

The majority of the Indians have, as usual, spent a good deal of their time in trapping, shooting, fishing and gathering wild rice, and have been very successful. A considerable quantity of baskets and fancy bark and quill-work has also been made.

Quite a number of the Indians have hired with farmers as laborers, and have made considerable money in that way; a few are farming, and some of them are doing remarkably well; others have made good promises, saying that they will commence farming in the spring.

The schools—one at each village—have been fairly attended, and the children are progressing favorably. Both schools are taught by Indians.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

EDWIN HARRIS.

*Indian Agent.*

Agent McPhee's report not yet received.

PENETANGUISHENE AGENCY,

PENETANGUISHENE, 14th September, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report on Indian matters in this Agency, accompanied by the usual tabular statement.

I made periodical visits to the Christian Islands during the past year, and was pleased to find the Indians contented and improving their land. Since my last report they have cleared thirty-four acres of new land, and put it under crop. They have been fortunate enough to escape the rust which has been prevalent on the mainland this season, and their wheat will turn out better than ours.

I was pleased to find, when I made an inspection last winter, that there was not a family in actual want for provisions. They had a large quantity of potatoes, and every family had a store sufficient for the winter. I anticipate, from present appearances, that they will have an equally sufficient supply for the coming winter.

During the summer the men have had employment at the mills, and many have made a good deal of money out of wild fruit gathered on the islands on the north shore.

The Indians are much pleased with the threshing machine they purchased last fall, and although the quantity of grain they had to thresh was small, I think the facility thus afforded them for threshing will induce them to raise a larger quantity hereafter.

I am pleased to be able to report on their good conduct and sobriety. A drunken Indian is now seldom seen.

Seven children have died during the year.

Consequent on the sale of some of the islands, locally known as the "Rocks," I have on several occasions been called upon by your Department to examine and report upon the different islands sold. In doing so I have made a very general examination of the greater part of the group lying between this town and the northerly boundary of my Agency. Those on the outer range are mostly bare of trees, with the exception of a few wind-blown stunted pines and cedars, whilst those in the inner ranges are prettily wooded with scrub hardwoods and evergreens. There is no timber of any commercial value. Should the taking up of them by summer tourists continue, as it at present promises to do, it cannot but become a measure of great assistance to this section of the country. The immense group