up all around. Some of the bridges over the creeks had been washed away by the freshets this spring, and they are being rebuilt. There was hay left over from last year. Chief Sweet Grass died since I came to the agency; he had been ailing for a long time. Three new houses were built during the year and all had been whitewashed. Wood and hay were sold during the year. The reserve was in fair order, but extra precautions would be required to keep the weeds from overrunning the gardens. Smudges had been provided for the cattle.

MOOSOMIN'S RESERVE.

The next reserve reached was Moosomin, or Farm 13a, R. H. Mair being farmer in charge. The farm-house was in good order, except that it needed some kalsomining, which the farmer promised to do himself. The farmer had a very pretty garden and good crop of the usual variety of vegetables. The crops put in and harvested in 1895 were as follows: four hundred and thirty-four bushels of wheat from eighty bushels of seed; fifty bushels of oats from twenty-eight bushels of seed; four hundred bushels of potatoes from fifty-five bushels of seed; fifty bushels of turnips and garden produce. Hay stacked, four hundred and fifty tons. The crop put in this year, 1896, was:

twenty-six acres of wheat ; eight acres of oats ; eleven acres of potatoes ; three acres of gardens. Ten sets of house logs for new houses, and to raise walls of old ones, were on the ground. Two thousand rails and pickets were also got out for fencing. The fences were particularly good. The cattle were in fine condition. They were rounded up like the others for branding, word having been sent ahead to have them collected. Some of the heifers and young cows were thin, the reason given was that a fall of snow after they had been brought from winter quarters prevented them from feeding and consequently they fell off in flesh, but they were fast picking up from the fine pasturage. The cattle here and Thunderchild's and some of Poundmaker's and Little Pine's had to be sent some fifty miles off to be wintered, being the nearest place where hay enough could be secured. It was expected hay would be got much nearer this year. The herd numbers one hundred and forty-five, as follows: twenty-five oxen, three bulls, thirty-four cows, thirty-two steers, twenty-five heifers, eleven bull calves and fifteen heifer calves, held by fifteen of the band, and eleven sheep and three horses. Lambs of this year to be added. All the houses but one were clean, also the school-building, which was occupied by John Wright and his wife, two of the pupils of Battleford School, lately married, and they had the place nicely arranged and on a table in the centre of the room was a Bible, prayer and hymn book. I examined all the fields, and prospects were good, fences were new and straight and the little fields were square and looked well.

White Cap, No. 46—House, one and a half story, has shingled roof ; four acres of wheat, three of oats, and one of potatoes ; roof of house painted red, walls whitewashed cook and box-stoves, three beds, table, chairs, nice quilts on beds, and house very clean. This man takes charge of the sheep ; has a fine lot of poultry, pigs, two wagons, buck-board, two bob-sleighs, double and single harness, good stable and store-house ; makes butter. Lean-to kitchen added since I was there last. White Cap's wife took pride in showing the number of this year's chickens she had ; a clean, thrifty-looking place. Forty or fifty acres were being summer-fallowed on this reserve. I complimented Mrs. White Cap on her nice clean house.

THUNDERCHILD'S RESERVE.

The next reserve reached was Thunderchild's, No. 115, 13c. This reserve was also under Mr. Mair ; the Rev. Mr. Clark occupying the farm-house. There was a very pretty garden and a good showing in crops and the whole place was in capital order ; neat fences placed around the premises, some improvement had been made to the house also.

Crops.—The crops harvested in 1895 were forty bushels of wheat from fifty-three bushels of seed, forty-five bushels of oats from twenty-eight bushels of seed, two hundred and seventy-five bushels of potatoes from seventy-five bushels of seed ; two hundred and eighty bushels of turnips ; four hundred tons of hay were stacked. The crop put in this year (1896) was: wheat, twenty acres ; oats, six acres ; potatoes, twelve acres ; gardens, five acres. The farmer had cats on shares with some of the Indians for the farm horses ; seven sets of house logs were on the ground for new and better houses. Twenty thousand new fence rails were also got out. The Indians burnt all the old rails the previous winter, so that almost the entire fencing is now new. The fences are well made and straight in every case, and the little square fields and gardens looked very well. The gardens had been well looked after up to the time of inspection.

Stock.—The cattle were in good order, and were all in corral for branding and checking off. The young cows and heifers about the same condition as Moosomin's. The crop of calves was a poor one, being only nineteen from forty-three cows. I questioned the Indians, and told them the loss they were sustaining by not looking better after the calves. They said it was because the bulls were not allowed to go among the cows early enough. I told them, if this was a reason, it would apply at the other reserves as well, where the percentage was very good. The band numbered one hundred and ninety-two head, as follows: horse, one ; bulls, three ; oxen, fifty-two ; cows, fifty-five ; steers, thirty-five ; heifers, twenty-seven ; bull calves, seven, and heifer calves, twelve ; held by twenty-eight of the band. Smudges were at different points, and calf pastures

where there was water and shelter. The houses were all shut up, but had been left clean in and around. They would be all whitewashed outside and in before the Indians went into them in the fall. The feature of the reserve was the fine fencing and neat gardens and fields.

Wapees, No. 130, and Yellow Head, No. 96, and Peter Scarlett, a school boy, had a six-acre field of oats, potatoes and gardens and it was well weeded. Hope, another school boy, and Scarlett, had a twelve-acre field of wheat and oats, looking very well. All the other fields were in good order, but space will not permit me to enumerate them. Scarlett and Hope had logs on the ground for new houses.

The chief and Andrew, No. 127, had a two-acre field of potatoes and garden, very clean of weeds, and they had another field of four acres of wheat.

The mission buildings were in good repair, all whitewashed, and a neat garden and good fencing. Mr. Mair has done good work on these two reserves. I took an inventory of property in his charge, and found everything very satisfactory; good care having been taken of all tools and implements. There is a small blacksmith-shop in connection with the farm, where many repairs are made, and some of the Indians are very handy in doing these for themselves.

POUNDMAKER'S AND LITTLE PINE'S RESERVES.

