

I would remark, however, that the large improvements on this splendid reserve have, to a great extent, been made by persons living as tenants under the Indians. When the Indians become enfranchised, I doubt not, large portions of the reserve will in a short time pass into the hands of the whites.

WALPOLE ISLAND

is composed alternately of fine alluvial soil and long strips of marsh. The dry land is very fertile. All kinds of grain, roots and vegetables grow luxuriantly. Apples, pears, cherries, and I believe peaches and grapes, would grow abundantly. When lately on the Island at an agricultural exhibition, some of the specimens of apples shown were of excellent quality, and all were large and handsome. There were also good samples of pears and a few of peaches. The wild plum and grape grow abundantly on the Island; and I doubt not the cultivated varieties would also succeed here, as well, perhaps, as in any part of Canada. A large number of the Indians are industrious, and some of them have really good farms.

THE CHIPPEWAS, OF SARNIA,

have their reserve on the River St. Clair, commencing about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the outlet of Lake Huron. The front part is beautifully situated on the river, and nearly the whole reserve is of excellent soil, but a large portion is wet and requires drainage. The Indians of this reserve are not so industrious as those of Walpole Island. I believe their being so near a town is greatly against them.

The Chippewas, of Sarnia, also own two reserves on Lake Huron, viz.: Kettle Point and Sauble Reserves. These reserves contain together over 5,000 acres, but they have not been divided into lots. In parts of these reserves the land is of the very best quality, whilst very considerable portions are almost absolutely worthless.

INDIAN SCHOOLS.

There are six schools among the Indians within this Superintendency, viz.: One among the Wyandetts of Anderson, two on Walpole Island, one on the Sarnia Reserve, one at Kettle Point, and one at the Sauble. The school on the east of Walpole Island is well attended, and appears to be well kept. The teacher is an Indian, and seems quite capable of teaching. On the west of the Island the school, though regularly kept by an intelligent and experienced teacher, is not well attended, consequently it is of far less advantage than it might be.

The school on the Sarnia Indian Reserve for the last two years has been taught by a young lady. The attendance has been good, and the progress of the pupils satisfactory. The schools at Kettle Point and at the Sauble are taught by Indians. The attendance at both these places is small.

One great hindrance to the success of Indian schools is the want of regular attendance. Sometimes during a quarter many of the children will not be present more than 10 or 12 days. Another great difficulty is, that while they are very properly taught to read English, the far greater portion do not understand the meaning of the lessons they read. I have found in most cases that even the simplest stories were not appreciated.

In order to obviate this evil, I have endeavored to impress upon the teachers the absolute necessity, so far as possible, of getting the children to *know*, not merely the *words*, but the *meaning* of their lessons.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

EBENEZER WATSON,

Indian Superintendent.