

ONTARIO.

PARRY SOUND SUPERINTENDENCY,
PARRY SOUND, 30th September, 1880.

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

SIR,—I have the honor, along with the tabular statement for 1880, to forward this my report upon Indian Affairs in general in this Superintendency.

With regard to the return of crops asked for in the statement, I have to say that in general I find it impossible to get any reliable information. Last year the early frost so ruined both corn and potatoes that little or none was saved—not even enough for seed,—there was consequently a good deal of suffering in some of the bands; but to some of them who applied, the Department enabled me to give assistance to a certain extent, both in the way of provisions during the winter and seed in spring, but I made them understand that this assistance was only given under peculiar circumstances, and for this year, and not again to be looked for.

As to the crops this year, I find that some of the bands have done less than usual in that way. This they account for by saying, that, owing to the early frost, they had lost almost all their produce last year, and were unable to get seed in the spring. I pointed out to them that they had made no representation of this to me, that for this year, but this year only, I had been empowered by the Department to supply some seed to some of the bands which had made application, but where no application was made of course no seed was sent. This season again, I fear that early frost has caused much loss in places which, when I saw them in August, promised a good return,—at least such is the report of some Indians I have seen this week.

On Parry Island a fair quantity of land was under cultivation, and will give a good return. As I visited the Island a few days ago and inspected the gardens, I can speak from what I saw. The potatoes are good and safe. A considerable breadth of corn was planted; there is a fine crop of it, and also now safe. A fair quantity of beans was put in, and there is a fine crop. No wheat was sown; but such oats and peas as were sown promise a good return: in short the crops upon Parry Island are good.

Shawanaga.—This band having made application for assistance to the Department, received it, and when I saw their crops early in August they were good; but Chief James, whom I saw the other day, informs me that again the corn has been cut down by frosts, but some places not badly; but that some of the patches which, when I saw them, promised best had suffered most. This I am sorry for, as they really had taken considerable pains with their corn. Such peas as were sown in good time are safe and good, but those sown later are badly touched by the frost. Of potatoes, I think they will have a fair return, as early in August I got good potatoes there.

Henvey's Inlet.—This band also received assistance, but I cannot report so favorably of them. Seed potatoes, as much as they applied for, were sent; but no Indian corn, as they applied for none, although informed that seed could be sent. They had trusted to getting seed from Manitoulin, in which they were disappointed, and consequently but little corn was planted. What corn and potatoes they did plant was in general very carelessly put in, and when that was done the whole band left the reserve and did not look near it for a month: as they left breachy oxen, cows, horses and pigs at large, when I was at the reserve in the end of July, I found but little corn or potatoes left, and what was left was smothered by weeds. In general the only places where a crop could be looked for were some patches in the bush at a distance from the village.

Lake Nipissing.—This band has done less than usual in the way of raising crops; they said they had no seed. I saw some fair corn there, and a few potatoes, but not so much as usual.

Dokis' Band.—None of this band live on their reserve. Most of them are employed by Chief Dokis, who does a considerable trade with the Indians at Lake