Poundmaker's, No. 114, and Little Pine's, No. 116, or Farm 12 *b* and *c*, were next reached. Mr. DeGear looks after Little Pine's, and Peter Taylor, Poundmaker's, but Mr. DeGear keeps the accounts and books of both, classified as Farm 12 *b* and *c*. The crop of Little Pine's last year was nearly all destroyed by fire, also a lot of hay. One hundred and nine bushels of potatoes were harvested and eighty-four bushels of turnips, and three hundred and twenty-five tons of hay stacked.

The crop put in this year, 1896, was: fourteen acres of oats; five and a fourth acres barley; ten acres of potatoes; five acres of turnips; three and a sixteenth acres of gardens. A number of logs were on hand for new houses. The cattle were in excellent condition. The herd numbered one hundred and eighty-six, namely: bulls, three; oxen, thirty-three; cows, fifty-nine; steers, thirty-four; heifers, seventeen; bull calves, fourteen; heifer calves, twenty-six. These were held by twenty-one of the band in numbers from two up to twenty-one; name of each holder accompanied the returns. Calf pastures were provided leading down to the river, and well shaded; smudges were also provided. The houses were closed; these would be whitewashed for the winter; the gardens were in fair condition and would have been better, only all hands had been kept busy hunting up the cattle for branding.

Poundmaker's was much the same as Little Pine's, the gardens, if anything, better weeded. The crop harvested in 1895, was two hundred and five bushels of potatoes and sixty bushels of turnips; three hundred and twenty-five tons of hay stacked; the grain was burnt after it was in stack, also some of the hay, by an accident. The crop put in this year, 1896, was: ten acres of oats; five and a half acres of barley; ten acres of potatoes; five acres of turnips; four of gardens, and the farmer had gardens and some oats in crop for the farm horses.

The cattle looked well. The herd numbered one hundred and ninety-five, namely: bulls, three; oxen, twenty-four; cows, fifty-nine; steers, thirty-nine; heifers, thirty-seven; bull calves, thirteen; heifer calves, twenty, and ninety-one sheep. The cattle are held by nineteen of the band. There were good corrals. Efforts were to be made to secure hay at a nearer point than last year. There is a blacksmith shop at the farm, and Mr. Taylor does a lot of mending. Mr. Taylor also looks after the cattle in their winter quarters, where they have to be sent on account of the hay, but notwithstanding the long journey, the cattle came through the winter with few, if any, losses; Mr. Taylor looked particularly well after the calves and the weaker cattle.

The warehouse at agency is well kept. The flour and bacon were both of choice quality. The goods from Regina had arrived in good order. The office work was most efficiently performed by Mr. Fleetham. Books were written up to date.

The total number of live stock in the agency is :—

Department contract cattle	1,504	
Private cattle	13	
		1,517
Department horses	26	
Private "	283	
		309
Department sheep	195	
Private "	2	
		197
Private pigs		2
Grand total		2,025

This is a pretty good showing in cattle, besides supplying all the beef required for the past three years and sales to Gordon & Ironsides. One hundred and fourteen head of cattle were killed for beef last year, producing seventy-seven thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight pounds of beef, and forty-nine head more sold to Gordon & Ironsides. Out of proceeds of these twenty young heifers were purchased to replace, at a cost of \$300, or \$15 each. The proceeds of cattle were :—

Killed for beef	\$ 3,889 90
Sold	1,260 00
Sales of lime, wood, hay and some feed	1,886 53
Total earnings for the year	\$ 7,036 43

This amount has been spent in paying for implements, flour and other provisions and clothing, and all accounts are now paid, and the Indians here may be said to be entirely out of debt at present.

There are good bulls in the agency, and consequently the herd may be expected to increase more than ever, and also a better class of animals will be the result. There is no profit in raising scrubs.

Vital Statistics.—The births and death during the year were :—

	Births.	Deaths.
Stony Reserve		7
Red Pheasant Reserve	7	9
Sweet Grass "	4	5
Poundmaker's "	6	6
Little Pine's "	4	4
Moosomin "	3	3
Thunderchild's "	8	16
Totals	32	50

General Remarks.—The agency on the whole was in good condition, and my inspection was a satisfactory one, Mr. Fleetham, the clerk, is a valuable addition to the staff, and the agent is ever on the move looking after the various matters requiring his attention from time to time, and his whole time is given to Indian work. The usual inventories were taken and agency and farm books audited and statement and returns, with detailed report, were sent to the Commissioner, Regina.

CARLTON AGENCY.

I left Battleford on 24th July for Carlton Agency, and arrived there on the 25th' going down the north side of the Saskatchewan, crossing this river at Battleford.

I arrived here on 25th July, 1896. Mr. Hilton Keith, agent; Mr. W. H. Halpin, clerk; Rupert Pratt, farmer, teamster and interpreter.

Agency Buildings.—The agency buildings were in the best of order, and the surroundings clean and tidy. The agent had a very fine garden and magnificent crops of vegetables. A new picket fence had been placed around it, and being whitewashed with lime, it looked very neat and pretty, and was a good object lesson for the Indians when visiting the agency. There was also a new post and rail fence, that is the rails fastened into the posts, without the use of nails, the posts and rails peeled of the bark. Twenty acres were inclosed with this fence for pasture for the agency stock, the pasture taking in the creek. The horse stable had been newly floored. A new root-house had been put up, also an ice-house. The whole of the buildings had been painted and whitewashed. The low ground in the bluff leading to the agency from the main trail, and where it was rising in wet weather, has been bridged over, making it an easy road to travel on, or for heavy loads. The clerk's house had been completed since I was here two years ago. I never found the buildings and premises in such good order. The clerk had a good garden, and it was proposed to put a picket fence around it also. The office has been improved by adding shelves, pigeon-holes and a cupboard for the files. The old office, latterly used for medicines, is now used as a harness-room and repairing-shops, paints, &c., and the medicines are kept in one of the rooms over the new office, the whole arrangement being convenient, and reflecting care and good taste on the management.

MISTAWASIS RESERVE.

The first reserve visited was Mistawasis, No. 103, under the immediate care of the agent. I found a vast improvement on this reserve, in the way the garden and root crops had been attended to, as compared with former years. The grain also was looking very well. As the agency had not been regularly inspected for two years, I, of course, had to begin where I left off in 1894.

