

If there is anything they want, or wish to have done, and they are told they cannot get it or it cannot be done, with white people that would end it, but with them they will bring the same up again and again, whether they forget the answer that has been given them, or they think the continual asking will accomplish their wants, I do not know; another thing is that it is very difficult to make them understand anything they do not like or that does not suit them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN DAVIDSON,

Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
ABENAKIS, VILLAGE OF ST. FRANCIS,
COUNTY OF YAMASKA, 19th September, 1880.

The Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit to you my annual report concerning the affairs of the Abenakis Tribe of St. Francis, together with the census and tabular statement, for the year ended 30th June, 1880.

It would appear from the census that there is a decrease of 28 in the population, but this is explained by the fact that 29 persons not entitled to be entered in the census, such as white men married with Indian women, &c., &c., had been included in the previous census who are excluded from that of the present year; if they were counted in this last mentioned census, it would show an increase of one soul for this year.

I will simply refer here to the difficulties which have arisen during this last year among the members of the tribe, leading to a division of them into two parties respectively, complaining of the bad administration, &c., of the Chiefs. This subject is well known to you, as action has been taken in the matter by the Government in instituting an inquiry, which I have held as requested, and which I hope to be able to report on to you in a short time. I am happy to say that the kind of animosity created by these troubles among the Indians, although it has not completely disappeared, has been considerably lessened by the lapse of time.

There is a point on which I am particularly happy to report favorably to you: it is the generosity with which the whole members of the tribe unite together to support and help those among them who are in need, either by sickness or poverty; they then forget all hard feelings, to obey only the voice of mutual charity.

As usual, I have to say that the progress in agriculture is very limited.

In conclusion, I may add that the returns of the hunt are yearly decreasing, but I can say that there is some marked progress in the manufacture and trade of the industrial works of the members of the tribe.

With respect to teaching, I am sorry to have to say that the deplorable apathy of some of the parents in neglecting to send their children to school is, to-day, as in former times, much paralyzing the progress of education, although I must, in justice, state that the constant efforts of our teachers have proved successful in producing some improvement, in this important branch of the affairs of the tribe.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. VASSAL,

Acting Indian Agent.