

and their cattle through the long winter and spring. The supply of fodder housed last fall would have been sufficient for their stock in ordinary years, but last winter this supply had been exhausted about the middle of March, when the poor people had to share with the cattle the potatoes which they had laid by for their own food. With this, together with what little hay it was possible to procure among the neighbors, they succeeded, with a few exceptions, in bringing their cattle through. Under these circumstances the destitution among the Indians this spring was of a kind more distressing and widespread than perhaps ever before, and the ordinary grant received from the Department could not go far to relieve it, no matter how equally or impartially distributed. As a consequence, the quantity of seed put into the ground this spring was much below the usual quota. Providence, however, favored them. Although their fields of potatoes are small, the yield is abundant, and promises to be far in excess of former years. The hay crop is also very good; no less than 110 tons have been cut on the reserve this year.

I regret to have to report that diphtheria has lately appeared among the children at Eskasoni. So far three deaths have occurred, and as many more who had fallen sick recovered. As soon as the sickness became known among them, I lost no time in bringing the matter to the notice of the attending physician, who made an examination of the disease and pronounced it to be diphtheria and of a highly contagious character. Measures were at once devised to prevent the spread of the disease. The houses and camps infected were isolated, all decomposing matter in the vicinity of their dwellings was removed, the chief and captains instructed to see that the utmost cleanliness would be observed throughout the settlement, and every other possible means adopted to keep this much dreaded disease within its present limits. The school has been closed and shall not be reopened until permitted by the health authorities, or until such time as no danger need be apprehended from the children mingling with one another. It is hoped with these precautions that no very serious results will happen.

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

M. MCKENZIE,  
*Indian Agent.*

WESTERN SUPERINTENDENCY,  
FREDERICTON, N.B., 4th November, 1882.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to state that, in accordance with your circular of the 15th April last, I herewith transmit a Report upon Indian affairs connected with my Superintendency, for the year ended 30th June, 1882.

I forwarded the tabular statement a short time since to your Department, which is as complete as I could possibly prepare it, owing to the great difficulty experienced by me in obtaining from Indians and others all the information necessary for the perfecting of the same.

You will notice, upon reference to the tabular statement, that there has been an increase in the population during the past year arising from a variety of causes, and from the Indian character being so migratory, moving about as they do from time to time during the years that roll round, it is next to impossible at any period to obtain the exact number of the Indian people.

I hope to be able within a short time to inform you that the school houses, which are in course of erection at Kingsclear and St. Marys, in the County of York, are completed and ready for the desks, seats, stoves and furniture necessary to furnish the same, and render them tenable for both teachers and scholars. The Indians are very much pleased indeed at the bright prospect presented to them in the erection