Crop.—The crop put in and harvested in 1894 was:—

Sown.	Harvested.
88½ acres wheat	355 bush.
10½ “ oats	95 “
9 “ barley	38 “
4½ “ potatoes	385 “
3½ “ gardens	60 “

Hay stacked, six hundred and thirty-five tons.

1895.

Sown.	Harvested.
125 acres wheat	95 bush.
14 “ oats	66 “
17 “ barley	48 “
8 “ potatoes	259 “
2½ “ gardens	54 “

Hay stacked, six hundred tons; twenty-one acres new breaking and twenty-four acres summer-fallowed. The crop put in this year, 1896, was: wheat, one hundred and two acres; oats, fifty-five acres; barley, three; potatoes, ten; and gardens, which include turnips, twelve; total, one hundred and eighty-two acres. Thirty acres of new land had been broken and fifteen acres summer-fallowed.

Stock.—The cattle were in splendid condition, the pasturing being of the very best, and good, clean, running water always to be had. They were all branded on the new plan. The herd numbers two hundred and thirty-seven, namely: horse, one; bulls, four; oxen, thirty-six; cows, eighty-eight; steers, thirty-one; heifers, twenty-seven; bull

calves, twenty; heifer calves, thirty; held by twenty-six of the band, as shown by the names attached to the returns. In private stock the band had thirty-three horses and five head of cattle.

Indian Houses.—I visited all the houses, fields and gardens, and furnished particulars of each to the Commissioner; most of the houses were closed, but had been left cleaned up all around. Wm. Badger, No. 136, has a nice new house, 18 × 20, square logs, shingled roof, whitewashed; has up-stair rooms, cook-stove, box-stove, no chimney; but I asked him to have one put in; beds, tables, and house very clean, store-house for tools, a good calf pasture, very good garden, well fenced; this is a new location since I was here in 1894; has a field of nine acres of wheat and oats.

Joseph Ledoux, No. 34—Good house, shingled roof, lean-to kitchen since 1894, good stable and fine garden, free of weeds, nice field of five acres of wheat, two of oats, looking well, and one of potatoes, turnips and garden, good fences; has a milk-house. Had a lot of new breaking land and was summer-fallowing also; has some nice poultry, a fine lot of cattle, lumber on hand for repairs, thrifty-looking place. This man has made good progress during the past year. One of his sons had returned from High River School, and was of great help to his father, proving that boys returning from industrial-schools are a benefit to their parents, notwithstanding what some wiseacres say to the contrary. The boy has got married and is working well. He did nearly all the breaking and fallowing. This is a sample of the other homesteads visited.

Harry Masson, No. 111, was cutting hay with a scythe. Has a nice little house, and makes it a workshop also, had a lot of tools, is a bit of a carpenter, and makes chairs, tables for the other Indians; open chimney, shingled roof on house, up-stair room. Had a pretty field of twelve acres of wheat and oats; beautiful looking crop; potatoes, turnips, &c., were also good and well weeded, and cared for. Twenty-six bundles of shingles and forty boards were on hand. The man worked at the saw-mill, good stable and fences, thrifty, handy man, and he will be well-off this year if his crop is saved without any mishap. Has a root-house and a porch at the house door.

Geo. Drever, headman, had added a new wing to his house, used as a kitchen, up-stair rooms; house clean; table, chairs, pictures, cook and box-stoves, no open chimney, cupboard and book-case; board fence around premises, gates slid on rollers secured from old machinery, tool-house. Logs for more stabling, had a nice dairy, and I counted eleven milk-pans, had a churn, milk-strainer, and made butter regularly, but since the death of his wife during the past year he has no one to make it. The children made good use of the milk. Had a field of eight acres of wheat, and four of oats, one and a half acres of potatoes, and garden well weeded, and I may say that weeding gardens this year was no easy work. The growth of everything, including weeds, was enormous, and it was common to see piles of weeds at the fence sides which had been pulled out. If this had not been done it would be difficult to discover a crop at all.

Mission Buildings.—The mission buildings were in good order. The graveyard near the church has had a neat wire fence placed around it, and the graves have been also put in order. The Rev. Mr. Moore is the missionary. Two services are held every Sunday; also a Sunday-school. The services are partly in English and partly in Cree. Singing was hearty and the Indians attend very well. The mission is in connection with the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Wm. Badger conducted the Cree part of the services. The school-house and teacher's house are close at hand. The mill building is also near this place; a new fence had been placed around it; walls plastered and roof painted. The "bolt" has been put up stairs, and the flour, bran and shorts come down in spouts to the floor below. The mill was in good working order. The miller's house had been whitewashed and painted, and a panel fence put around. The interpreter has a neat little house, whitewashed and roof painted; lean-to kitchen and a good garden.

Waychan, No. 142—One of the farthest up places going to Muskeg Lake; has a good house, shingled roof; very clean; home-made chairs, tables, beds, cupboards, up-stair rooms; logs for a new house for his boy; stables and sheds; a quantity of hay already in stack-yard; haying was now going on all over the reserve; forty-two bundles of shingles and a pile of boards; makes butter; tools nicely arranged; clean, tidy,

thrifty place : eleven acres of wheat and four acres of oats, three-fourths acre of garden : gophers had partly destroyed the garden, potatoes were good, however ; burns lime ; has poultry ; no chimney on house. The more advanced Indians are under the impression that it would be a retrograde movement to have open chimneys. I have therefore suggested that some of the agents and farmers have grates put in their houses to show that it is not going backwards to have an open fire-place. I feel strongly on this subject, and so would any one who had the opportunity that I had of seeing and feeling the difference between houses where there are open chimneys and those where there are none. No invention yet, not even the "Smead-Dowd," can excel the old-fashioned open fire-place. Waychan was much pleased that his boy was allowed to get away from Battleford School for a time and to come and help him at the haying and harvesting. The prospects of a good crop all over this reserve were good. The old chief, Mistawasis, died since I was here last, and his house looked forsaken with its windows boarded over and the flag-staff without its flag. In old days there was always a bustle around the chief's house.

Farming Implements.—The implements generally were found under cover when not in use on this reserve, and as a rule the Indians were well dressed, particularly so, men, women and children, when attending church. They generally assemble an hour early, and they sit in little groups around the church and graveyard. The mission flag is hoisted to assemble and the bell rings for service to begin. The church door has been changed from the east to the west end, for what reason I do not know. The church needs whitewashing and painting, especially the roof, and the Indians said they would have this done.

PETEUQUAKEY'S RESERVE, No. 102, MUSKEG LAKE,

was the next reserve visited. This reserve is also under the immediate care of the agent, the farmer, Mr. Couture, having been removed to Ahtahkakoop's, No. 104, Sandy Lake, since 1894. I found this place much better than ever before, the gardens being particularly good. The crop put in in 1894 was thirty-two acres of wheat, no yield ; eight acres of oats, no yield ; ten acres of barley, no yield ; two and one-fourth acres of potatoes, yield one hundred and nine bushels ; other roots, two and three-eighths acres, yield ninety-one bushels ; two hundred and forty tons of hay put in. In 1895, thirty-four acres of wheat were sown, no yield ; two acres of oats and eight of barley, no yield ; four and a half acres of potatoes, yield one hundred and fifty-nine bushels ; other roots, four acres ; yield, twenty-six bushels ; one hundred and eighty-nine tons of hay were stacked. The crop put in this year, 1896, was sixteen acres of wheat, fourteen of oats, and three of potatoes, and seven of other roots, turnips, &c. Two acres of new land were broken and five summer-fallowed. The cattle looked well ; the herd numbers seventy-seven head : oxen, twelve ; bull, one ; cows, fifteen ; steers, sixteen ; heifers, fourteen ; bull calves, twelve ; heifer calves, seven. In private stock the band has eleven horses, five head of cattle, five sheep and three pigs.

J. B. Lafond, No. 96, has a very nice homestead ; house has a lean-to kitchen ; roof of house has been raised, shingled ; up-stair rooms ; nice stair-case with cupboard underneath ; two divisions down stairs ; no open chimney ; was building a mill-house, a nice stable and an implement shed. The saw-mill has given the Indians of this agency all the lumber they need for building and repairing ; they get out the logs during winter ; has also a store-house, nine acres of wheat and six of oats, two acres of potatoes, turnips and garden stuff. The grain looked promising. The garden was a fine one. Lafond's son, Baptiste, from High River School, took special charge of the garden, and his ambition was to have a better one than the agent. He was afraid his corn would not be as good, but in other things he was not afraid. He is a quiet, well-behaved boy, and reflects credit on the school where he received his training. His father told me the boy never wants to gad about or visit around. He only goes to see the agent's garden. Thirty-two bundles of shingles and some boards were on hand. A little new breaking was noticed. Lafond is a reliable, industrious man, and is doing well ; has twelve head of cattle and a fine place, and it was a pleasure to visit it.

Antoine Wolf—House, shingled roof ; panel fence ; whitewashed outside and is fair ; garden ; four acres wheat ; smudges for cattle. Saml. Wolf had four acres of wheat and four of oats in the same field.

Long Neck has one of the neatest and best built little houses on the agency, and it was nicely furnished and clean ; built since I was here last. The cattle were all in the corral. The house had shingled roof, also the gables ; porch ; up-stair rooms ; made butter last year but not this, owing to sickness ; has twenty head of cattle.

Saml. Wolf has a house and lean-to kitchen, shingled roof and new floor, since I was here. This is the furthest up house on the trail going to Battleford. These are samples of the other houses. I did not see a dirty one, and there was only one garden where the weeds had not been all removed.

The mission buildings were in their usual good condition. The old school-house is used as a ration-house. All the children of school age attend the boarding-school at Duck Lake. The farm-house and outbuildings had been removed to Sandy Lake and rebuilt there. The Indians had no complaints, and they were pleasant. I gave them a little tea for collecting the cattle. The seventy-seven head are held by seven families.

AH-TAH-KA-KOOP'S RESERVE, No. 104,

was next reached. The farm buildings from Muskeg Lake were prettily situated on the north side of Sandy Lake, close to the shore ; good panel fence around the premises ; stables, store-house and a small office and a good garden. Mr. Couture had left a few days previous for Alexander Reserve, Edmonton Agency, and Mr. O'Donnell, from Alexander, arrived at the time of our inspection. We were therefore able to transfer the property left by Mr. Couture. Trees were planted in the inclosure, and Mr. Couture deserves credit for the good taste displayed in putting the place in such nice order. The ceilings in the house, both up and down stairs, are of dressed lumber. There was also a good cellar. The crop put in here in 1894 was :—

Sown.	Harvested.
136 acres wheat	869 bushels.
31 " oats	404 "
18 " barley	223 "
4 " potatoes	395 "
7 " other roots	580 "

Seven hundred and sixty-one tons of hay stacked.

1895.

Sown.	Harvested.
184 acres wheat	2,320 bushels.
19 " oats	205 "
15 " barley	167 "
10 " potatoes	441 "
3 " other roots	159 "

Nine hundred and seventy-two tons of hay stacked, seventy acres of new breaking and forty acres summer-fallowed. The crop put in this year, 1896, was : wheat, one hundred and seventy-nine acres ; oats, thirty-three acres ; barley, twelve acres ; potatoes, thirteen acres ; other roots, including turnips, thirteen acres ; seventeen acres had been broken and thirty summer-fallowed. The cattle were in good condition, rolling fat. The herd numbered three hundred and forty-eight head : bulls, five ; oxen, fifty-seven ; cows, one hundred and seventeen ; steers, sixty ; heifers, thirty-four ; bull calves, thirty-six ; heifer calves, thirty-nine, held by thirty-nine families. The reserve was in good order, crops were looking well at every point, and the gardens and roots with one or two exceptions had been well attended to, proving that Mr. Couture had been active in his duties when here. I visited each field, house and garden, and, of course, cannot

give descriptions of more than a sample in this report, but each one was described in my report to the Commissioner. The mission buildings and garden were in good condition also, and the fencing improved. The chief's house was vacant, and the old chief was living with his son on the other side of Shell River, where I saw him later on. A new bridge was made over Shell River by the Indians themselves after Mr. Couture had left, and a good job they made of it. The chief's son, No. 24, where the chief was staying, has a fine large house, shingled roof, well furnished, good stables and a new corral, where the cattle on this side of the river were branded. There was a good garden, and the chief took interest in showing us round, as he takes special charge of the garden.

Walls were up for a lean-to to the house; wheat field, four acres, and one of oats, seven acres; looked very well. Large quantities of berries were on sheets drying for winter use; a large pot of potatoes was boiling, and amongst the potatoes was part of a badger also being cooked for dinner; and one woman was making bannocks. Butter is made regularly. This is a thrifty-looking place, and the man superintended the building of the bridge.

Wm. Cardinal had also a nice place; good house and stables, four acres of wheat, one and a half acres of garden. Turnips were good, but only a few were in drills, the rest broad-cast; Cardinal promised not to do so any more.

Grey Eyes, No. 113.—Nice house with lean-to kitchen, good stables, and some fine new teepees. Large field of wheat about ten acres, and two of oats, and one and a half acres of potatoes, turnips, &c. These are fair samples of the general run of the other places. I never went over a reserve where there was more uniformity in the way fields and gardens were kept, not one good here and there, but all were good. The band has in private stock forty-two horses and twenty-six head of cattle. They are a nice lot of people, and are sure to continue to get along well under the active management of Mr. O'Donnell, whose long experience peculiarly fits him to deal with a reserve like this. The younger men, the chief says, are disposed to do a little more gambling than he would like, and Mr. O'Donnell will endeavour to stop this in so far as he is able to do so. All the crops promised a good yield. Haying was in full swing, but the continual wet weather was a drawback, and no doubt some of the hay would be damaged. I left the agency on the 11th August for

STURGEON LAKE, NO. 101.

It is one day's travel from the agency. Mr. Hugh Richardson is the farmer in charge. The farm-house had been completed since I was here in 1894. It is a log building, shingled roof, plastered outside, and lathed and plastered inside. Ceiling of dressed lumber up and down stairs. There is a sitting and dining-room down stairs and a lean-to kitchen, and two bed-rooms up stairs, and a small store-room. Good cellar capable of holding five hundred bushels of potatoes. There is a horse stable with room for six horses, and a lean-to for cattle. There is a small store and ration-house, which was being extended

There is no well, but a good spring about a quarter of a mile from the house and the lake is also close at hand.

The crop put in in 1894, and harvested, was:—

Sown.	Harvested.
20 acres wheat	190 bushels.
12 " oats	90 "
6 " barley	90 "
5½ " potatoes	443 "
3 " other roots	182 "

Hay stacked, two hundred and fifty tons.

1895.

Sown.	Harvested.
40 acres wheat	177 bushels.
10 " oats	none
8 " potatoes	185 "
2 " other roots	10 "

Hay stacked, four hundred and thirty tons.

The crop put in this year, 1896, was: fifty acres of wheat; twenty-five of oats; ten of potatoes; twenty of other roots, turnips, &c. No breaking nor summer-fallowing. The cattle were in good condition. The department herd numbered fifty: one bull, thirteen oxen, fifteen cows, five steers, three heifers, eight bull calves and five heifer calves, held by thirteen families, the names of whom were sent along with the returns. In private stock the band has forty-eight head: one bull, two oxen, twenty-three cows, three steers, eight heifers, seven bull calves and four heifer calves, held by eleven families, names also sent with the returns; they have also fifty horses or ponies. At the upper end of the lake there were some good fields of wheat, oats and gardens, although the latter were not so free of weeds as they should have been, but the crops were good; the reason given for want of weeding was that all hands were busy haying. One old man was in his garden working away. The turnips were sown broad-cast, it was explained that in the first sowing they were put in drills but were eaten by grubs and the second time the seed was sown broad-cast. The houses were of a good class and they looked clean. Fair stables.

David, No. 80, had a good house, pitched roof, thatched; man was away at hay-making and his wife was living in a teepee near by. Has a dairy in which I counted nineteen milk-pans full of milk on shelves, pans made of birch bark. The place was not clean and I sent for the woman and explained to her that the milk would get a bad taste unless the place was perfectly clean. I also told the farmer to see that it was kept clean. The woman, however, promised to have it cleaned up. David has two new stables and an old one and a good corral, small garden of potatoes, weedy, and in another place half an acre of potatoes, three acres of oats and a pretty field of wheat of twelve acres for himself and two others, good fences, two oxen, three cows and one calf.

An old widow who does washing had a teepee made of birch bark.

Widow Squayces, No. 55, has a small house, neat, thatched roof, open chimney, good floor, small stable, three horses and four private cattle.

Kah-mut-quay-tab-way-mat, No. 4, has a very good house, finished last fall, it is 20 x 18, open chimney, whitewashed outside and in, thatched roof, good log stable and logs on ground for a store-house. House had two windows, four panes in each window, panel door with fancy latch. Hand-made rake was noticed here. One acre of potatoes and garden, but full of weeds and roots not thinned properly; it was a new place, this being the first crop.

Thos. Ayahtawayo, No. 44.—Fine new house, 22 x 15; cook-stove, box-stove; shingled roof, good upper and lower floors, made with matched lumber, no open chimney, two windows, twelve panes in each, windows sliding up and down; rooms up stairs; logs for a lean-to kitchen and for a new stable; water-barrel and spouts to catch the rain-water; nice fence around the place and turnstile gate at entrance. One and one-half acres of oats, three-quarters of an acre of potatoes, and gardens, and a patch for his father at one end. Tubs, washboards, brooms, lantern, chairs, cupboard, table, one window up stairs with four panes in it. Has two oxen, and three head of private cattle; a thrifty place, and showing decided advancement.

Ayahtawayo, No. 5, has about twelve acres of wheat, one of turnips and one of potatoes, all looking well; wheat particularly good. There were three houses at this place, which is called the Narrows. One house belonged to Ayahtawayo's son, and it was a clean, tidy place, open chimney, shingled roof, whitewashed outside and in. The old man was living in a teepee, both the other houses were vacant at the time; one was a good-sized house, shingled roof, the other was a low, flat, mud roof and this was where

the old man lived in winter it had been left in a filthy state and the other better house was used for implements. I called the old man's attention to the place and said such places would breed disease. He said the best house leaked in the roof, and that was why he lived in the shak. I told him that was no reason why it should be dirty. The agent was to give him a bundle of shingles to repair the roof, and I advised him to live in it and pull down the old shak. This was the only dirty place I found on the whole reserve. There was a lot of poultry. I told the farmer to see that the house, after repairing the roof, was thoroughly cleaned out and whitewashed; it had a good floor. The widow of the late chief has a good house and garden, the house is surrounded with nice poplar trees; shingled roof; some good socks and stockings knitted by the old lady were noticed. Has fourteen head of cattle. The other houses visited were found in good condition and fields and gardens about the same as those I have mentioned. A large quantity of hay had been cut; owing to the constant rain it could not be stacked. The usual inventory of property in hands of farmer was taken and books checked. The Indians were pleasant and had no complaints; they asked that another chief be appointed in place of Chief Twatt, who died since I was here in 1894. It was proposed to have a good strong bridge placed over Shell River near this point, so that the saw-mill engine and boiler could be taken over, where the Indians could have all the lumber they required of their own, there being any quantity of suitable timber on the reserve. They are all anxious to have fine houses. The average ration here is two ounces of bacon and six of flour for each Indian; where beef is issued instead of bacon, four ounces are given.

Mr. Richardson was doing very well and is handy in repairing the implements of the Indians, and seems to get along nicely with them. They are a pleasant lot of people and willing to work. If nothing happens, they will have a good yield from this year's crop, which will be an encouragement to do still better. They cut and hauled three thousand logs on the ice last winter, and these were sold to James Sanderson, of Prince Albert, for \$3 per thousand feet, yielding \$315, which amount was sent to the department to be placed to the credit of the band. There were one hundred and five thousand feet. The men and women were comfortably dressed and their teepees were kept clean. I noticed many of them with fresh cut branches placed on the floors.

SIoux RESERVE, No. 94A.

This reserve, also under charge of Mr. Richardson, was next reached on our way to Prince Albert. It is in a place called Round Plain, about eight or nine miles up the river from Prince Albert, on the north side, and has only been established since 1894. This band, previous to that, lived opposite to the town of Prince Albert, three or four miles back from the river, but being only a bed of sand it was uninhabited, and Round Plain was selected. Only part of the band have so far settled on the new place; the others prefer remaining in the old place, being near Prince Albert, where they can generally get work of some kind; but the success of those who have removed will, no doubt, induce others to follow. There are five houses already built, and another new one nearly completed. They had in crop, 1894, two and a half acres of potatoes, yielding two hundred bushels; one and one-half acres of turnips and garden, yielding eighty-five bushels; and forty tons of hay were stacked in 1895; they had twenty acres of wheat, which yielded two hundred and ninety bushels; five acres of oats, which gave ninety bushels; three acres of potatoes, yielding one hundred and seventy-one bushels; one and three-fourths acres of turnips and garden, which gave eighty bushels; and seventy five tons of hay were stacked. This year, 1896, the crop put in is: wheat, fourteen acres; oats, twelve acres; potatoes, three acres; other roots, nine acres. They have no cattle, except a yoke or two of work oxen. They sell hay and wood. Ten acres of new land were broken in 1895, and three acres this year; total land broken on the reserve, thirty-eight acres. Good fences round the fields. The houses are rather poor: low and flat in the roof and consequently not so healthy as a high arched roof; some of them have open chimneys. The crops looked well at the time, and I have since heard that the grain was safely harvested and was in stack. The Presbyterian Mission

Committee has put up mission buildings on the reserve at a cost of \$700, and Miss Baker, who has interested herself in this band of Indians for many years, is in charge of the mission. An old settler's house was purchased for a school-house, and when it would be completed and fit for a school every provision would be complete to look after this part of the work. Miss Cameron is the teacher and lives with Miss Baker. During last winter the school was held in the mission house, but it was expected the school building would be in a fit state to have school held in it this winter. The school was well equipped otherwise, in blackboards, desks, books, &c., and there was a small organ. The mission supplied these. The work is an uphill one, but by perseverance Miss Baker is not without fruits of her kindly and disinterested work among them. The school boys look after the garden, and they had a small one of their own. Seven families in all have settled down here, numbering about forty souls.

Northern Indians, connected with Carlton Agency, I learned had supported themselves by fishing and hunting during the past year. Beyond putting up a few loads of hay they do no farming. They are liberally supplied with ammunition and twine. In cases of extreme want, a few bags of flour are given to them.

The agency warehouse is well kept. The flour and bacon were of choice quality. The office work continues to be most efficiently performed by Mr. Halpin, the books being correct in every particular. I audited them for two years. The agent himself does a lot of office work, as well as looking over the reserves. The mill book was examined and was found to be well kept. The total flour ground from 30th June, 1894, to 30th June, 1896, was:—

	Lbs.
Band 103	1,669
“ 104	44,725
“ 94a	1,395
	<hr/>
	47,789
Settlers	8,383
Agency store	651
	<hr/>
Total	56,823

The Indians took away at time of gristing their bran and shorts. Agency bran and shorts fed to cattle. No cash was received as toll, but two thousand six hundred and twenty-two pounds of wheat were received in toll from settlers. The Indians are not charged any toll.

Lumber sawn from 30th June, 1894, to 30th June, 1896:—

	Feet.
Band 102	9,968
“ 103	25,654
“ 104	48,941
Settlers	2,326
Toll	41,896
	<hr/>
Total	128,785

The agent gave out of his toll four thousand five hundred and thirty-one feet to Duck Lake Agency. Eighty-five and one-quarter thousand shingles were made in 1895-96, and a few previously to that. The total number of acres summer-fallowed in 1895-96 was one hundred and fourteen, and new land broken during the same time, one hundred and fifty-three. New fencing, 1895, one hundred and five acres; 1896, eighty-five acres. Total, one hundred and ninety acres.

Private Earnings.—

1894-95—Sales of fur	\$2,379
Other earnings	1,903
	<hr/>
	\$4,282

1895-96—Sales of fur	\$3,691
Other earnings.....	2,752
	\$6,443

Total earnings in two years, \$10,725.
 The crop put in in the agency this year is:—

	Acres
Wheat, oats and barley	515
Potatoes	39
Other roots	61
Total	615

I never care to estimate growing crops, as such estimates are generally wide of the mark, but from the appearance of the crops at time of inspection, and if harvested without any loss, I think I am quite safe in saying that there will be from eleven thousand to twelve thousand bushels of grain. The quantity of beef supplied has been as follows:—1894-95: from Indians, twenty thousand and eight pounds; from others, five thousand five hundred and twelve pounds—twenty-five thousand five hundred and twenty pounds. 1895-96: from Indians, twenty-eight thousand five hundred and forty-three pounds; from others, two thousand five hundred and forty-seven pounds—thirty-one thousand and ninety pounds; or a total of fifty-six thousand six hundred and ten pounds.

The total number of live stock in the agency is: cattle, eight hundred and thirty; horses, one hundred and forty-six; sheep, five; pigs, three; total, nine hundred and eighty-four. And calves dropped since 1st July would make the total over a thousand head to be provided for.

Vital Statistics.—The births during the two years ended 30th June, 1896, were seventy-four and the deaths in same period were fifty-five. The total population in the agency is eight hundred and two Crees and thirty-seven Sioux; total, eight hundred and thirty-nine. The health of the Indians at the time was very good. I should not omit to mention that Mr. Chipman, of the Hudson Bay Co., presented the English church at Sandy Lake with a good bell, and the Indians appreciate the gift very much.

I have pleasure in stating that the agency is in good order and that the Indians are working well and making good progress. The agent is active, hard-working, painstaking and nothing is too trifling to receive his personal attention, and I consider the agency has been conducted with marked ability during the past two years.

DUCK LAKE AGENCY

After completing my report which, with statements and inventories, was forwarded to Regina, I proceeded to Duck Lake Agency and commenced my inspection there on 20th August, 1896.

Mr. R. S. McKenzie, agent; Mr. W. Sibbald, clerk; Sandy Thomas, interpreter and teamster; Mr. L. Lovell, farmer for Beardy and Okemasis' Reserves; Mr. L. Marion, farmer for One Arrow's Reserve; Mr. J. H. Price, farmer for John Smith's Reserve; Mr. J. H. Gordon, farmer for Jas. Smith's and Cumberland Reserves.

Agency Buildings.—The agency buildings and surroundings were in their usual neat appearance, many improvements having been made since I was here two years ago. A picket fence had been placed around the house and grounds and the terrace in front had been graded and a good road made leading up to the house. Trees and flowers gave a pretty appearance to the whole place. A granary, 18 x 20, for Indian grain was in course of construction; an ice-house, 16 x 16, was also being made. Stones have been hauled by the Indians to put stone foundation under the office and house. The agent had a good garden and a nice field of oats for the agency horses, the old field is used as

a pasture. The fencing all around is good and well made. The clerk put up a small store-house and willowed and plastered his stable ; he has a nice garden also. The farm-house was enlarged by adding the old school building to one end, giving a large kitchen and up-stairs rooms. An implement shed was made out of the old kitchen material. The farm had a small garden also. The workshop was as before, many repairs are made by Mr. Lovell for his own reserves and for One Arrow's and John Smith's. Hay was stacked at agency and at the farm for the winter, wood nicely piled up and everything in the best possible order, not an untidy spot could be seen, and the best of care is taken of all property.

ONE ARROW'S RESERVE.

The first reserve visited was One Arrow's, No. 95, situated on the south side of the South Saskatchewan River, about twenty-five miles from the agency ; Louis Marion, farmer ; population, one hundred and eight. The farm-house had been improved by raising the roof of the kitchen, repairs to roof, plastering and wainscoting and kalsomining in house. A small store-house and shed had been added. The farmer had a good garden. The crops on this reserve on the whole were light ; dry weather in early summer stunted them and they did not recover much from the late rains. Potatoes also would be a poor crop, but turnips were very good, in fact the best I had seen.

The gardens on the whole were in good order, and had been well weeded, better than I ever found there. The Indians were busy haying, and stacks of good hay were at each farm-yard, and more in the hay fields. Some had commenced to cut wheat, barley and oats. It was the 25th August when I was at the reserve. The crop put in in 1894 was :—

Sown.		Harvested.
95	acres wheat.....	198 bushels.
4	“ oats.....	24 “
12	“ barley.....	24 “
5	“ potatoes.....	325 “
2	“ turnips.....	150 “
1½	“ carrots and onions.....	15 “

Hay stacked, three hundred and fifty tons ; new land broken, thirty-five acres ; summer-fallowed, fifteen acres.

Sown.		Harvested.
1895—107	acres wheat.....	813 bushels.
5	“ oats.....	68 “
6	“ barley.....	none “
5	“ potatoes.....	286 “
1½	“ turnips.....	200 “
¾	“ carrots and onions.....	40 “

Hay stacked, four hundred tons ; new land broken, fifty acres ; summer-fallowed, twenty-one. The crop put in this year, 1896 was : wheat, ninety-nine acres ; oats, thirteen ; barley, sixteen ; potatoes, nine ; turnips, two ; gardens, one ; total, one hundred and forty acres. The estimated crop would give seven hundred and ninety-two bushels of wheat, one hundred and thirty of oats, and one hundred and twenty-eight of barley ; total, ten hundred and fifty bushels. Of course only the threshing will give the actual results, but the above will not be far off the mark.

Stock.—The cattle were in the best of condition. The pasture was good, water plentiful, and easily obtained, and the flies were not troublesome. The cattle were all branded on the new plan and entered in the new cattle book in good style, this work having been done in the agency office. The herd numbers one hundred and twenty-three, namely : oxen, twenty-three ; bulls, two ; cows, thirty-two ; steers, nineteen ; heifers, twenty ; bull calves, seventeen ; heifer calves, ten ; held by fourteen

of the band, in numbers from one up to nineteen, name of holders accompanied the returns. Some new breaking had been done, and some summer-fallowing also. A few of the manure piles had been hauled out to the fields, but more were still at the stables. The houses I have often described there, and the stables were in their usual condition, and had been left cleaned up and all dirt swept and cleaned away. The usual inventory of property in hands of farmer was taken and books checked. The Indians had no complaints, and they were pleasant. They appeared comfortably dressed. Most of the children of this reserve are at Duck Lake Boarding-school.

In private stock the band has sixty horses and fifteen head of cattle. The reserve was in good shape. The crop of calves was satisfactory.

The next reserves visited were Beady's, No. 97, and Okemasis', No. 96, both under charge of Mr. Lovell. Population of No. 97 is one hundred and thirty, and Okemasis, No. 96, twenty-one. The crop put in on Beady's in 1894, was:—

Sown.		Harvested.
162 acres	wheat.....	460 bushels.
31 “	oats.....	110 “
33 “	barley.....	32 “
7 “	potatoes.....	410 “
10 “	turnips.....	1100 “
1½ “	carrots, onions, &c.....	3 “

Hay stacked, four hundred and eighty tons; new land broken, eighteen acres; summer-fallowed, thirty-five acres.

1895.

Sown.		Harvested.
130 acres	wheat.....	165 bushels.
20 “	oats.....	39 “
8 “	barley.....	6 “
4 “	potatoes.....	158 “
7 “	turnips.....	259 “
1 “	carrots and onions.....	21 “

Hay stacked, seven hundred tons; new land broken, twelve acres; summer-fallowed, one hundred and one acres.

The crop put in this year, 1896, was: wheat, eighty-nine acres; oats, thirty-four; barley, thirteen; potatoes, ten; turnips, four; gardens, two; total, one hundred and fifty-two acres. The crops at the time were looking well. A severe hail storm had injured some of them. The potatoes were very good and should give a good return. Turnips, onions and carrots were fair, and with one or two exceptions the gardens had been well weeded. The houses were all closed, but had been left well cleaned up; a few new ones had been built, also some stables since I was here in 1894. The following is the estimated crop for this year: wheat, one thousand three hundred and thirty-five bushels; oats, six hundred and eighty; barley, one hundred and ninety-five; total, two thousand two hundred and ten.

The cattle were in good condition, and were all branded on the new system and properly entered in the new stock books, each Indian having a separate account. The herd numbers two hundred and twenty-three: oxen, twenty-eight; bulls, four; cows, sixty-two; steers, forty-four; heifers, thirty-nine; bull calves, twenty-eight; heifer calves, eighteen. The two hundred and twenty-three head of cattle are held by eighteen families, names sent with returns. There are two horses belonging to the farm. All hands were busy haying and harvesting. Plenty of hay will be put up. Stacks of

old hay were to be seen, showing that no scarcity existed last year. In private stock the band has twenty-five horses. Okemasis Band's crop in 1894 was:—

Sown.		Harvested.
35 acres	wheat.....	102 bushels.
5 "	oats.....	8 "
6 "	barley.....	11 "
3 "	potatoes.....	120 "
4 "	turnips.....	90 "
$\frac{3}{4}$ "	carrots and onions.....	11 "

Hay stacked, one hundred and sixty tons; new land broken, six acres; summer-fallowed, ten acres.

The crop in 1895 was forty-three and one quarter acres, but was nearly a total failure. Hay stacked, two hundred tons. Land summer-fallowed, twenty-one acres.

The crop put in this year, 1896, was: eighteen acres of wheat, eleven acres of barley, two and a half acres of potatoes, one and a half acres of turnips, one acre of carrots, corn, &c.—total thirty-four acres. The crop was about the same as Beardy's and the estimate was four hundred and thirty-five bushels of grain. Potatoes and garden stuff were good. The cattle were looking well. The herd numbers seventy-three: nine oxen, one bull, twenty cows, thirteen steers, sixteen heifers, eight bull calves and six heifer calves. The herd is held by six families. In private stock there are eight horses.

Do-kee-moo-kay-kake, No. 12, had nine acres of wheat and barley; potatoes and garden free of weeds; small thatched-roofed house; good stable with stanchions; ten tons of hay in corral, old hay from last year; fire-guards ploughed round buildings and also a wider circle fire-guard; the fences were good; there was a lean-to to the house. This is a sample of Okemasis' other houses and fields. Beardy's fields also were examined.

Do-kee-may-sine, No. 18, has a fine field of wheat, ten acres; three acres of oats, and half an acre of garden; a lot of summer-fallowing; good fences; fire-guards ploughed around buildings; three stables; twenty tons of hay stacked in corral; one new house and an old one; teepees were clean. It was pleasing to notice wagon after wagon with loads of hay passing along from the meadows to the different hay corrals. They can do this now, having plenty of wagons, but before they were obliged to stack at the meadows and haul it in during winter. Even now part of the hay will be stacked in the field, as it would be unwise to have it all in one place in case of fire.

Sucie, No. 37, and Iyaysoo, No. 66, have two houses, two stables, wheat, barley and oats all in stook, good garden and crop clean, fifteen acres summer-fallowed and very good fences. These are fair samples of the other places visited. On the whole these Indians have worked well, they had no complaint, and did not ask for anything. They have got beyond the begging stage. The usual inventory of property in hands of farmer was taken and books checked. Mr. Lovell is a hard-working man and seems to have no trouble in getting his Indians to carry out his orders; old manure piles were at nearly every stable, which should have been on the fields.

JAS. SMITH'S RESERVE, No. 100.

The next point reached was Jas. Smith's Reserve, No. 100, Fort à la Corne, going by way of Prince Albert; Mr. J. H. Gordon being farmer in charge, also of Cumberland Band 100a and 100ac. The new house for the farmer had been built since I was here in 1894. It is a little off the main trail going past the mission property towards the Hudson's Bay Company's post. The house is snugly situated among some pretty poplar trees; it is solidly built, and is the best farm-house in the agency. The house proper is 20 × 20, with a lean-to kitchen, 18 × 16; stone foundation under both, log, lathed and plastered outside and in; shingled roof and painted; three brick chimneys; two rooms and kitchen down stairs and two rooms and good sized hall up stairs, hall can be used as a sitting or sewing-room; good cellar; closets under stairway. The grounds around are inclosed with a well-made panel fence. There is a well with a good supply